

ICR Short-term International Student Exchange Programme

(13/12/2014-13/3/2015)

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The Institute for Chemical Research Fellowship gave me the fantastic opportunity to work in the laboratory of Professor Nakamura, investigating the mechanism of iron-catalyzed carbometalation reactions. Professor Nakamura's group have contributed enormously to the development of iron-catalyzed reactions and so it was of great benefit to me to share in their expertise.

I first gained experience in carrying out enantioselective carbometalation and ring-opening reactions of oxabicyclic alkenes, measuring yields and enantiomeric ratio values. I then conducted a series of stoichiometric and kinetic experiments to provide some insight into the mechanism, with the aim of facilitating future catalyst design.

Professor Nakamura and his group members were very helpful and took part in a number of discussions, guiding the progress of the project. The group were all very keen to share the results of their cutting-edge research with me and I have learned many things during my stay in Kyoto. I attended many research presentations at Katsura campus and gained an insight into the overall research of the ICR.

I was also able to visit many of the historical sites and restaurants in the beautiful city of Kyoto, including a memorable visit to Kinkaku-ji in the snow (pictured). The group introduced me to many aspects of Japanese culture, and also the vibrant nightlife in the city! Playing for the Uji campus soccer team in the ICR tournament was particularly memorable.

I would like to thank Professor Nakamura and all the members of Nakamura laboratory for their kind welcome and assistance during my trip. I would also like to thank the ICR for the funding to make this experience possible.