

STEPS Students Report

Evgeniia Ondar (Specialist 4)
Institute of Chemistry, MSU

The two months of my internship has been very instructive for me. Prof. Suga laboratory has offered me opportunities to learn and develop myself in biological chemistry. My research was related to obtaining noncanonical peptides by means of genetic reprogramming techniques. Such peptides often display high bioactivity so their development as drugs is new challenge. I have gained a lot of experience in synthesis of RNA, DNA and flexizymes. I also have learned to analyze biomolecules using MALDI TOF mass spectrometry.

My mentor during internship was Asst. Prof. Toby Passioura who I have also learned a lot from during my internship. He was very helpful and always willing to give me advice and feedback, which I appreciate. Prof. Suga laboratory is a great laboratory for intern. All members have always time to help and answer all questions.

Throughout the internship, I have also learnt many things about the Japan culture. There were Japanese courses for beginners at the Tokyo University I really enjoyed. Thanks to great teachers, I am able to talk in Japanese a little bit. It was very useful in trips I made with my new friends from laboratory.



Also I have improved my English oral skills by communicating with the co-workers, but I still need to practice more speaking English. That's why I'm planning to take English courses to improve my English oral as well as in my writing.

This internship was definitely beneficial for me and I'm grateful and thankful that I got to experience and learned many things. Now I attend course of educational program "Pharma's cool" where I use and develop acquired biochemical skills. I'm planning to reach my Ph.D. in organic chemistry at the Tokyo University as well, so I'd like to have internship in the organic chemistry laboratory in the future.

In short, I would like to thank the University of Tokyo for introducing me this great opportunity in which I have developed myself academically, professionally and socially.