

The NIBB Internship Program

The NIBB Internship program is a hands on learning experience started in 2009 as a way to promote NIBB with overseas students and to build connections through providing education to the people who will form the core of future research networks. At the same time, this program aims to internationalize the graduate students of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI), giving them the opportunity to get to know students and interns with various cultural customs.

To participate in this program, applicants who would like to experience research at NIBB must supply the name of the lab they would like to visit as well as their reasons for choosing it and a letter of recommendation. Based on this information applicants are chosen to spend set periods of time participating in specific research activities in the lab they applied for. Round trip airfare and housing expenses are provided by the NIBB Internship Program.

In FY 2011 there were 17 applicants, of which nine interns were selected. These interns were from universities located in 7 countries (Taiwan, Australia, India, the United States, Singapore, Egypt, and Iran) and spent periods ranging from 1 week to 1 month experiencing life as a member of a research team. Since then one of these interns has enrolled as a student of SOKENDAI.

Report from a participant

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My project in the lab of Professor Minagawa was about designing a new vector for gene transformation of a microalgae *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*. The genes of interest for Professor Minagawa were those involved in photosynthetic machinery. The newly designed vector contained all the necessary elements including an antibiotic/resistance gene as a selectable marker and an appropriate inducible promoter. The gene encoding Cyan Fluorescent Protein (CFP) was selected as a reporter gene and was cloned between the Hsp70-RBCS promoter/terminator.

I liked the sense of community and the friendly atmosphere in NIBB: not only students but also the staff and professors were outstandingly supportive. Furthermore, the great lodge program and well organized student organization allowed me a very smooth transition to life in Okazaki during my internship.

I am inspired by the people I worked with and I hope to have another opportunity to come back NIBB in the future.

