



**Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology**  
**Technician in Synapse Biology Unit**

The Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST; see [www.oist.jp](http://www.oist.jp)) is a dynamic new graduate university of science and technology in Okinawa Prefecture, Japan. The university is located on 85 hectares of protected forestland overlooking beautiful shoreline and coral reefs. The campus is striking architecturally, and the facilities are outstanding ([OIST campus video tour](#)). There are no academic departments, which facilitates multidisciplinary research. Outstanding resources and equipment are provided and managed to encourage easy access and collaboration. English is the official language of the University, and the university research community is fully international, with more than 50 countries represented. OIST is rapidly gaining recognition in the worldwide academic community as a model for excellence in education and research.

**Working Location:**

1919-1 Tancha, Onna-son, Okinawa, Japan 904-0495  
Synapse Biology Unit

**Position summary:**

Technical staff position is available in the Synapse Biology Unit at OIST in Okinawa, Japan (<https://groups.oist.jp/sbu>). Successful candidate will join a vibrant team studying basic principles of synaptic communication in brain circuit operations underlying animal behaviors down to exploring synaptic design in simple model networks.

**Report To:**

Professor Yukiko Goda

**Responsibilities:**

Our research employs a multifaceted approach, using electrophysiology, molecular biology, biochemistry and imaging to study synaptic networks at various levels, from cultures of rodent brain cells and acute rodent brain slices to intact brains. The postholder will assist in all aspects of the ongoing research in the laboratory. The postholder will be responsible for the care and breeding of transgenic mice and preparation of reagents and materials for tissue culture, and s/he will be involved with molecular biology experiments including cloning, PCR, isolation of nucleic acids, and viral vector preparation. The postholder will also be responsible for supervision of the general upkeep of the laboratory, including equipment maintenance and updating of inventories.

**Qualifications:**

We seek an enthusiastic, highly organized, reliable and meticulous individual with excellent



interpersonal and communication skills. The successful candidate will have a MS or a BS degree and experience of basic laboratory practices, including tissue culture, reagent preparation and basic molecular biology. Prior work/research experience in a neuroscience laboratory, familiarity with mouse husbandry and/or various molecular biology techniques, and although not required, basic ability to communicate in Japanese would be an advantage.

**Starting Date:**

As early as possible.

**Term & Working hours:**

The position is initially for one year and can be extended to 2 or more years based on performance and mutual agreement.

Working hours: Discretionary working hours

**Compensation & Benefits:**

Compensation in accordance with the OIST Employee Compensation Regulations

Benefits:

- Relocation, housing and commuting allowances
- Annual paid leave and summer holidays
- Health insurance (Private School Mutual Aid <http://www.shigakukyosai.jp/> )
- Welfare pension insurance (kousei-nenkin)
- Worker's accident compensation insurance (roudousha-saigai-hoshou-hoken)

**How to Apply:**

Apply by emailing your Submission Documents to:

yukiko.goda[at]oist.jp

(Please replace [at] with @ before using this email address)

**Submission Documents:**

1. Cover letter
2. Curriculum vitae including names of 2 referees (3 preferred, including the current supervisor, if available)
3. Summary of research experience to date
4. Reasons for applying to the post (personal strengths, motivations, research perspectives, career aspirations)

\* Prior to the start of employment all new hires are required to successfully complete a



background check. Personal information including employment history and academic background should be submitted to third-party administrators after a conditional offer of employment.

**Application Due Date:**

Open until the position is filled. (Applications will be screened upon arrival)

**Declaration:**

- \* OIST Graduate University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action educator and employer and is committed to increasing the diversity of its faculty, students and staff. The University strongly encourages applications from underrepresented groups.
- \* Information provided by applicants or references will be kept confidential, documents will not be returned. All applicants will be notified regarding the status of their applications. [OIST Privacy Policy](#)
- \* Please view our policy for rules on external professional activities (<https://groups.oist.jp/acd/information-disclosure/>).
- \* Further details about the University can be viewed on our website (<https://www.oist.jp>).