

Report on completion of the short-stay study abroad program

Name: Nestor Alvaro Gradillas

School and Dept.: Multidisciplinary Sciences. Department of Informatics.

Destination country: England

Receiving Univ.: University of Cambridge. Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages.

Period of study: 17/08/2015 – 15/09/2015

1) Information regarding (or) A general description of the receiving university/institute.

The hosting institution was the University of Cambridge, in particular the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics which is part of the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages.

The Department pursues an interdisciplinary approach to theoretical and applied linguistics and avoids uncritical adherence to particular views and theories.

The aims of the Department are:

- to achieve excellence across a broad spectrum of linguistic research
- to provide high quality teaching informed by current research
- to foster a broad and integrated approach to the study of linguistics

More information about the department can be found on its website:
<http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/dtal/>

2) Preparation before leaving Japan

My final goal was to be able to speed up my work by having close interactions with my former supervisor (Dr. Collier) while receiving direct feedback from him. This would allow me to collaborate towards producing new contributions in the area of Pharmacovigilance.

During the stay I continued exploring the detection of Adverse Drug Reaction mentions in social media, and we also worked on the guidelines and the required approach to build a corpus suited to our needs.

3) Study and/or research during the stay

During the stay I did not take any lecture and I worked with Dr. Collier towards producing a corpus, for which we produced a first draft of the guidelines. That was purely a practical work, although there are no results from such work at the time of writing this report.

4) Activities other than study or research during the stay

I spent some time during the weekends visiting the city and some of the colleges.

After these visits I observed that the city is very small and calm with a warm and dry weather during summer. Cambridge is a very unique city because most of the life around it is related to the university in one way or another. The city itself has an exciting history, as does the University of Cambridge.

Apart from Cambridge I also went to Grantchester, which is a small village 3Km far away from Cambridge. There I visited the Orchard, which is a tea garden along Grantchester meadows where people gather to drink tea and enjoy the afternoons.

5) Expenses

My main expenses were:

- Roundtrip airfare: 120,239 Yen.
- Monorail + Yurikamome ticket from the house to the airport (Haneda): 8604 Y1620
- Coach ticket from the airport (Heathrow) to Cambridge: 8604 Yen
- Accommodation (staying at a College): 373,520 Yen

A part from that I had to pay for the lunch and dinner meals (not included in the accommodation price).

An average lunch menu at the canteen in the university usually costs around 5 Pounds (900 Yen).

For the dinner and weekend meals, the restaurants in the city had affordable prices, and the famous “Fish and Chips” meal can be bought for about 7 Pounds (1300 yen).

6) Language at the receiving university/institute

Both the language used during the research and the language used on a daily basis during the stay was English.

7) Things you found difficult (if any)

Nothing.

8) Advice for future applicants

The best way to exchange currency when visiting Cambridge is using a credit card and withdrawing money directly from the ATMs at the airport or in the city. Beware some ATMs at Heathrow airport are operated by currency exchange companies and they will charge some extra amount when converting from a different currency (e.g. Yen) to Pounds.

9) Photos taken during the stay

