

**Misasa International Student Intern Program 2009
at the Institute for Study of the Earth's Interior (ISEI),
Okayama University, Misasa, Japan
---Application Information---**

About the institute

The Institute for Study of the Earth's Interior (ISEI) is a leading institute equipped with state-of-the-art experimental and analytical facilities. Active researches are being conducted in the basic research areas of isotope and trace element geochemistry, high-resolution geochronology, and high-pressure and temperature materials science, aimed at understanding the origin, evolution and dynamics of the Earth. The institute is rapidly developing into an international research center for solid earth sciences through the embarkation of the Center of Excellence for the 21st Century (COE-21) program (Program Leader: Professor Eizo Nakamura), sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT) in 2003, and is now constantly the host of a significant number of leading collaborative researchers from around the world. The institute is located in Misasa town, which is well known in Japan for its hot-spring spa. For more information about ISEI, please visit the following website:

<http://www.misasa.okayama-u.ac.jp/>

About the program

The annual Misasa International Student Intern Program for advanced undergraduate (3rd to 4th year) and master's course students has been planned to promote international collaborative research and education. During the intern program, students will work closely with ISEI faculty members and their research groups on currently active research projects at ISEI. Researches at ISEI generally fall into one of the following areas: (1) geochemistry, cosmochemistry and geochronology (major/trace element and isotope analyses of crustal and mantle derived magmas, xenoliths, melt inclusions and meteorites using SEM, ICP-MS, TIMS, SIMS, IRMS, XRF, etc. to unravel the origin, evolution and dynamics of the Earth and the Solar System), (2) high-pressure experimental mineral physics (including high-pressure experiments using multi-anvil press, studies of phase equilibrium, electrical conductivity, elasticity and rheological property using X-ray diffraction (XRD), resonance ultrasonic spectroscopy (RUS), impedance spectroscopy (IS), etc.), and (3) magmalogy and crystal chemistry (including high-pressure experiments using DAC/multi-anvil press/piston cylinder/IHPV, and NMR/Raman/IR spectroscopic measurements of minerals, melts (glasses) and fluids). Perspective applicants are encouraged to contact ISEI faculty member(s) for more information. It is hoped that through this program, the participants will acquaint themselves with the state-of-the-art research facilities and activities at ISEI, and gain first-hand scientific research experience. At the conclusion of the program, an intern symposium will be held for all the participants to deliver oral presentations of their work (in English).

Eligibility

The program is open to advanced undergraduate (3rd to 4th year) and master's course students majoring in earth sciences, physics, chemistry, materials sciences, or related fields, who have a strong interest in a career of scientific research. Students from either within or outside Japan, regardless of nationality, are eligible to apply. Communication skill in English is required.

Date and Period:

July 2 (Thu)~August 11 (Tue), 2009

Financial support

Travel expenses and daily allowance will be fully covered, and accommodation in the Misasa guesthouse will be provided.

Number of participants:

About 10.

Application procedure

All application materials must be received by April 30, 2009 (10 am, JST) to be eligible. Notification of acceptance will be made by the middle of May, 2009. The application should be prepared in English and include the following items:

1. Complete and sign the application using the provided form, and send it as an e-mail attachment or by airmail.
2. Arrange to have two reference letters, preferentially from your current supervisor and departmental head, prepared using the provided reference letter form and sent directly by the referees (not applicants) via airmail or as an e-mail attachment (Referees should avoid using a free e-mail account).
3. Arrange to have an original official transcript of academic record for the currently enrolled program sent by airmail.

Contact information

The application should be sent to:

Yoshiko Nakano
Institute for Study of the Earth's Interior
Okayama University
Misasa, Tottori, 682-0193 Japan
E-mail: misip@pheasant.misasa.okayama-u.ac.jp

For inquiries concerning the intern program, please contact Dr. Katsuyuki Yamashita, the program coordinator (coordinator@pheasant.misasa.okayama-u.ac.jp) or any other ISEI faculty members.