## Dear Prospective Students,

Choosing where to pursue your PhD education is an important decision—one that will shape not only your academic and professional journey but also your personal growth. As you explore your options and consider various factors, I would like to tell you a little bit about the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST) and what makes us unique.

Established in 2011, OIST is a modern research university with a bold and ambitious mission, which is to advance interdisciplinary science and technology based on curiosity-driven basic and applied knowledge and with an impact on the local, national, and global world. And despite our relatively short history, we have made remarkable progress in realizing this vision. At the heart of our mission lies our students, who play a crucial role in driving our research, innovation, and outreach efforts forward.

At OIST, we attract the best talent from around the globe. Our students come from over 60 countries and regions, bringing with them a rich diversity of perspectives and backgrounds. This international and diverse culture extends beyond our student body to include faculty, researchers, and staff members, creating a scientific environment that celebrates creativity, ingenuity, exploration, and co-creation.

The interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of science is reflected in our academic program, which brings together people from various scientific disciplines. Supported by state-of-the-art laboratories, cutting-edge infrastructure, and a fully English-language environment, OIST provides a rich environment to cultivate the next generation of scientists, thinkers, and transformative leaders. Our beautiful campus, located on the remote island of Okinawa with its cultural and historical significance, is an excellent place for conducting education and research at the forefront of science.

I invite you to explore all that OIST has to offer and to consider whether it aligns with your goals and aspirations.

Best regards,

Karin Markides President and CEO, OIST