

I received the MEXT scholarship in 2004, and this enabled me to pursue PhD studies at the Hokkaido University (Hokudai) in Sapporo, Japan. Although I was in the coldest part of Japan, my stay there was a warm one as I met several kind and accommodating Japanese, who went out of their way to help me feel at home.



While in Japan, I was exposed to intensive Japanese language studies in an environment with other persons from many countries, who were also experiencing Japan for the first time. This requirement of the scholarship ensured that I was adequately prepared for life and study in Japan. I think that this is a good feature of this scholarship, as it afforded me the opportunity to settle into my new environment and culture. This period also involved visiting elementary schools and sharing with children about my culture. Some of them had even prepared Japanese games and songs to perform for me, the “gaijin” for the day.

For me, even though I subsequently proceeded to start my research (in the field of wireless communications), my professor encouraged me to continue attending Japanese-language classes, which helped me to further develop my reading and conversational language skills. During my time there, I was able to utilize the supercomputing resources available for use by my department, and this significantly improved the efficiency with which I was able to perform radio-frequency (RF) modelling and obtain data for my thesis. The research that I performed at Hokudai is the foundation for the research in which I am currently involved, and its applicability to different related areas has aided me in several respects, especially in the context of the rapidly changing field of wireless communications.

In essence, the MEXT scholarship has provided me with an opportunity to realize significant growth both in my personal life as well as in my career. I highly recommend this scholarship to anyone considering the option of study overseas.

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