

Dear incoming OIST students,

The OIST Student Council would like to convey our congratulations for all your hard work that has brought you to where you are now and welcome you to join our community here in Okinawa!

The Student Council (SC) is constituted by elected representatives that work together with other leadership bodies on campus to advocate for PhD students and interns. To make your first days and weeks easier and more enjoyable, we would like to recommend several ways to connect with our community, and get answers to any questions you may have, even before arriving in Okinawa:

Email the SC: Send an email to studentcouncil@oist.jp and we can help you with whatever you need, from being put in touch with others that share your extracurricular interests to getting recommendations on good places to eat.

Sign Up for the Buddy System: We run a buddy system where you are paired up with a fellow student who has volunteered to show you the ropes and answer any of your questions. [Sign up here](#).

Moving to a new place (especially to a foreign country, as is the case for most of you) is certainly exciting, but it can also be stressful and anxiety-inducing. We have a lovely community of people who are looking forward to meeting you all, and who would be more than happy to support you in any way you need. Please don't hesitate to reach out however you feel comfortable!

We're looking forward to getting to know you all.

Best wishes,

Holly Gill (Welfare Officer and Acting Chair) on behalf of the SC.