

Hello, I am currently a research exchange student here at Tohoku University. My name is Brian Callaghan; I come from the United States. I received my undergraduate degree, a bachelors of science in engineering, from the Colorado School of Mines and am currently working on my masters there as well. As stated previously, I am an exchange student here at Tohoku University, thus, my experience is slightly different from that of other students. Because I am an exchange student here, I am able to see what life would be like while still participating with my home university. I have to say that my experience here at Tohoku University has been nothing short of exceptional.

I am currently studying here in the MS&T department and am amazed at the quality and dedication of the students. Not only the students, but also world-class professors. Currently I am a member of the Nakata Laboratory and have to say that I am very happy to be given the opportunity to study in a lab with such a knowledgeable and passionate professor, where the students follow his lead and also demonstrate a similar level of passion and thirst for knowledge. Currently I am studying energy sustainability and the impact of renewable energy on a given economy. In this current era of globalization where energy is the main currency of an economies success, it is essential to gain a full understanding of the impact and possibilities that this type of research has to offer. Not to mention, for me it is good to gain a new perspective on how things are viewed. My time spent studying and researching here, not only helps me gain an understanding of technical issues but also allows me to see these important issues from a different perspective.

Japan is an exciting and indescribable place. It is a place that you have to experience for yourself to fully understand and appreciate its beauty. While I do come from a country that is very similar to Japan, where there are some sticking similarities but there are also differences. Not to say that those differences are a bad thing, quite the contrary really, Japan's differences make it a unique experience that should not be ignored. Japan is a country always on the cutting edge and very modern but at the same time it manages to preserve its heritage and that can be seen in just how well it has blended modern technology while still maintaining its cultural identity. I have always been interested in Japanese culture and have to say that by given the opportunity to study here I have also been able to fully enjoy the cultural aspect and am greatly thankful for the opportunity to study here. I hope that you can also experience the excitement and insight that the MS&T department and Japan has to offer, thank you.