

Equation of My Life in Japan: SCAS + Me = Fun + Learning + Adventure

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The 11-month internship program is just too short to experience everything at SCAS, let alone everything in Japan! Nevertheless, I have managed to make the best of my time here by making Japanese friends and travelling on the weekends or on my holidays. So far I have enjoyed myself immensely! For this I have to thank the opportunity given to me by SCAS and every effort made by SCAS members.

I first learned about this Co-op Japan opportunity through the Co-operative education office at University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, where I am currently enrolled in the Chemical Engineering Combined Chemistry Honours program. After submitting my application, I was offered internship placement by two companies; SCAS was one of them. After reviewing the detailed and organized company profile and work term related information sent by SCAS, I decided to spend my last Co-op work term from June to December 1999 with SCAS members.

Trace Analysis Group at the Chiba branch has welcomed me, a foreigner who spoke practically no Japanese, with open minds and kindness upon



my arrival in Japan. Their patience and willingness to communicate with me has made the cultural transition much easier than I anticipated. Moreover, I am given challenging projects that offer me solid working experiences: currently I am involved in the analytical research for contamination control in cleanroom air; this research is a frontier study of its kind and is very interesting to me. After spending 3 months here, my experience proved that it was a wise decision to join SCAS for my Co-op work term. Also, as I take great pleasure in working at SCAS and realize it definitely takes more than 7 months to have better understanding of Japanese culture, I have decided to extend my internship with SCAS until April, year 2000. I look forward to any new challenges and rewarding experiences I will encounter, either at work or besides work, in the additional 4 months I will spend here.



From what I have perceived from the Trace Analysis Group in Chiba Laboratory, I daresay that SCAS is not the typical, traditional Japanese company that has been stereotyped in North America. Although in the beginning a few company policies as well as some Japanese customs puzzled me, I was able to quickly adjust to it. Of course trying new and unfamiliar things is not always comfortable, but most the time I

gladly face the challenges encountered. No matter how embarrassing or frustrating the situation might be, at the end of the day I always find my heart filled with the joy brought forth by new experiences. On one hand, this international working experience has offered me precious and unforgettable memories; on the other hand, I hope my being here as an intern has made an impact on SCAS and its members. This is not just about working abroad, but about exchanging ideas and getting a grasp of what other cultures are. As a Chinese-Canadian, I have learned about multiculturalism from personal experience, and I also know, to work with people with different backgrounds (no matter if it's cultural, social, or educational), an open mind and the will to communicate are the crucial elements to

establish a successful working relationship and to create a pleasant working environment.

A final remark. In return for all the friendship and support SCAS members have given me, I would like to give my utmost, sincere appreciation by saying “ どうも，ありがとうございます!!! ”



インターン生受入

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米国，カナダとのインターン生受入プログラムは1991年に開始され，すでに200人以上の学生が日本企業で学んでいます．この制度はインターン生受入れによって国際交流を図るとともに，日本の生産管理工学や研究開発を実際に体験することで若い技術者や科学者を養成することを目的としています．住化分析センターでは今年からこのプログラムに参加し，カナダのブリティッシュ・コロンビア大学からブレンダさんをインターン生として受け入れました．配属先は千葉事業所の微量科学グループで，微量汚染成分分析に関する研究活動を中心に技術や実務について学んでいます．

カナダやアメリカでは高校を卒業すると親から自立するのが普通です．学生は4カ月という長い夏休みのほとんどを学費のために働きます．そのため学生のための職業斡旋機関があり，学生は収入と実務経験を得るために一般企業に短期就職します．大学で専攻して

いる分野に関係する企業での実務経験は就職時に高く評価されます．大多数の学生は国内での研修を行います，中にはブレンダさんのように海外で研修する学生もいます．日本へのインターンシップは3～12カ月の研修期間で，来日前には1カ月の日本語・日本文化の集中授業を受けます．

ブレンダさんは微量科学グループに配属された当初，挨拶程度の日本語しか分からず，常に通訳が必要な状態でした．しかしそれから1カ月ほどで彼女は簡単な日本語は分かるようになり，同僚も片言の英語とジェスチャーで会話するようになり，彼女はすっかり職場にとけ込みました．共通の言語がないとき，大切なのは意志を伝えたいと言う気持ちであり，話しかけるという最初の一步だと彼女は教えてくれました．今では専門的な話も図と日本語と英語の資料などを見ながら話し合い，主に分析法開発などの検討課題を中心に業務を進めています．

ブレンダさんは好奇心旺盛で，新しいことにはどんどん挑戦していきます．このことは仕事以外でもいえます．特に週末は挑戦の連続で，すでに富士登山，相撲観戦，関西旅行と休む暇を惜しんで挑戦しています．とてもエネルギーな彼女のそのエネルギーは周りの人にも伝わるようで，彼女がいると活気ある雰囲気になり，彼女は職場でもレジャーでも活躍しています．

研修期間は当初予定していた7カ月から，ブレンダさんの強い希望により11カ月に延長されました．日本での研修は得るものが多いといえます．私たちも彼女から得られるものは多く，残り少なくなった研修期間ではありますが，お互い有意義に過ごしたいと思

