

# Report of DD Program

## 1. Student's Life

The master's program in Japan is primarily focused on laboratory research, which accounts for about three-quarters of the total time, while the remaining quarter is dedicated to coursework. Relationships with professors during classes are not particularly developed; however, within the laboratory, there are many opportunities for discussion and exchange of opinions with the supervising professor and other faculty members.

As for the laboratory, working hours are flexible, though a significant amount of independent work is required to fully understand the phenomena being studied. Weekly presentations encourage active communication and continuous improvement through feedback from all laboratory members.

In addition, the continual support provided by the administrative staff for procedural matters helps students concentrate on their research activities without unnecessary distractions.

## 2. Living in Sendai: Experience and Advice

It is necessary to have a bank card that can be used abroad, such as a VISA card, which is widely accepted in Japan. When arriving, payments for health insurance and rent are generally made manually and must be paid in cash, as card payments are not always possible. For this reason, it is important to bring enough cash to cover the first expenses. Other payment methods such as PayPay, Line Pay, or Rakuten Pay are also available, but a Japanese phone number is required to create an account. These are digital payment systems that can be used in various places, such as supermarkets and taxis. In addition, IC transportation cards, which can be used across different train and subway lines regardless of the region, can also serve as a convenient payment method in various contexts, especially around train stations.

A large number of convenience stores are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Most shops open at around 9 a.m. and close at 9 p.m. In contrast, it is important to note that administrative offices and banks open at 9 a.m. and close between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Public transportation is well developed, both between municipalities and within them, although it is slightly more expensive than in European countries. Restaurants are generally more affordable.

Before arriving, it is essential to ensure the ability to communicate by having access to mobile data or units allowing the sending of text messages and phone calls. Since my arrival, I have mainly communicated with France via WhatsApp and FaceTime. In Japan, most communication is done through the messaging app Line, which is the equivalent of WhatsApp. As I stayed for an extended period, I later decided to switch to a Japanese mobile plan to access a wider range of features—particularly for online payments and account creation on various websites. Japan's major telecommunication providers include Docomo, SoftBank and NTT.



View of Atami-shi, Shizuoka Prefecture



View of Kegon falls, Nikko-shi, Tochigi Prefecture



Night view of Minato Mirai, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa Prefecture

### 3. Career paths

After graduation from Tohoku University, I will enroll in an internship in Japan in order to validate the French engineering degree. Afterwards, I am either considering entering a Japanese company or pursuing a PhD in the same laboratory.