

# Post-Doctoral Career in Global Environment

Takehiro Yasukawa

Wolfson Institute for Biomedical Research

University College London

The figures, photos and moving images with † marks attached belong to their copyright holders. Reusing or reproducing them is prohibited unless permission is obtained directly from such copyright holders.

## Career Summary

1993-1997	Bachelor Course	Tokyo University Dept. of Chemistry and Biotechnology Faculty of Engineering
1997-1999	Master Course	Tokyo University Dept. of Chemistry and Biotechnology Graduate School of Engineering
1999-2002	Doctor Course	Tokyo University same as above (Research Fellowship for Young Scientists from JSPS)
2002-2007	Postdoctoral Fellow	Medical Research Council (MRC) Dunn Human Nutrition Unit, Cambridge, UK (Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research Abroad from JSPS)
Oct 2007 -	Principal Investigator	Wolfson Institute for Biomedical Research University College London, London, UK (BBSRC David Phillips Fellow)

## Previous and Current Research

1997-2002 Graduate student at Prof. Kimitsuna Watanabe Laboratory (Tokyo Univ.)

Collaboration with Prof. Shigeo Ohta (Nippon Medical School)  
with Prof. Howard T. Jacobs (IMT, Tampere, Finland)

“Post-transcriptional modification defect of mitochondrial tRNAs  
with pathogenic mutations of human mitochondrial diseases”

2002-2007 Postdoctoral fellow at Dr. Ian J. Holt Laboratory (MRC, Cambridge)

Collaboration with Prof. Howard T. Jacobs

“The mechanism of mammalian mitochondrial DNA replication”

Oct 2007 - Principal Investigator (Wolfson Institute for Biomedical Research  
University College London)

“Mechanism of maintenance of mammalian mitochondrial DNA”

## FAQs?

**Q: Do Japanese students have less motivation to science than students in UK?**

**A: It depends on individual students.**

I feel students in UK are more active in discussion  
i.e. speak their thoughts.

**Q: Do Japanese students have enough scientific knowledge?**

**A: It depends on individual students.**

I feel students in Cambridge Univ. and UCL generally have good knowledge.

**Q: Many Japanese do not have sufficient English skills and feel worried whether they can work abroad or not. Any comments?**

**A: Most important thing is the quality of your science.**

You can make various efforts to progress your English.  
It is much easier than conducting high quality science!

# My experience to work in Cambridge and London 1

You can:

1. Work with colleagues from many different countries (international).

Globally excellent colleagues and students

Completely different ideas from yours

2. Be in competitive but exciting environment.

Tough, but it will help your development

3. Attend a variety of lectures by world class researcher

More chance to hear excellent talks and know the researchers

More chance to broaden your knowledge and interest

## My experience and comments to work Cambridge and London 2

You can:

Realise your roots, such as history, culture and society of Japan

Get to know history, culture and society of other countries

Acquire the relative or comparable way of thinking

Find people respect private life of others

Enjoy your holiday around Europe

Key things to work in a long term in UK  
from my experience

Quality of your science

Corporative attitude (you work in a team)

Partner who understands you and your job

Good colleagues and friends



Treat yourself in some weekend.





... and again in the next weekend.

