

The Ph.D. Program in Human Biology is a 5-year transdisciplinary degree program established in 2011 as one of the Leading Graduate School Doctoral Programs funded by MEXT, Japan. For nurturing the future global leaders, who will be able to create a rich and sustainable human society, this program takes unique and innovative educational and research approaches.

## Tsukuba Global Science Week ~Human Biology Symposium~

For more details on Tsukuba Global Science Week→<http://hbp.tsukuba.ac.jp/#!/2012tgsen>

HBP hosted the Human Biology Symposium on 30 and 31 October, the first two days of the Tsukuba Global Science Week 2012, and invited guests from both domestic and overseas universities/research institutions: University of Edinburgh (Scotland), Meiji University, National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), RIKEN, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (USA), Université Bordeaux Segalen (France), and University of Bologna (Italy). During the event, we, HBP students, not only attended the lectures but also took in charge of operations such as setting up the venue, playing the facilitator's and timekeeper's roles, organising lunch and reception party, taking photos and so on.



The Symposium enabled us to learn about various fields of research such as medical, biological, chemical, and computational sciences from researchers in overseas universities/research institutions as well as those in Japan. We attended the Lecture for Students in Human Biology in the morning, delivered only for the HBP students, in which we learnt about background knowledge of the lecturers' research areas, their career paths, and lessons gained from their experiences. After the lectures, we attended the Symposium and learnt about each guest speaker's research areas. At the reception party organized by us, we were able to have casual conversations with the notable researchers invited and frankly ask them about their stories of success and failure, and what they learnt from those experiences. We were also able to hear about culture and living conditions in their countries, which gave us a good opportunity to get more specific ideas on how to choose a study abroad destination.

Comment from the HBP student who participated in the operation of the Symposium



As one of the HBP students, I participated in a part of the operations during the Symposium and hosted the guests from around the world, which was a valuable experience to me. In fact, I was very nervous as this was the first time to meet the researchers from the laboratories which may be my destinations to choose for the International Research Rotation held next year. Having said that, it was impressive that I was able to communicate with researchers from various research fields. I had a chance to speak to Dr. Derrick Robinson from Université Bordeaux Segalen about microorganisms that I am interested in, especially parasites and viruses. Since then, I have been looking forward to the research rotation. All the guests were kind enough to carefully listen and give some advice to me so I was able to spend meaningful time with them. I am hoping that with the new students joining our program next year, the Symposium will help us further extend our network.

Aya Takemura (second from right in the photo)

What is the curriculum for the second year of HBP?

Students will visit overseas laboratories, companies, and local communities to develop their ability to adapt to new environments and to identify issues in need of resolution by selecting the following subjects.

- International Research Rotation
- Internship in Overseas Companies
- Appropriate Technology
- Entrepreneurship Training

Takuya Kikuchi in East Timor



Students will receive financial aid necessary for overseas activities from the University.

Details can be found in <http://hbp.tsukuba.ac.jp/#!/support/>