

## Working group & laboratory:



During my six-month research stay at the Kyushu University in Japan, I joined the group of Yoshiaki Katayama. The group is focused on „Chemistry for Medicine“ and my project was about the *synthesis of fluorescent substrates for simultaneous multi-color antigen detection using human orthogonal*

*enzymes*. The laboratories were well equipped, so I really enjoyed working there. Communication in English was no problem, since the group was quite international. I had a great time with the group members, who also became close friends to me.



## Other courses & crediting:

In addition to the laboratory work, I had to get at least two credit points. Therefore, I attended the “International Scientific English Training“ course, in which we learned how to properly prepare essays, abstracts and presentations. In Germany, I received credit for two research modules (12 credit points each) for both, lab work and additional course.



## Language:

I started to learn Hiragana, Katakana and some basic words/sentences in Japanese with a smartphone app before I went to Japan. At Kyushu University, I attended to two Japanese courses: “Survival Japanese I“ and “Japanese Training Course (JTC)“. Japanese is not easy and I am still a real beginner, but at least I can say some basic sentences. This helped a lot to get in contact with Japanese people, which often do not speak English quite well. And in more difficult cases I can really recommend to use Google Translate, which is also able to translate written text e.g. restaurant menus. You do not have to speak or understand fluent Japanese to survive in Japan ;)



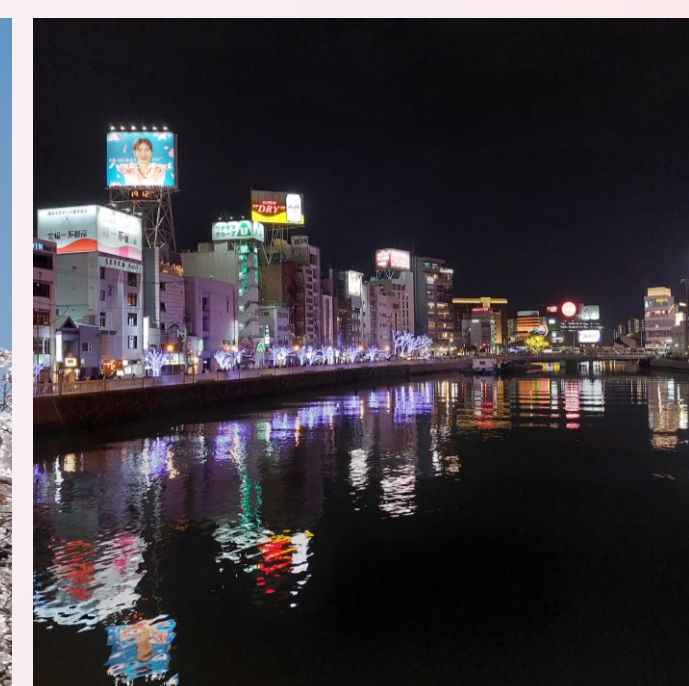
## Daily life at the campus:

The main campus of Kyushu University is not located in the center of Fukuoka, but more on the countryside. I lived in dormitory III, which is part of the campus and from there it was a 20 min walk to the laboratory. For lunch I always went to one of the several campus cafeterias and for sports I often used the gym and the swimming pool on the campus. There were also some konbinis on the campus for basic groceries, but usually I took a bus once a week to get to one of the bigger supermarkets in Susenji.



## Culture, Food, Travel:

Japan is great for enjoying its traditional culture, delicious food and beautiful nature. And so did I every weekend and every holiday with my friends. To name just a few examples: We hiked in the surrounding hills of Fukuoka, visited a Sumo tournament, celebrated christmas in Sapporo, New Year’s Eve in Tokyo, went skiing in the Japanese Alps, visited the volcano Mt. Aso, ate the best Sushi ever on Iki island, enjoyed the tropical feeling of Okinawa, stayed at a traditional Ryokan and went rafting in Shikoku.



## DAAD-ISAP program Kyushu – Mainz:

I definitely recommend to take part in the DAAD-ISAP program, because it offers the opportunity to study in a different university environment in a country with a completely different language and culture. You will not only improve your scientific skills, but also gain personal experiences by moving out of your comfort-zone.

For students from Mainz: Go to Kyushu University and do not miss Hakata Ramen (my personal favorite Japanese food)!

And for students from Kyushu: Come to JGU Mainz and try our delicious Bretzel & Spundekäs!



By Lea Duttenhofer