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Publisher: Technische Universität München - Layout: Nadine Biremlé - Photos: Keio University, Isabell Groß, TUM:PH - Printing: Flyerparade, June 2014.
This publication was made possible by support from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) through the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBWF).



Keio-TUM Double Degree Program in Physics

Information for TUM students



Isabell Groß and Eri Sato,
DD pioneers

Student Experience

Isabell Groß, a TUM DD pioneer,
talks about her time at
Keio University

Why did you decide to take part in the program?

Since I had already spent some time with a Japanese host family during my time in school, I was looking for a good opportunity to come back and study in Japan. Starting to study physics in Munich, at first this dream of mine seemed to be falling into oblivion. In the first year of my Master at TUM, I bumped into a Japanese student and we became friends, and I resumed to look for a chance to go abroad. From here my path was rather obvious since a very good opportunity was right under my nose, the Japanese girl happened to be the first student from Keio University to come to Munich for the Double Degree program. By that time I had decided to go into solid state physics. As it turns out, her lab was conducting research that piqued my interest. When I learned from Keio University that I was awarded the MEXT scholarship, I was once more all in for going to study in Japan.

How is your experience at Keio University?

Right from the beginning I received tons of help from my lab mates with all the official procedures. Soon university life, which at the beginning consisted of classes, lab meetings and getting used to the work in the lab, commenced. In the meanwhile, there was still enough time to enjoy life in the residence halls with students from all over the world, and to explore Tokyo and its surroundings.

After the first half year I began to have fewer courses and more work to do in the lab. All in all, our lab is quite international – which is not necessarily the case in Japan – and thus in the student office we mostly speak English. The group of students I am mainly working with consists mostly of Japanese students and by now I am able to have a basic conversation in Japanese. In the weekly lab meetings we get to know what other students in our group are doing. Our professor frequently invites speakers working in our field to give talks and semi-



nars. Therefore, we often get the opportunity to have fruitful discussions with professors as well as with other students in an informal atmosphere. The lab also highly encourages us to take part in conferences and seminars, which provide an excellent chance to meet other researchers and present one's own research. In the second year with no more classes left to take, I can concentrate completely on my Master's thesis project. For my research I can benefit from my lab in different ways. For example, my lab offers a lot of equipment, funding to attend conferences and the chance to discuss with many skilled students.

How do you like living in Japan?

Having lived in Japan for over one year now, things have settled into a routine, which brings benefits like more consistency in day to day life, a close circle of friends, an established place at work and a goal for my research. However, it does not mean life has become boring! There is still a lot to explore and learn about Japan and a lot of work to do, now that I started working on my Master's thesis. I am also enjoying the perfect public transportation and post system in Japan more than ever, as well as tasty food. I am still flabbergasted by the friendliness, co-operation and politeness of the people in this country.

Which is your message to prospective students?

I am happy to be part of this program and to have the opportunity to study and do research at Keio University. One year of class-oriented studies at TUM and two years of more research oriented work at Keio University are a well-fitted combination. Moreover, living and working in an international environment



has definitely broadened my horizons. I hope that in the future a lot of students will seize the chance to participate in the Keio-TUM Double Degree program.



About the Program

The Double Degree program in collaboration with the Keio University is a three-year Master's degree program, which enables TUM students to spend the first year of their studies in Germany, followed by two years in Japan. This program aims to engage highly motivated and talented students in addition to fostering academic excellence and international awareness.

The graduates are awarded both degrees, Master of Science in one of the International Graduate Programs on Advanced Science and Technology at Keio University and the Master of Science in Physics at TUM.

Application Requirements and Process

- To be enrolled at TUM in the first or second semester of a Master's degree program in physics at the time of the application. The deadline for application is the first Wednesday in November. In case of successful application, nominated students should apply to Keio University during the following four weeks. This application entails the possibility of Keio University's recommendation for the Japanese MEXT scholarship.
- Proficiency in English – at the Keio University, the teaching language is English, however Double Degree candidates do not need to present TOEFL and/or GRE.
- Tuition fees are only paid at the home university during the whole duration of the program.
- Given the research-intensive profile of the program at Keio University, potential applicants should contact prospective academic advisors to pro-actively discuss potential research lines. Information on Keio University's scientific staff can be found in the yearly publication "Emerging".

Curriculum

Year 1 - Advanced studies in one of the Master's degree programs in physics at TUM

The choice of the courses should be made together with a mentoring professor from the Physics Department.

More information about the degree programs at www.ph.tum.de/academics/msc

Year 2 - Course work and independent research project in one International Graduate Program on Advanced Science and Technology at Keio University

The choice of courses and development of an independent research project will be done under the appropriate supervision of Keio faculty members. Once at Keio University, the student should look for a research advisor – if necessary, this responsibility may be shared by more than one advisor.

More information about the program at www.st.keio.ac.jp/english/admissions/masters_program/index.html

Year 3 - Graduate research at Keio University

The aim is to produce one common final thesis for the two Master's degrees, which shall be set and supervised by professors from both institutions.

Japanese Language Courses

Students have the opportunity to take Japanese language courses in both universities. At Keio University, classes are organized from beginners to advanced level. These include daily life communication skills, enabling students to increase their linguistic ability in a short period.



Keio University

Since its foundation as the first private Japanese university in 1858, Keio University has fostered the idea of independent and advanced thinking within its scholars and researchers.

The unique feature offered by Keio University is a program that combines simultaneous study and research. Moreover, rather than having a traditional structure, Keio's Graduate School of Science and Technology is divided broadly into three schools, which play host to academic and research centers. This flexible structure encourages a multidisciplinary environment, while enabling students to freely cross boundaries between different research fields.

Since the introduction of the Double Degree program in 2005 – a joint project with the Technische Universität München since 2011 – students from many European countries have been able to join Keio's International Graduate Program, giving them a truly international education and research experience in Japan without requiring that they learn Japanese. The Double Degree is quickly gaining a reputation for its international opportunities and world-class standards.

Keio University's Graduate School of Science and Technology is located in Yokohama, less than 30 minutes from Tokyo by train. Yokohama is Japan's second largest city, with a population of more than 3.7 million.

There are several organizations on campus that offer a variety of activities and events for international students, as well as many student clubs.

More information about student life at Keio University at www.ic.keio.ac.jp/en/life/

T.I.M.E. Association

Both Keio University and the Technische Universität München belong to the T.I.M.E. Association. Top Industrial Managers for Europe (T.I.M.E.) is a network of 53 leading engineering schools and faculties and technical universities which offers, through a system of voluntary bilateral agreements, promotion and recognition of academic excellence and relevance to the international labor market in the form of Double Degrees in science and engineering. T.I.M.E. believes that its model of in-depth, bi-cultural learning and the mobile, flexible, high-quality graduates it produces are more relevant than ever – they truly represent the "Top Industrial Managers" of tomorrow.

DD Formula

The Double Degree program in collaboration with Keio University offers students a unique cultural experience – opening doors to two leading world markets – while ensuring they also gain competence in advanced science and technology fields.



Welcoming ceremony for all new students in September