

Name	Martin Roland STEINEL
University	Saarland University (Germany)
Duration	2018/4-2019/3
Graduate School	Science
Academic Advisor	Professor YOSHIZAWA Masayuki
Research Theme	Ultrafast Photodynamics of Fucoxanthin
IRTLab	3 (Fall Semester)
	3 (Spring Semester)



Reasons for choosing COLABS

Tohoku University was the best fit for me among the partner universities because of its focus on science, the other ones focus more on language or business majors. I chose the COLABS program specifically, because I wanted to work in a research group during my stay to get more experience in laboratory work. It also allowed me to gain insight into research areas not available at my home university and helped me decide whether or not I want to pursue a PhD after finishing my masters.



COLABS Experience

The actual lab work was focused on one day each week, but then I stayed there the whole day from morning until evening. This was necessary because of the long preparation and measurement times, so it allowed me to work on the underlying theory, measurement evaluation and interpretation on the other days. The weekly lab meeting was very helpful to discuss my results and get pointers in the right direction. But I did not understand much about the work of my coworkers, because their reports were usually in Japanese and my language skills were not sufficient to discuss physics. I mostly worked directly with Prof. Yoshizawa and another bachelor student which I enjoyed a lot.



The COLABS program was very well organized and provided a lot of opportunities to meet and work with many different people. It took a bit in the beginning to get started with laboratory work, but afterwards I got a lot of interesting results. The lab meetings collided with other courses sometimes, but luckily I was able to take a language class in my second semester, which improved my Japanese significantly. The presentation session at the end provided a nice overview of other people's work, but it was often very hard to understand so many different topics in such a small amount of time.



Experiences at TU, in Sendai and Japan

All in all I had a great time in Sendai, through living in the student home and many different organized events I met a lot of people from Japan and all over the world. Even though I knew some things about Japan before spending a year there, I was often pleasantly surprised by the country and its people. My two-week vacation in Tokyo and Kyoto gave me another perspective on Japan as well, but I think Sendai will always be a special place for me from now on.

Schedule

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
		Language Class / IRTLab						☞	Physics Classes / IRTLab					☞	Free Time / Board Game Evening				