

インターンシップ体験記 (海外インターンシップの場合は英語で記入)

1. Applying Human Ethic Committee (HEC) permission.

I personally recommend any future students who plan to do experiment during their internship to apply the HEC permission as early as possible, if they need a permission to do their experiments.

In my internship, web information about the application period was about 2 weeks. However, it took me 6 weeks to get the permission. One of the reason was that there was a university vacation during my application and the committee members were not able to review my application on time. The other reason was that after I updated my original application based on the committee's feedback, there were a large number of applications at the time I resubmitting my application. The review of my application was therefore delayed by another week due to the large number of applications the committee had to review.

2. The HIT Lab.

The major research areas in Human Interface Technology (HIT) lab were about argument reality and virtual reality researches. It was inspiring to be able to have a close look at other research disciplines. And it was a fun experience to play some of the VR games and take part in lab's AR experiments.

The other interesting thing was that one of the HIT Lab Phd graduate had made a start-up company with his advisor. The start-up company now is attached to the HIT Lab. The company also hired some of HIT Lab's own PhD students. I was able to talk with those Phd students and watch their daily life. The company's current business activities are to provide on-demand AR/VR development service. One of the challenges the company facing right now is it lack the manpower to build its own product. As most the company members are either PhD students or Postdoc students, they have to keep their academic researches alongside with the companies business. Being a PhD student who also running a start-up might not be as ah-aspiring as I originally thought. Both the researches and the business put high demands of time and energy of those students. The pressure to keep things going are quite large. However, those students seemed to enjoy a balanced life. They often organize various activates such as seeing the newest movies or having get-together dinners. It was very fun and inspiring to make friends with them.

3. New Zealand

New Zealand is located in the south part of the globe, which means it has the opposite seasons as Japan. Therefore, while Japan is at its summer from July to August, New Zealand is at its winter. The weather was unexpected cold during the night, and many times the temperature could fall below 0 degree centigrade. It is recommended to be fully prepared for the cold weather (bring enough winter clothes, gloves and hat) in New Zealand if any students plan to go their during Japan's summer time.

The other thing is that the meat, especially the lamb meat are quite cheap comparing to the price in Japan. Although the quality of the beefs in NZ is no match to that in Japan, they are very cheap and comes with all parts that fit for all kinds of cooking e.g. bone meat, T-bone, steak, belly with skin etc. I rarely be able to find that many kinds of meat in supermarkets in Japan, but those were quite common in NZ supermarkets. I would highly recommend anyone who going to NZ for a long-time stay rent an apartment with good kitchen and enjoying cooking all kinds of meat. Especially, a kitchen with a full kit

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oven would be ideal to make delicious food. Figure 5 shows the lamb steak I was able to cook using the oven in my rented home (I indeed love cooking by myself).



Figure 5. Roasting the lamb steak with a fully functional oven.

NZ is also famous for its X-sports, e.g. skydiving. I was able to find time to experience skydiving myself during my internship (Figure 6). Although the price maybe quite expensive, about 50,000 yen including the transport, photos and videos of the whole skydiving process, the experience was well worth it. It would be hard to really describe the feelings when I jump off the plane from 12000 ft in the sky (of course I was not able to jump by myself, I was tied to a professional skydiver who took care of everything from open up the parachute to landing on the ground). So I recommend anyone who try that at least once by themselves. In fact, I am looking for a second opportunity to jump again! And I heard there is a skydiving team near Tokyo. I am also considering getting a sky dive license so that I can jump all by myself (no tie up to another person)!



Figure 6. I am skydiving from 12000 ft.