

Dear new OIST students,

Welcome and congratulations on finally getting to Okinawa after what I can only imagine was a long and difficult process. And for those still in the process, you have a lot to look forward to once you get here so stay strong and stay safe.

The Student Council is a group of students that work on improving the lives of students at OIST (in all aspects!). To be fair, the student life at OIST is already pretty good, but, you know, there is always room for improvement.

In order to make your first days and weeks easier and more enjoyable, we strongly recommend that you start connecting with your fellow students right away. There are a number of ways you can do this:

- **Email:** Send an email to [studentcouncil@oist.jp](mailto:studentcouncil@oist.jp) and we can help you with whatever you need, from being put in touch with others that share your research interests or simply where's good to eat nearby.
- **Buddy:** We run a buddy system where you are paired up with a fellow student who have volunteered to show you the ropes and answer any of your questions. Sign up [here](#).
- **Facebook:** We have an OIST student [group](#), introduce yourselves to the community and ask any questions you have
- **Slack:** We have a designated channel on [Slack](#), this app is commonly used by many units in OIST so why not practice slacking with us rather than with your new lab(s).

P.S. New students are basically celebrities on campus. It is a well-known truth amongst more senior students that having first year friends means you are still young and relevant.

Looking forward to getting to know you,

Otis

#ThankMyChair

*Chair,*

*Student Council 2020*