

Akane Ota

From: Nagoya, Japan

Studies: Forestry and Natural Resources, Ph.D.

Please briefly describe your research:

My research topic is forest biological diversity and how it's affecting/affected by wildlife. Just like our human society, nature embraces diversity - different species, different shapes, and different ages. I am interested in knowing why and how forest biodiversity (differences in trees) is important, and how it impacts the animals and other wildlife that live there.

Why did you choose Purdue?

Purdue has one of the most renowned graduate programs in agriculture, and thus offers plenty of leaning opportunities for students. Another biggest reason was that West Lafayette is recognized as one of the safest campus towns in the US with relatively inexpensive living costs.

What is your favorite fact about Purdue?

Purdue accepts a big number of international students from many countries, and even American students come from many parts of the US. Although Indiana itself is not as diverse as other bigger states, Purdue campus is full of mixed people with different background.

Name one to three words that best describes your work?

Forest, Biodiversity, Wildlife.

Where do you spend most of your time on campus?

My office at Pfendler Hall.

If you have free time, how do you spend it?

Bouldering and climbing.

Current mobile device/computer:

Macbook air and windows desktop; iPhone.

What apps, software, or tools can't you live without?

R, Microsoft suites, Mendeley or EndNote, ArcGIS, WhatsApp, Instagram, LINE, Youtube, Podcasts.

What's your workspace setup like?

Pretty simple - a desktop computer, some books, tea, and a few handcrafts from my grandmother.

What's your favorite to-do list manager?

iCloud apps like Reminders, Calendar and Notes.

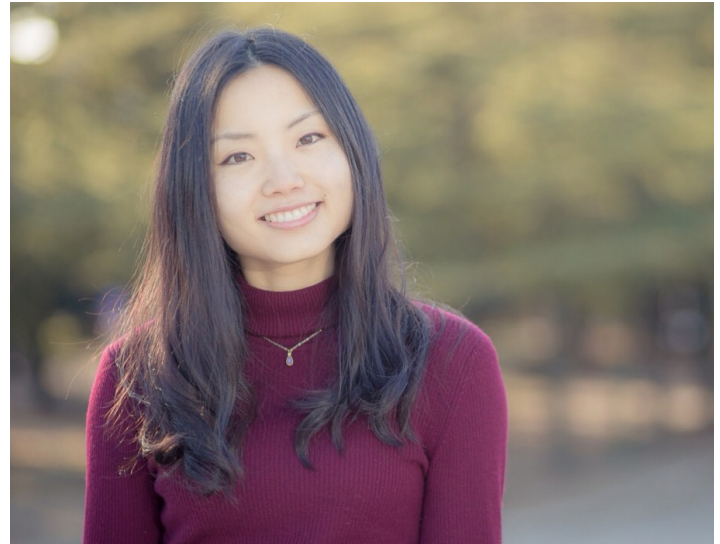
Besides your phone and computer, what gadget can't you live without and why?

None - more devices would make life too much.

What everyday thing are you better at than everyone else?

Why is this?.

I think I'm good at cleaning and organizing. I want everything to be simple and neat.



How do you recharge physically and/or mentally?

Going to bouldering/climbing and having fun with people there while training hard.

What is (are) your career goal(s)?

Since I was little, I have had a dream to save the beautiful and rich nature on this planet. In graduate school I found that I could approach this dream through science, and that brought me the objective to work in an international institution or research institution in the future. There are so many sections involving nature conservation, like politics, social science, economics, but I believe my fit is in science as an ecologist, and I would like to contribute to revealing the current status of nature, and what would happen under changing environment.

What's the best advice you've ever received?

The most beneficial and practical advice in my personal life was from my fiancé. He taught me the importance of learning about life style, that is, about your mental health, work-life balance, life goals, and family from professional sources. To me, consulting with professional people or books are something that I would do if I had serious problems. But even if you do not have any big problems, it is important and beneficial to learn from the scientific facts and evidence as you go through every life event. Learning was all about school subjects (like math and languages) to me before, but I'd like to spend more time in learning about these topics in order to build a good condition, mentally and physically, in my career, work life and personal life.

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Purdue is centrally located in West Lafayette, Indiana - approximately two hours south of Chicago, Illinois and one hour north of Indianapolis, IN.

Questions? Email gradinfo@purdue.edu

