

Expectations in the Saitou Group

Marie Saitou, Updated August 2026

Our goals are to do good science, learn from each other, contribute to academia, and help people develop. I believe curiosity, independence, openness, and mutual respect are important for this.

Working in the group

- People are different. Respect each other. Be positive, calm, professional, and constructive. Be open to criticism and give criticism in a useful way.
- Ask questions when you are unsure, and talk about problems when you are stuck. Marie does not know everything, and sometimes someone else will be the right person to ask. Help each other when you can, and ask for help when you need it.
- Protect your work-life balance. Researchers have flexible working hours, and regular rest and time outside work are important.
- Have broad curiosity.

Meetings

- Group meetings are for sharing science and learning from each other. The frequency and format will depend on the composition of group members.
- We may discuss papers, present ongoing work, talk through methods or problems, or discuss broader scientific questions or news. Presentations can be short and informal. Work in progress and unresolved questions are welcome.
- Participate actively in group meetings and relevant seminars and workshops.

Projects

- Take responsibility for your own project and progress. Keep track of deadlines, paperwork, and degree requirements.
- Keep records of your work and meeting discussions in a form that is useful for the project, such as GitHub, Google Docs, etc. Scripts should be stored, organized and will be shared as appropriate.
- Discuss challenges openly. Side projects are welcome as long as the main project continues to progress toward papers and, where relevant, a thesis. Authorship should reflect contributions and should be discussed openly.

Communication and practical matters

- Let Marie know if you will miss regular meetings or be absent for more than a week.
- If you need a document, such as a reference letter, ask at least two weeks before the deadline.
- Marie is particularly comfortable with analysis, writing, organization, and connecting ideas. Administrative paperwork, difficult negotiation, and large-scale socializing may require help from other people.
- Funding for travel, workshops, experiments, and other activities changes over time. Ask Marie when something becomes relevant.