

Report on completion of the short-stay study abroad program

School and Dept.: School of Physical Sciences, Department of Astronomical Science

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Present Year: Doctoral course 2nd year

Destination country: USA

Receiving univ./institute: Stony Brook University/ Department of Physics and Astronomy

Period of study: 2013/04/19 – 2013/05/27

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

Stony Brook University is a state university of New York State. It is ~1.5-hour away from the New York City by train. The university has very high ranking in the world. Department of Physics and Astronomy has wide research field, such as earth sciences related subjects, applied physics, astronomy, and biological physics.

B. Preparation before leaving Japan

I joined the program when I was 2nd year PhD student. I live in Nobeyama Radio Observatory at Nagano Prefecture. The observatory has a 45-m single dish telescope, it is one of the largest millimeter-wave telescope in the world.

I met Professor Koda from Stony Brook Univ. for the first time in an international conference in Japan, he then came to our observatory to give a tutorial of reducing the data of interferometer, we start collaborate from then (which is about 4 months before I go to NY). After I took data from our telescope, we think that we should combine my single dish data and his interferometer data. That would be the first large, high resolution image of external galaxy in that wavelength. And this would be the most attractive thing in my PhD thesis.

I learned about the short stay program from the email that university sent us. Since combining single dish and interferometer data is not a simple task, the program provides a good chance to go to Stony Brook for this study. The language is not a big problem because I use English with my supervisor Professor Kuno all the time.

C. Study and/or research during the stay

I did not register any classes in stony brook. I discussed on research with Koda-san almost every week day during the stay. The combination process was developed by Koda-san so the progress went quite smoothly.

D. Activities other than study or research during the stay

Since the university is not far from the New York City, I went to the city by train and stayed 3days/2 nights there. Like other tourists, I saw the memorial site of the world trade center, Statue of Liberty, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Wall Street, Fifth Avenue, ate a lot of Italian food, etc.

E. Expenses

Living in New York State is not cheap. I am lucky that I got full amount of the budget. The budget exactly covers the flight tickets (17,0000 Yen) and hotel (USD\$4300 ~ 430000 Yen). There are many dining places for students in campus and they are relatively cheap, so I can afford this part by myself. My hotel is just in front of the gate of university, it took about 10 minutes walk from hotel to the office in university, I did not spend much on transportation.

F. Language at the receiving university/institute

I do not need any English test to show my language ability before they accepted my program.

G. Things you found difficult (if any)

The only difficult thing I met is English, not in research, but reading menu in restaurants or any dining place. I do not know much vocabulary about food, ingredient, and the treatment of food, sometimes they are even not English.

H. Advice for future applicants

I really encourage future students joining this program. You never know what difficulty and challenges you will meet when you study abroad, so just not imagine that part, and go for it directly.