



2025/10/01

Mira Narita

Research Opportunities at OIST

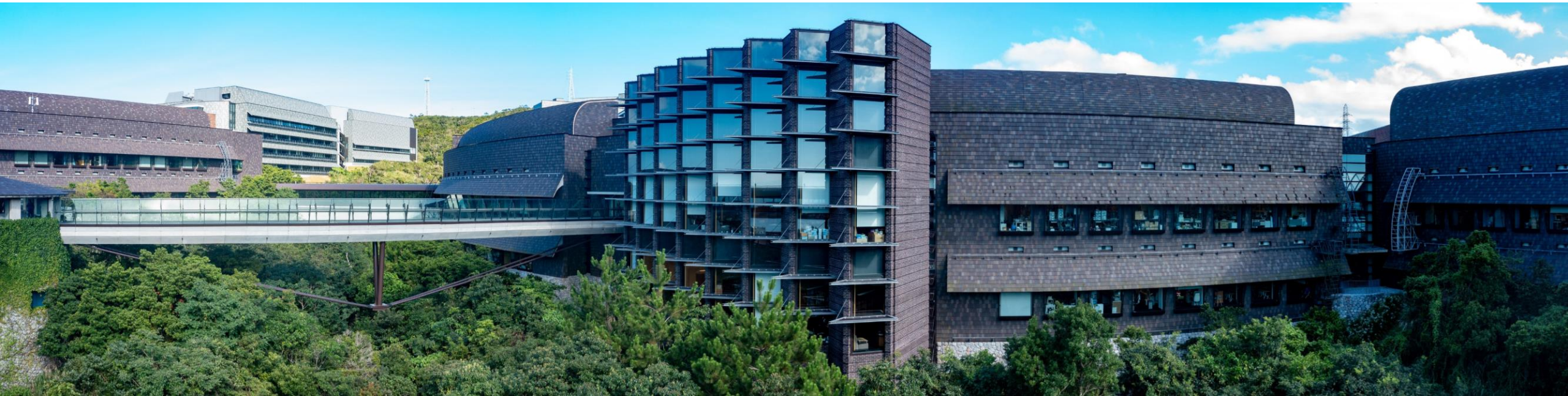
Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST)





Brief History of OIST

- Established in 2011 and accredited as a Graduate University in 2012
- First Graduation Ceremony in 2018
- Nature Index normalized ranking places OIST #1 in Japan and #9 in the world in 2019





People at OIST (as of May 2025)

- Over 1,100 employees and students representing 72 countries and regions
- 93 faculty members – 65% from overseas
- 483 Research Unit Staff – 71% from overseas
- 75 Research Support Staff – 51% from overseas
- 475 Administrative Staff – 20% from overseas
- 277 PhD students – 79% from overseas

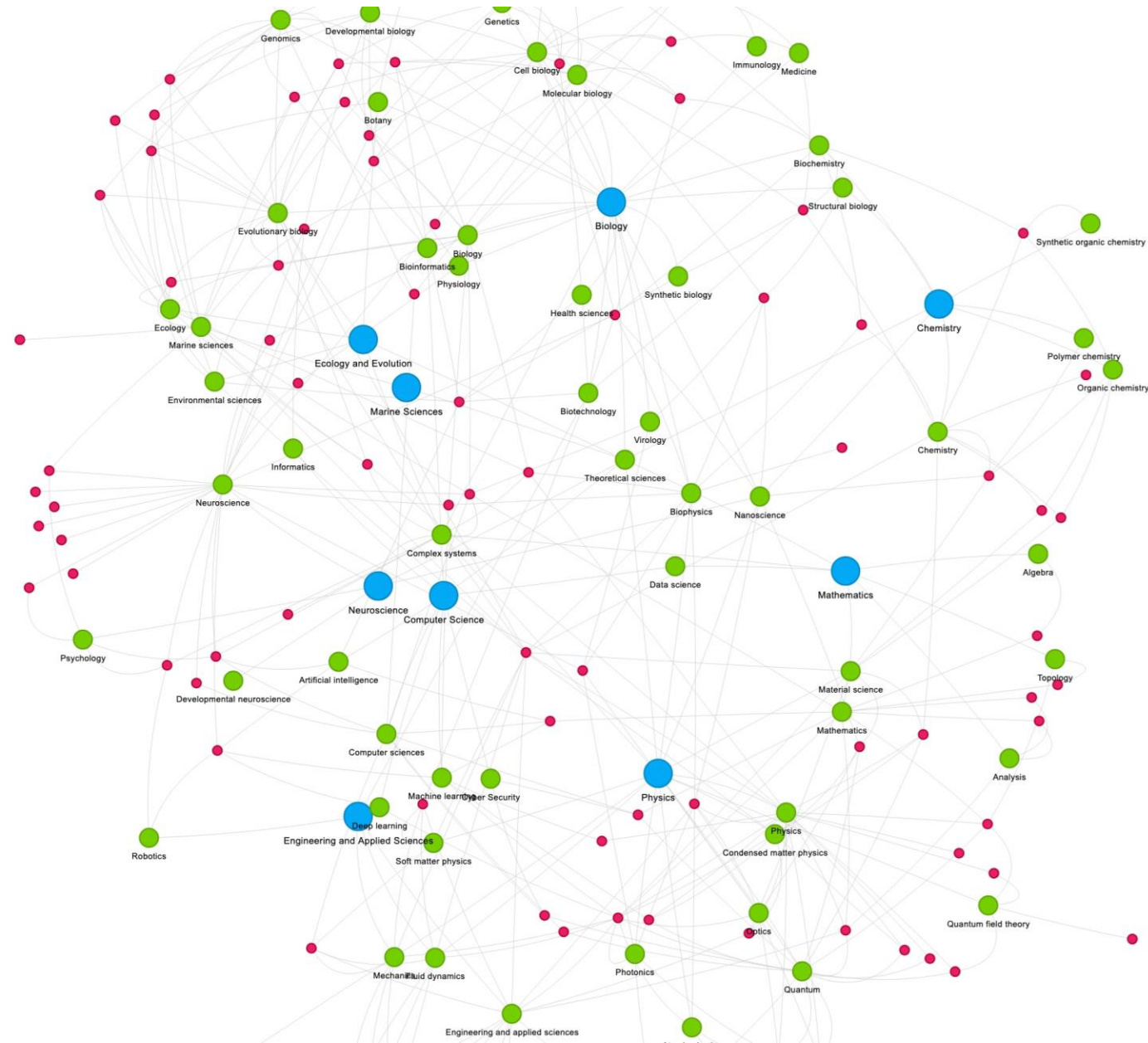




Interdisciplinary Research

There are no departments and courses are not restricted to a single discipline.

- Large blue dot: Research Discipline
- Medium green dot: Research Specialty
- Small red dot: Research Unit





Non-Departmental Structure

- Emphasis on interdisciplinary research and education
- Shared access to research equipment
- Strong interaction between different fields





General Support at OIST

- Free Japanese and English classes
- Access to health and mental wellbeing support
- Free access to the gym
- Recreation services





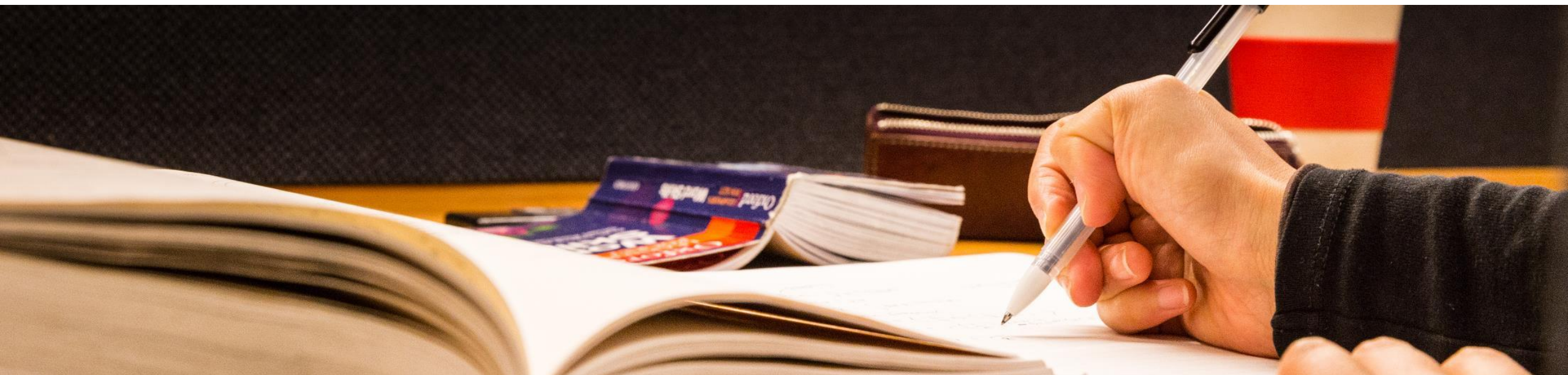
Opportunities for undergraduates and postgraduates





PhD Program at OIST

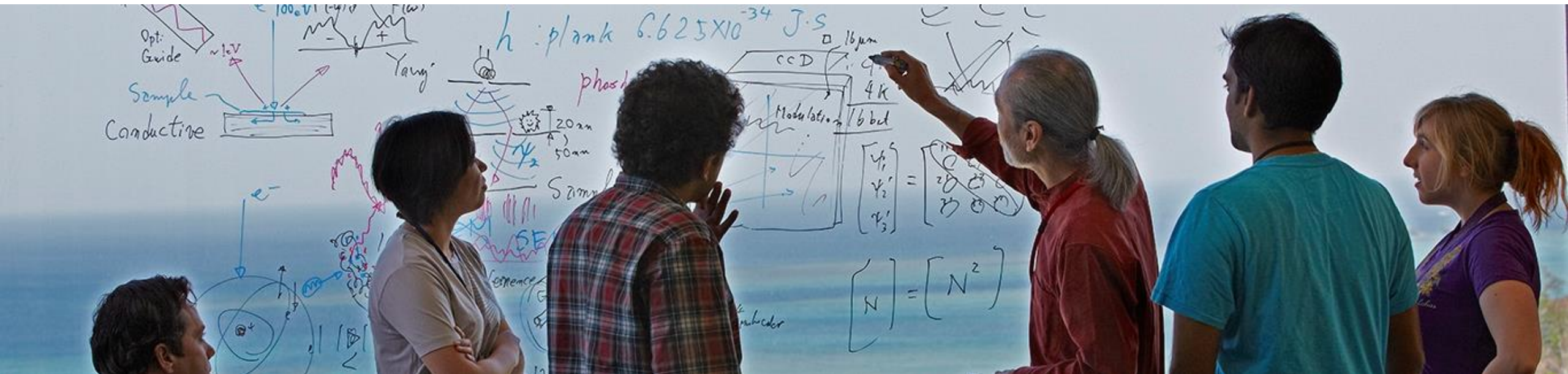
- 5-year PhD program
- Applicants eligible for admission with a bachelor's degree
- 3 enrollment terms per year: May, September and January
- Research and education delivered in English
- Independent research





OIST PhD Program Features

- Small student intake ensures an excellent faculty to student ratio
- Individually-tailored curriculum and coursework
- Working side by side with world-class faculty and researchers from the very beginning
- Lab rotations in year 1



Apply to OIST PhD Program

Online application – free – Application Deadline November 15, 2025

- 2-5 letters of recommendation
- Official academic transcript
- Statement of purpose (400 words)
- TOEFL or IELTS score





Internationally Competitive Student Support

- Research Assistantship starts from 2.6 million JPY per year and will increase with academic progress up to 3.6 million JPY per year
- Tuition fee is covered from Research Assistantship (540,000 JPY per year)
- Travel support for domestic/international conferences
- Student rate on-campus housing
- Family support (childcare facility on campus)
- PC support





Research Internship Program at OIST

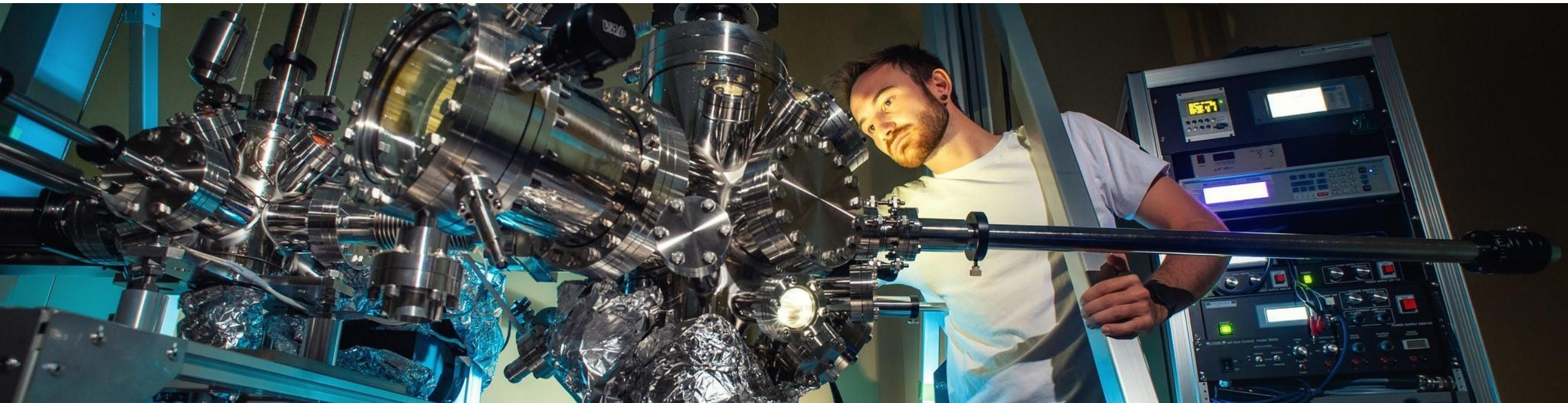
- 3 to 6 months internship to experience research at OIST
- Eligibility: Students currently enrolled in their last two years of bachelor's degree and master's degree or recently graduated students
- Possibility to be involved in publishing papers, especially with longer internship periods
- Opportunity to meet with other young scientists from all over the world





Support for Research Interns

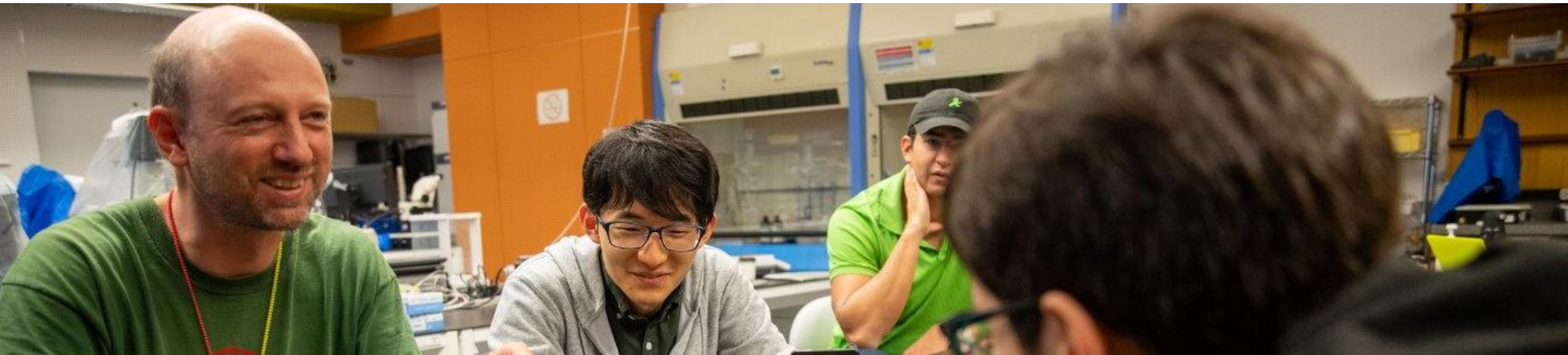
- Internship Allowance – 2,400 JPY per working day
- Travel Expenses – One direct round-trip air ticket
- Accommodation – Furnished accommodation on or off campus
- Administrative Support – Acquisition of Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) for visa application as well as registration procedures at the local municipality office



Apply to OIST Research Internship

Online application – 3000 JPY – Application Deadline: Oct 15, 2025

- 1-3 letters of recommendation
- Official academic transcript
- Statement of purpose (400 words)
- No TOEFL or IELTS score required
- Eligibility: Students in Bachelor and Master program or recently graduated





Opportunities for PhD Students



Visiting Research Student

- Opportunity to conduct research at OIST as part of a recognized collaborative research project
- Research project must be covered by a Visiting Research Student Agreement
- Duration: maximum 1 year
- Visiting research students are expected to bring their own funding. Host unit at OIST may support with their funding

Application

- Open all year round
- Contact faculty member at OIST directly



For PhD graduates: Post-doc positions

- Necessary research experience: within 5 years post-PhD
- Fixed term appointment for 3 years
- Objective: obtain professional skills, while mentoring and training PhD students and research interns.

Application

- Application open all year around
- Submission of application to the faculty member directly
- Open positions here: <https://www.oist.jp/careers>





Stay Connected

- OIST general information: oist.jp
- Admissions website: oist.jp/admissions
- Email: admissions@oist.jp
- X: @OISTedu
- Instagram: @OISTedu

