Frequently asked questions by Students

(January 2022) by Hisao Masai

1 What is the core time of the laboratory?

Generally, core working time for the researcher is 9:30~18:15, although it is sometimes flexible depending on the individual personal time schedule. I recommend the students come to the lab during normal hours, when they can communicate with other lab members. It is also beneficial to your physical condition.

2 Do I need to come to the lab during the weekend?

I do not usually tell students to come to the lab during the weekend. It is up to each student whether he/ she works in the lab on Saturday or Sunday. As long as you can do the best performance as a whole, working in the lab during weekend or not would not be a major factor.

3 How do we decide on the project?

This depends on what currently is the most exciting project in the lab, the interest of the students, the technical background, whether he/she wants to go to he PhD. course or not. We discuss with students so he/she starts the project with full consent.

4 Who teaches me about the experiments?

We have senior researchers as well as seasoned technical staffs who can teach you the techniques you need to learn. We also have compilation of protocol in our laboratory homepage as well. We hire part time students who make common

5 I would like to get a job after master's degree and will not proceed to the Ph.D course. Would you still accept me in your lab?

Yes, I will accept you even if you are not planning to go onto the Ph.D course.

6 How would you train the master's students?

See the item #4 for your answer. I feel that the communication ability to discuss your data with your colleagues is important. Students are trained in the progress report meeting and journal club meeting to improve their presentation skills (how to prepare effective handouts, and how to get across the messages in the most effective manner).

7 How can students manage working in the lab and attending the classes on the university campus, which can be far from the institute?

Generally, the university campus where students take classes are within 30 -60 min train ride from the institute, which is fairly close. Additionally, on line classes are now norm, and students may not need to go to the campus to take the classes.

8 How is the student life in the institute?

The institute has more than 60 graduate and undergraduate students working full time, and therefore, most labs look quite similar to those in universities. We have institutional

seminars by renowned scientists almost every week, and you can attend them to get the newest information in various medical fields. We also have outreach activities, which students are encouraged to participate as a part of RA activities. We have regular institutional mixers and retreat events for people working in the institute to get to mingle and get to know each other. We also have recreational club activities, where we enjoy sport, photographs, music and other fun activities. Students are also invited to join.

9 What happens to the students after graduation?

Many master's students get jobs at various companies including pharmaceutical or food industry. Some Ph.D. students go abroad for a postdoc and returns as a faculty member of a university. Other Ph.D. students get a job at companies and working in various medical and pharmaceutical fields.