

# STEPS Students Report

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I was fortunate to participate in STEPS program during my education at Saint-Petersburg state University. It has been a very rewarding and pleasant experience to me, and I have enjoyed my stay in the Japan a lot. Despite the long flight inconveniences (flight from Saint-Petersburg takes about 12 hours), I need to ensure you: your trip to Tokyo University would be exciting, as it was mine.

I arrived at Narita airport in a middle of the day and it takes me only a few hours to found myself in Tokyo, at Tabata station, where University booked me a room. The accommodation was very enjoyable for me, it was a nice international dormitory for exchange researchers and students from all around the globe, located pretty close to Hongo campus.

In Tokyo University, I worked with Professor Hiroyuki Kagi, he was my host Professor in Geochemical Research Center (GRC) at the Chemical Department.

My main goal in the University of Tokyo was dedicated to studying natural spinel samples from Earth's upper mantle. During my exchange month, I studied samples with different X-ray methods. Main of them – XANES (X-ray absorption near edge structure spectroscopy). I completed XANES measurements at High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK) with Dr. Kagi's research group. I spend a few days in Tsukuba where photon factory was located. It was a great and valuable experience – I collect data for my Master research and gain knowledge on how to work with synchrotron radiation.

Also, I worked with Electron Microprobe in Earth and Planetary sciences laboratory in Hongo campus. Additionally, I have a chance to prepare a scientific talk about my research at Chemistry department and sharpen my presentational skills. If someone asks me to characterize my experience in the University of Tokyo in a few words I can surely say that it will be - accessible research. During my stay in GRC, I worked in a state-of-the-art laboratory environment. Equipment and reagents were always accessible for students. Another moment



is that I have a separate workplace in the laboratory, so taking consultations during my work was very easy.

Besides academic affairs - Tokyo is a beautiful city and a lot of attractive places that you could reach in a half an hour, straight from university. Weather – another great thing about Japan. I was in Tokyo in

February, and coldest month meet me with the limitless Sun. Charming Plum blossoms across the streets – this is winter in Japan. You could imagine how great it could be in April for example. Transportation in the city is also enjoyable, no matter what type of transport you prefer to use.

I am very grateful for this opportunity to the University of Tokyo. I have found a lot of friends and gain irreplaceable experience. I would definitely recommend applying to this program.