Overview of Interdisciplinary Lab Visits (Required)

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1. Overview

Interdisciplinary lab visits are offered so that students can acquire new expertise and learn regarding technology at research labs in other disciplines. This element of the Program is thus designed to present a wide range of knowledge and ideas. Program members are transferred to a research lab in a different discipline for a period ranging from two weeks to two months, during which time they conduct academic research provided by the host research lab. Interdisciplinary lab visits are a required course, so students must submit a report upon completion. In addition, when choosing a host research lab, students should bear in mind that another objective is to determine topics for Qualifying Examination 1 (QE1).

2. Eligibility

Students must be third-term members of the Leader’s Program.

3. Timing and Duration

Interdisciplinary lab visits will take place over a two-week to two-month period between November 2016 and March 2017. The visit’s timing and duration will be determined after discussions with the host supervisor at the lab to which you are applying and with the approval of your supervisor.

4. Hosting Labs

Those research labs that host visiting students are shown in the attached table. A student will not be able to apply to a lab if any part of the host lab’s KAKENHI (Grant-in-aid for Scientific Research) number is the same as the number submitted upon the student’s entry into the Leader’s Program as it will not be not considered interdisciplinary. As a general rule, the number of visiting students per research lab is limited to one and in the order of approval; however, a maximum of two visiting students may be accepted with the approval of the host supervisor at the lab to be visited.

5. Procedure for Determining Host Lab

1) Students should visit the hosting research labs that interest them sometime in September through early October to discuss with the host supervisor whether an opening exists, what kinds of research they are conducting, and the timing of the residency.

2) The deadline for submitting the Interdisciplinary Lab Visit Request Form is October 13. Your supervisor must review this.

3) The Interdisciplinary Lab Visits Committee will determine whether the student's chosen host research lab is appropriate as that of a different discipline. If the lab is not recognized as being in a different discipline, then repeat steps 1 and 2 and resubmit.

4) Both the applicant and his/her supervisor will be notified in writing of the final decision

6. What Is Meant by “Interdisciplinary”?

It is a minimum requirement that no part of the student’s KAKENHI (Grant-in-aid for Scientific Research) number is the same as that of the host lab to which he/she is applying. This is because the purpose of interdisciplinary lab visits is for students to experience disciplines that may not immediately result in joint research but will provide them with wide-ranging knowledge and concepts. Research that is a continuation of a student’s graduation studies or current research will not be recognized as being interdisciplinary. For example, it would not be considered interdisciplinary if a student whose current research is analyzing the “physical properties of substance A” wanted to work on the “synthesis of substance A” (i.e., if the proposed research targeted a similar substance). However, it is always considered interdisciplinary if students from outside the Department of Mathematics apply to visit research labs in the Department of Mathematics regardless of the research topic.

7. Report

Students must submit a report within one month of their concluding the interdisciplinary lab visit. The report must be approved by both the student’s supervisor and the supervisor at the host research lab.

8. Expenses

Any consumables needed at the host lab during an interdisciplinary lab visit and the expenses of research assistants advising Program students shall be borne by the Leader’s Program.

9. Other

During their residency at the host research lab, students shall discuss ahead of time with the host supervisor and attend any required training sessions, such as radiation detection and prevention training.

10. How to Submit an Application and Report

These documents should be uploaded to the application/report submission management system (https://lp-missions.sci.hokudai.ac.jp/) as a single file in the specified file format.

The deadline must be strictly observed.