

Public Report on International Internship Activities

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Course number: 0A00303

Title: International Collaboration in Public Health: A Japan-France Research Initiative for National Birth Cohort Study

Internship Duration : 1/27-2/27, 2025

1. Internship at the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm), Paris

The initial phase at Inserm focused on the ELFE cohort study, the main activities included:

- Gaining insights into advanced cohort management methodologies
- Contributing to survey design strategies for the 14-year follow-up
- Learning data quality control procedures and participant engagement strategies
- Exploring collaboration opportunities between Japan and France cohorts

What I have learned is that placement strengthened methodological skills in cohort study management and established valuable international connections.

2. Internship at the Grenoble Alpes University, Grenoble

The second phase at Grenoble Alpes University focused on environmental exposures and the main activities included:

- Collaborating with a multidisciplinary team specializing in early-life environmental exposures named SEPAGE cohort.
- Gaining experience with advanced statistical modeling techniques for

environmental health data

- Participating in the ATHLETE conference in Barcelona, engaging with international experts
- Networking and identifying potential research partnerships

The placement enhanced skills in my statistical analysis, exposure assessment, and international collaboration.

3. Internship at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC-WHO), Lyon

The final phase at IARC-WHO focused on environmental and lifestyle epidemiology at a global level of the WHO organization. The main activities included:

- Gaining a comprehensive understanding of the work conducted by the Environment and Lifestyle Epidemiology Branch
- Presenting doctoral research and receiving constructive feedback from international experts
- Identifying opportunities for international academic exchange and future collaboration

During the internship, the most important project I have learned about IARC is 「CANCER TODAY」, which provides a comprehensive assessment of the global cancer database. The project estimates incidence, mortality, and prevalence for 36 cancer types across 185 countries, based on data from population-based cancer registries and the World Health Organization. IARC emphasizes the need for caution when interpreting these estimates due to limitations in data quality and coverage, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. The Agency launched the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development (GICR) to address this issue and improve cancer

registration data worldwide.

The internship broadened perspectives on environmental epidemiology and its role in cancer prevention, while also highlighting the importance of global cancer surveillance efforts.

4. Summary and Conclusions

This comprehensive international internship significantly enhances both methodological expertise and research capabilities in public health through intensive engagement with three leading research institutions in France. The establishment of international internship connections and collaborative relationships will not only contribute to personal and professional growth but also facilitate future cross-cultural research initiatives and potential leadership roles in international public health research programs in Japan.

