

Weiti in Sendai

Duration: 2021.4~2023.9

I am a Chinese student who originally studied electrical engineering at INSA in France. However, I later had the opportunity to participate in a dual master's degree program in mechanical engineering at Tohoku University (TU) in Japan. Because of the COVID pandemic, I spent 1 year in China, during which many courses in TU were available online and bilingual, which benefit a lot of foreign students including me, then I spent 1 year in Sendai on site, in the Heat Transfer Control laboratory of Professor Atsuki Komiya. This experience has provided me with a unique perspective and a deep understanding of both electrical and mechanical engineering principles. I believe that combining these two disciplines will greatly benefit my future career and enable me to contribute to innovative projects that require a multidisciplinary approach.



Institute of Fluid Sciences, Kitahara campus

Before coming to Japan, I had many concerns, including the COVID pandemic, cultural differences, food, social interactions, and earthquakes. However, all of these worries dissipated within my first month in Sendai.



*The first photo that I took in Sendai, **Sendai station***

Japan has implemented many effective measures to prevent and control the pandemic. For example, there is a requirement to wear masks in public places, and the population generally exhibits high levels of hygiene awareness, almost all restaurants including the ones in Tohoku university have installed partitions, and disinfectant hand sanitizers are available everywhere. These measures have played a crucial role in minimizing the spread of the virus and ensuring a double-degree student who was just recovered from a severe COVID infection: me. And I also noticed that AED machines were installed in many public places including the residence building in Aobayama campus, which impressed me a lot with the sense of awareness of public health behind.



*The AED machine in the TU's residence building, **Aobayama campus***

The food, although different from what I was used to, turned out to be delicious, and I enjoyed exploring the local cuisine, whether it's Gyutan, the most famous dish in Sendai, also my first meal in Japan, or simple Japanese ramen in TU's restaurants. I also found many bakeries that may satisfy those who can't leave without baguettes and scones.



Grilled and braised Gyutan, near Sendai station



Vegetarian ramen in TU's restaurant, Aobayama campus

As for social interactions, I found the local people to be incredibly welcoming and friendly, especially the DD student section in TU, which helped me adapt quickly to the new environment and of course apply for JASSO scholarship. I was pleasantly surprised by how easy it was to do all the administrative steps, despite the language barrier, and also by the level of health assurance and the convenience of living. Their support was crucial in my whole DD program period, it is safe to say that it will be difficult to accomplish anything without them, at least for me personally. I am deeply grateful for their support and dedication to ensuring the success of international students like me.

The members in the laboratory were also very extroverted and nice people, who not only helped me adapt by inviting me to parties, but also kindly gave me advice about my research. Not to mention the professor Komiya of the laboratory, who provided me with invaluable guidance and support and created a stimulating learning environment in the lab. I am truly grateful for the professor's mentorship, as I believe that it will have a lasting impact on my future journey.



Sushi party with the members of the laboratory, near Sendai station

As for my biggest worry, the earthquakes, while they are a known risk in Japan, I quickly learned about the strict building codes and safety measures in place, which helped alleviate my fears. For example, at residence and laboratory, there is a helmet assigned to every single person in the room, and there is also a book of instructions, which tells you what to do when earthquakes come. Additionally, my Japanese friends taught me about emergency pack, which was possessed by basically every Japan resident, and they helped me prepared one with a whistle, a blanket, some high calories bars and other useful tools. Although I was a little panicked during the first earthquake, but thanks to all the help before, I calmed down immediately. After a whole year spending in Sendai, it is safe to say that earthquakes are not that frequent, and much less dangerous in Japan than in most of other countries, as for Japan's great awareness.

Overall, my experience in Japan has been incredibly positive, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to study and live in such a fascinating country. Overall, my experience in Japan has been incredibly positive, and I'm immensely grateful for the opportunity to study and live in such a fascinating country. Japan's rich culture, stunning natural landscapes, and vibrant cities have left a lasting impression on me.



Aobayama campus



Aoba Ichibancho



Near Sendai station

From the bottom of my heart, the journey in Japan has been a transformative and unforgettable experience that has enriched my life in countless ways. I leave Japan with cherished memories, lifelong friendships, and a deep appreciation for its culture and people. I will always look back on my time here with fondness and gratitude, and I hope to return one day to further explore this beautiful country.