Summary of Request for Cooperation in Hosting Interdisciplinary Lab Visits

The Program for Leading Graduate Schools is an initiative by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology that envisages the participation of industry, academia, and government to promote the formation of postgraduate education by building and developing degree programs of guaranteed quality that meet international standards and transcend disciplinary boundaries. The Program is consistent across first- and second-term graduate courses and brings together top-class educators and students from both inside and outside Japan, thus providing a comprehensive perspective that enables gifted scholars to become global leaders in industry, academia, and government. Since 2013, Hokkaido University’s Ambitious Leader's Program Fostering Future Leaders to Open New Frontiers in Materials Science (“the Program”) has been nurturing leaders in the area of composite materials. A key activity of this Program is to offer interdisciplinary lab visits for new Program participants (first-year master’s degree candidates) each academic year. This year, we are again soliciting the participation of research labs that are willing to accept students from the Program, and we request your kind cooperation. We also hope that the research labs that collaborated with us last year will do so again this year.

About Interdisciplinary Lab Visits

Interdisciplinary lab visits are one element of education designed to obtain wide-ranging knowledge and ideas and are conducted as a means for students to acquire new expertise and technology at research labs in other disciplines. 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 (specialized research and not fundamental research) offered by the research lab they are visiting. The Program student is required to submit a report after completing an interdisciplinary lab visit. Moreover, the nature of the research conducted during interdisciplinary lab visits is related to QE1 topics. The decision regarding the research lab visit is made after the Program participant makes an on-site visit to the research lab (usually in for September or early October to discuss research topics, among other things). The Program office will coordinate so that a single research lab will not have more than one visiting Program participant (although some research labs may accept up to two students).

Collaboration Criteria

Research labs that satisfy all of the following criteria are eligible:

1. Research labs headed by Program coordinators or headed by instructors who teach in any of the following departments:

Graduate School of Chemical Sciences and Engineering, Department of Chemical Sciences and

Engineering; Graduate School of Life Science, Department of Life Science; Graduate School of Environmental Science, Division of Environmental Materials Science; Graduate School of Science, Department of Mathematics; and Graduate School of Engineering, Division of Quantum Science and Engineering.

2. Research labs that can take responsibility for providing guidance to Program students with the goal of developing leaders in the field of composite materials.

3. Research labs that understand and can cooperate fully with the purpose of interdisciplinary lab visits under the Program.

Details of Support

1. To support academic research related to interdisciplinary lab visits, each research lab that accepts students in the Program will receive up to 200,000 yen (tentative) as lab expenses. This amount will be doubled if two students are accepted.

　　Please understand that the amount for this academic year has been reduced from last year due to budgetary reasons; however, we hope to increase it depending on future budgetary circumstances. We will determine the final amount before interdisciplinary lab visits start in early October.

2. Only small amount of equipment and consumables may be purchased with these funds. Under no circumstances may these funds be used to cover other expenses, including domestic or international travel, honorariums, conference registration fees, editing and/or translation, or equipment usage fees.

3. Because all expenses must be accounted for, all items must be purchased (delivered) by February 28, 2017.

4. Due to the nature of this budget, we cannot arrange for fund transfers in the event of spending in excess of the allocated amount. Please take special care when using this budget to neither underspend nor overspend, thus leaving a balance of zero. If the balance cannot be zeroed out, it may be possible to cover the difference using general operating resources **(educational expenses)** to the extent that they are available. In such cases, please contact the Program office ahead of time.

5. Research labs that accept students from the Program will each receive up to 200,000 yen for a student in a master’s or doctoral program as an RA expense. This amount will be doubled if two students are accepted. Subsidized tasks include preparation for the interdisciplinary lab visit, assistance with experiments, consulting on experiments, assistance to QE advisors, and help in report preparation. We also request your participation in Program events. We will provide additional instructions about applying to hire RAs after we make our decisions on Program participants. Please bear in mind when accepting students that last year’s survey found there to be “little help for RA students.”

Notes

　Please conduct the necessary introductory and safety training when having Program members participate in experiments. Program students should participate as necessary in any on-campus or departmental training (with regard to experiments involving radioactive isotopes, X-rays, gene recombination, etc.).