

**Report on the short-term overseas study program
for KU Engineering students
Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University**

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Name: | Naoyuki Ishida | Date: | 9/24~10/27 |
| Department/ Undergraduate School: | Mechanical Engineering and Science | Grade: | M2 |
| [Life in the US] | | | |
| <p>I stay at the University of Colorado for a month. The main campus of this University is located in Boulder, Colorado State. I visited the laboratory of Prof. Maute, whose major is topology optimization using the Extended Finite Element Method (XFEM). I will explain one day during this stay. To go to the laboratory from my visit, I use the RTD bus (Public transportation) in 20 minutes and the Campus bus in 10 minutes. So, I leave my stay around 9:00 AM and reach the lab around 9:40 AM. I go back around 5:00 PM.</p> | | | |
| <p>One day, a professor kindly allowed me to attend doctoral students' classes. The content of the course was how to write a good thesis. The professor showed us how to write a good dissertation by showing us concrete examples and how to convey the facts appropriately. I also learned that when compiling a paper, it is easier to discuss it if you put together a PowerPoint presentation of the results on which you base your argument, one page for each point you want to make. I was surprised at the number of questions from the students. In Japanese classes, only one student would ask a question or two, but about half of the students asked questions, making the discussion meaningful for the students.</p> | | | |
| <p>On 10/12/2022, I went to see the football game Colorado boffolas Vs. California University at the Folsom field located on the campus with around 40000 audiences. In Japan, football means soccer, but in the U.S., it means American football. The boffolas had not won a single game since the start of the season, and the preseason buzz was that they would not be able to win today. However, they won the game in overtime, and many people were so happy that they thronged the field. What made me happy was that many people talked to me when they saw me watching the game alone. I thought that this kind of national character could not be found in Japan.</p> | | | |
| [What I learned in this program] | | | |
| <p>In this stay, I learned mainly following two things.</p> | | | |
| <u>1. Perceptions of Race</u> | | | |
| <p>Throughout my research life at the university, I was surprised by the diversity and number of people studying at the university. In fact, in the laboratory where I stayed, all the students were from outside the United States. On the other hand, in Japan, there seems to be some kind of consciousness toward foreigners. In my case, I talk to foreign students because I want to know their culture. Therefore, I felt a difference in temperature when they were not surprised that I was from Japan. I was a little sad at first, but on the other hand, I went out of my way to ask about their culture and learned many things from them. It was a great experience for me to realize that this awareness of diversity is what makes America the nation that it is.</p> | | | |
| <u>2. Importance of English</u> | | | |
| <p>During my stay in an American laboratory, I felt that there is a big difference between the English used in research and that used in everyday conversation. In research, things need to be communicated correctly, and the nuances of English words need to be understood accurately. I used to think that it was enough if I could somehow get my message across, but from now on I need to be aware of speaking with correct grammar and word usage.</p> | | | |



[What I failed]1. Knowledge of Names

When I was introduced to a member in the laboratory, I could not understand his name at once. Looking back on my past, I did not try to remember the names of foreigners when I read articles or news. Therefore, I did not have a tendency or candidate of foreign names in my mind. From now on, I will pay attention to what kind of names are popular in what countries.

2. Listening ability

The thing I felt most acutely in the U.S. was my lack of listening skills. In fact, I was asked "That's it?" at the cash register, and I was very shocked that I couldn't hear it. One of the reasons for this lack of listening ability is poor pronunciation. I always speak English without paying much attention to pronunciation, so I felt that I was not being heard. If you can't speak it, you can't hear it. From now on, I will be more conscious of the difference in pronunciation.

**[What to do when I get back]**1. Output of English

In Japanese education, English study is focused on reading and listening, but I realized that the most important thing is speaking.

2. Research

Before I went to the U.S., I had an image that everything in the U.S. was cutting-edge. However, when I actually stayed in the laboratory, I found that the level of research content was not so different from that in Japan. The only big difference is whether or not you can speak English. Therefore, after returning to Japan, I decided to continue studying English and to do my best in my research without being hasty.

3. support for international students

What I have learned from my stay in the U.S. is that it is important to have someone to whom you can ask even the most trivial questions. Even the most trivial questions, such as how to take the bus, how to get to the city, or where to go for sightseeing, are new to foreigners, and I have learned that they need help. Therefore, I would like to help international students as much as possible.

4. overseas information

I would like to keep in touch with information about other countries and prepare for my next trip so that I will not forget the experiences I gained during my stay in the United States this time.

Finally, I would like to thank for this Fund to give me great meaningful opportunity. I want to go abroad again for my doctoral program.

