



# OIST

OIST is an interdisciplinary graduate school in Okinawa, Japan, offering a fully funded 5-year PhD program in science.

## Interdisciplinary Research

OIST is a university with no departments, eliminating artificial barriers between people working across wide range of scientific fields. Bringing together brilliant minds from around the world to Okinawa, OIST provides stable funding and world-class resources to transform how science, research, education, and innovation are pursued globally.

## Faculty and Students

Our internationally renowned faculty members and our outstanding students are recruited from around the world. With an excellent ratio of professors to students, superb research facilities, and an innovative educational program, there are limitless opportunities for students at OIST to chart their own path, realize their full potential, and become world-leading independent scientists.

## Research Specialties

Biology	Chemistry
Computer Science	Ecology and Evolution
Engineering and Applied Sciences	Marine Sciences
Mathematics	Neuroscience
Physics	Quantum

## Flexible Program

A customized program of study is tailored to the talents and requirements of each individual student. Laboratory rotations, your choice of core and elective courses, and many avenues for independent study provide sound preparation for your thesis research. OIST is enhanced by additional learning and teaching opportunities, through extracurricular mini-courses, online courses, professional development, and hundreds of international seminars, symposia and summer schools each year.

## World-Class Equipment

Students at OIST have access to outstanding laboratory facilities and all the equipment necessary to perform cutting-edge research.

The laboratory buildings at OIST are all state-of-the-art, and very well equipped for all research requirements.

Instrumentation is available for observation from nanoscale dimensions to large ecosystems, with equal training and access for students and research staff.



## Research Support

OIST provides centralized research resources and technical support, creating an exciting and enabling environment for researchers. OIST is equipped with a huge range of state-of-the-art research tools and equipment, with a strong emphasis on imaging techniques, material preparation and characterization, and some of the best genomics and computing facilities in Japan.



## Life at OIST

**Housing**  
Shared two or three-room apartments, with kitchen and living rooms, are available on-campus at affordable student rates. Community facilities include a gym, convenience store, laundromat and activity center, all just a short walk from the laboratory buildings.

**Language**  
The language of instruction at OIST is English, and all services are provided in both English and Japanese by bilingual staff. Free language classes in intermediate and advanced English as well as basic Japanese for everyone in the OIST community are taught by professional language instructors.

**International Community**  
OIST has a very diverse community, with many opportunities to encounter different languages, culture and more. Food, dance, and other cultural influences from across the world are shared by a diverse range of people. As OIST grows, this welcoming environment remains a central feature of the community.

**Clubs**  
One cannot fully experience student life without a great social life. OIST supports a variety of extracurricular activity clubs covering a wide range of activities from sports to arts. Club activities develop relationships between individuals from inside and outside the OIST community, enriching students' social and cultural life in Okinawa.

**Healthcare**  
OIST provides a range of on-campus facilities to support your physical and mental well-being, with high-quality medical and hospital facilities nearby. OIST students and their dependents are covered by Japan's national health insurance scheme, ensuring healthcare is both accessible and affordable.

**Childcare**  
An excellent early childhood education center is located on campus, providing day care for children from two months to preschool age. This is complemented by an after-school program for school children. OIST's Childbirth Accommodation Policy provides flexibility and academic stability for students who are starting a family.

**Okinawa**  
Okinawa is a beautiful sub-tropical island located in the center of Asia, a region of rapid economic growth. This idyllic location offers a rich environment for a world-class graduate university with great potential for future development. With its highly imaginative academic minds and sophisticated research infrastructure, OIST will continue to make scientific discoveries that will drive technological development in Okinawa, and beyond.

State-of-the-art research facilities

Lab rotations

Interdisciplinary research

Individually-tailored program

World-Class Student Support

Financial support from 2.6 to 3.6 million JPY provided

Conference Travel

Career Development Travel

Subsidized on-campus housing

Wellbeing service

On-campus bilingual childcare facility

About 300 PhD students from over 50+ countries and regions

80% Students from outside Japan

60% Faculty members from outside Japan

Over 90 Faculty members

1:3 Ratio of faculty members to students

400+ Researchers

40% Female students




**Contact Information**  
1919-1 Tancha, Onna-son, Kunigami-gun, Okinawa, Japan  
Website: [www.oist.jp/admissions](http://www.oist.jp/admissions)

# Fully-Funded PhD Program

## PhD Eligibility

Applicants must have completed a bachelor's or master's degree (or equivalent), or expect to do so prior to the admission date.

In addition to the academic transcript, OIST places strong emphasis on recommendation letters from academic referees and other evidence of research potential, when reviewing applications.

## Application

Applications are accepted through an online platform.

After the initial screening, shortlisted applicants will be invited for interviews with faculty members from OIST.

## Structure of the PhD Program

Students begin with laboratory rotations in three different research units, in parallel with basic and advanced courses. As they transition into thesis research, they focus on their thesis topic while completing any remaining coursework. A qualifying examination leads to candidacy.

Throughout the program, students have opportunities to engage with cutting-edge topics through international workshops, seminars, and collaborations with leading experts. Professional and career development are prioritized, ensuring students are well-prepared to become independent, world-class scientists. Upon completion, students are awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

## Individualized Research

A customized program of study is tailored to the talents and needs of each individual student. Students at OIST have the freedom to choose and work on their own research topic throughout the PhD Program.

In addition to required electives, there are opportunities for independent study with world-class faculty members who teach at the most advanced level.

## Financial Support

All students admitted to the PhD Program receive Research Assistantship starting from 2.6 million JPY in the first year, and will increase with academic progress up to 3.6 million JPY.

## Professional and Career Development

OIST is committed to the development of students' knowledge and skills, not only in research but also in professional growth and leadership within the scientific research and educational environment of the future.

Professional and career development continues throughout the entire PhD program, focusing on principles of research conduct and ethics, enhancing science communication skills both in written and oral, and providing opportunities for students to explore and shape their individual career paths.

## Life after OIST

Our graduates have moved on to exciting career opportunities at universities, research institutions, and companies all around the world. Many have taken up postdoctoral research positions or assistant professor positions at prestigious institutions such as California Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Max Planck Institutes, University of Oxford, and University of Tokyo.

Graduates interested in industry have secured professional positions at leading technology firms and publishing companies.



### Student Perspective

**Student Name:**  
Tara Turkki

**Unit at OIST:**  
Neuronal Rhythms in Movement Unit

## Why I chose OIST

*“When I applied to OIST, it attracted me as a young institute full of opportunities and potential. I was excited about all the resources and intriguing research it had to offer. Another selling point to me was the fact that OIST admits students with a bachelor's degree as I wanted to pursue a PhD right after completing my BSc.*

*Having gone through the application process and my first rotation online, arriving as soon as the borders opened during the COVID-19 pandemic, I did not get the opportunity to attend the Admissions Workshop in person, but had*

*been fortunate enough to have visited Okinawa and OIST before, giving me an impression of what life might be like here. It was a difficult decision to make, as I was also considering other graduate programs during the time I was offered a place at OIST.*

*The factors that influenced my decision were the extensive facilities and opportunities for cutting-edge research OIST has to offer. I also considered the possibility of on-campus housing and the fact that OIST has the Ganjuu Wellbeing Services in my final decision to come to OIST.”*

# Fully-Funded RI Research Internship Program

## RI Eligibility

Applicants must be in their final two years of their undergraduate program, in a master's program, or graduates of institutions such as universities, colleges, and junior colleges.

The academic background of applicants should be appropriate to their desired host unit(s) at OIST.

## Application

Applications are accepted through an online platform.

Research internship placements are awarded twice a year on a competitive basis.

The short-term Research Internship Program is designed for students who are interested in joining the OIST PhD Program. It gives students the opportunity to gain experience in a particular laboratory or to learn a specific technique. Research interns will work under the direction of a professor and contribute to the research activities of OIST.

The duration of the internship ranges from three to six months. However, a duration of four months or more is recommended for those planning to apply to the OIST PhD Program after the research internship, as it may count as one of the three required lab rotations in the PhD Program.

## Support for Research Interns

OIST provides one direct round-trip flight between your home and Okinawa, as well as a daily living allowance of 2,400 JPY per working day, accommodation, and support for visa and insurance procedures.

