

“Visiting Programs for researchers at Earthquake Research Institute”

We offer unique opportunities for researchers worldwide to stay for collaborative research, from a few weeks to one year at the Earthquake Research Institute, the University of Tokyo. On Jan 20th 2023, Masa Kinoshita, head of the international office had a talk with Prof. Ruben Boroschek, visiting professor at ERI for six months from August 2022. He talked to us about his experiences at ERI.



Prof. Ruben Boroschek, Professor, University of Chile (right)
Interviewer: Masa Kinoshita, Head of the International Office, ERI

Q. Why did you choose ERI?

I have been working on structural health monitoring and early damage detection of civil infrastructure. The group of Dr. Kusunoki in ERI is working on this topic for many years.

It is a large research group of almost 20 people. They have a lot of publications, practical examples, and a lot of data. I thought it would be a good opportunity to be able to join in this group and understand what and how they are doing. I also wanted to introduce computer vision, which I have been working on, as a tool for structural health monitoring.

Q. What is your impression of the research environment here?

The Kusunoki lab offers a very rich research environment. There are a lot of interactions, conversations, and discussions in the group. However, outside of the group, they tend to work independently. Sometimes communication between groups seems difficult, particularly for non-Japanese speaking foreigners. Some interactions are made all in Japanese. However, technology helps in such a case.

Other than doing research, I had opportunities to teach master's and Ph.D. students here in the Kusunoki lab. I was asked to teach computer vision and special techniques on a health monitoring system. I have also had a chance to visit other universities in Japan and shared ideas with other professors.

Q: Advice for successful joint research at ERI?

It is a great opportunity. Scientifically speaking, Japan has a lot of resources. A lot of information can be shared. However, not always you can get the information if you do not have a good relationship with the researcher/research group you will work with.

We need an agreement on how to work together, if the research is conducted in a closed group or not, if the information can be shared, and how to work with other groups, etc. You may think it is common sense, but it is better to put it on the table. It has to be really clear what you will need from ERI, and from the research group in ERI.

Q: Coming to ERI to do research, what does it mean to you?

The time I was able to locate to get new knowledge and to formalize the knowledge was precious. I plan to develop a course to teach on this topic in Chile. It was great for me to have time to think without all the administrative work and teaching at my university. Personally, it has been very important and for my institution, it will benefit from my research and from the courses that I will be teaching.

The longer version of this interview is available on our website:



Long-term visiting program

Position for visiting professors or post-docs

- Term: 4 - 12 months between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025
- Application Deadline: August 2023

Long-term visiting program

<https://www.eri.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/international/for-researchers/long-term-visiting-program/>



Short-term visiting program

Position for short-term visiting researchers

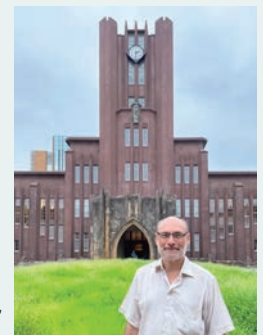
- Term: Up to 3 months
- between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025
- Application deadline: Fall 2023

Short-term visiting program

<https://www.eri.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/international/for-researchers/short-term-visiting-program/>



Prof. Ruben Boroschek,
teaching students of the lab, ERI



Prof. Ruben Boroschek,
at the Yasuda Auditorium,
The University of Tokyo



International Research Promotion Office

Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo

<https://www.eri.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/international/>