

## **Off-campus geoscience seminar organized by graduate students: a unique activity of Nagoya University**

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Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences in School of Science, Nagoya University offers a unique opportunity for undergraduates. It is a off-campus geoscience seminar of three days and two nights. The organizers of the seminar are graduates (Master and Ph.D. students) from various fields in geoscience, including geochemistry, geology, mineralogy, palaeontology, geophysics, planetology, environmentology, etc. The purpose of the seminar is to attract the interest of undergraduates into geoscience, as well as to encourage graduates to broaden their knowledge. Approximately 40 students participate the seminar every year and more than half of them are undergraduates. Normally, 4 researchers from the department accompany to the seminar to give lectures. The participation fees are kept low to encourage the participation of undergraduates, with the support from the department.

The off-campus seminar composed of many activities related to geoscience. They include field trip to geological or seismic sites, onsite geochemical analysis of geological or environmental samples, visit to scientific institutes and science museums, lectures from researchers, and research presentations in posters by graduates. The visiting area is changed every year, depending on the theme of the year. For example, the foot of Mt. Fuji is one of the well-visited areas. There, we visit volcanological sites to observe lava flow or other features that related to the eruption of Mt. Fuji and Hakone volcanoes. In Hakone hot spring, we analyze pH of geothermal water using a paper pH indicator. At each site, not only researchers but also graduates who expertize that area give explanation. We all stay in cheap hostels together and the lectures and the research presentation were given in the night. It is a great opportunity for undergraduates to get familiar with geoscience, as well as with the researchers and senior students. It is also good for graduates to expand their knowledge in other field of geoscience. It also encourages them to build a close relationship among them. This mutual relationship increases satisfaction of the academic life and help them to organize collaborative studies in the future.