

# Working at OIST

## Frequently Asked Questions for Faculty

Table of Contents (Click item to link to section in text)

<b>1. Conditions for Research</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Budget</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Equipment</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Space</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Technical Support</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Teaching and Service</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3. Conditions of Employment</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Working as a foreigner in Japan</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Appointment</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Salary and Employment</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Part-time positions and outside employment</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Taxation</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Employee Pension Scheme</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Current OIST Pension Plan [Private School Mutual Aid]</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Leave and Vacation</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Employment of Spouse</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>4. General</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Banking</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Housing</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Cost of Living</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Health</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Living in Okinawa</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>5. Family</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Early childhood education and childcare</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Information about local schools (elementary through high school).</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Public Schools</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>International Schools/ Private Schools</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>U.S. Base DODS Schools</b> .....	<b>25</b>

# **Working at OIST**

## **Frequently Asked Questions for Faculty**

### **1. Conditions for Research**

Each faculty member (Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor, excluding those with visiting status) leads a research unit.

#### **Budget**

##### **What is the budget for a research unit?**

Funding is provided to support an approved research program. At the start of the first contract period, each faculty member is required to make a budget proposal (staff, equipment, and operating costs, including travel) for the 5-years of the research unit initial term. The budget is reviewed by the President and the Dean of Research, and once approved, will be implemented on an annual basis, each year being reviewed and adjusted as necessary given research progress and budgetary conditions. Each faculty member is responsible for monitoring and managing the budget using OIST's web-based accounting system. Limited reallocation between budget categories is possible, and there is a mid-year review and reallocation.

##### **How is staffing determined for my unit?**

Size (qualification, time of hiring and headcount) of a unit is included in the global budget planning of each unit and follows the same rules (5-year plan and annual review). Postdoctoral Scholars are recruited for limited term, usually three years, to encourage their professional mobility at an early stage of their careers. For obvious reasons, the contractual term of a Post-doctoral Scholar cannot extend beyond the term of the hiring research unit itself. More senior staff can be hired as Staff Scientists on fixed-term appointments, again usually three years, as can Technicians. Staff Scientists and Technicians with special skills that are likely to be needed by the OIST research program for the foreseeable future might be offered continuing positions that extend beyond three years.

##### **Can I obtain external research grants?**

OIST encourages faculty members and researchers to acquire external research grants to advance their research programs. The Sponsored Research Section provides comprehensive support for extramural funding, including information, preparation, application, and administration of research grants. Faculty members may apply for research grants from MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science), JST (Japan Science and Technology Agency), and other governmental, as well as international and private funding agencies and foundations.

##### **How can I obtain funding to hold an international workshop or conference?**

OIST considers international workshops and conferences to be a strategic component of its activity, and encourages faculty members to initiate and hold them. OIST is equipped with excellent conference facilities at Sea Side House and on the Main Campus and has an administrative section dedicated to supporting the logistics of such events. Each fiscal year, the OIST faculty Workshop

Committee, chaired by a faculty member, reviews workshop and conference proposals, both those supported with OIST funding (“Internal”) and with outside funding (“External”). MEXT, JSPS, JST, and other agencies and foundations also offer grants to support international workshops in Japan, and OIST’s Sponsored Research Section will assist faculty members who wish to apply.

### **What are the provisions regarding travel?**

Travel budgets are included in research unit budget planning. Faculty travel is approved by the Dean for Faculty Affairs and unit member’s travel is approved by the faculty member.

## **Equipment**

### **What is the OIST policy regarding sharing of equipment?**

OIST shares research equipment as an efficient way of managing an expensive resource such as an advanced microscope or other instrument. Sharing brings immediate benefits such as increased machine use, cost saving through bulk purchases of consumables or maintenance contracts, etc. Over time this also guarantees that “state of the art” research equipment is available to as many researchers as possible. Details regarding large equipment, such as model number, manufacturer name, features, location, etc., are registered in the Research Equipment Database (RED), and administration of such equipment is the responsibility of the Research Support Division (RSD).

Equipment is classified as follows:

1. Common Equipment: Available for common use and managed by RSD staff.
2. Shared Equipment: (a) Equipment mainly used by one research unit or by several units, but routinely available for common use during unoccupied time. Costs for common equipment/shared equipment, as well as maintenance fees are covered by a central budget. Only direct costs (consumables) are charged to research units.
3. Individual Equipment: Equipment assigned and operated by a single research unit, but in some circumstance available for shared or collaborative use.

### **How do I determine what equipment is available for sharing?**

Equipment available for sharing can be browsed and searched in the Research Equipment Database available on the OIST intranet. Equipment presently available includes mass spectrometers, 400 MHz NMR, next-generation sequencers, a suite of super-resolution optical microscopes, a 300 KV cryo-TEM, a 300 KV E-TEM, a class-1000 clean room, nano-fabrication facilities, Helios FIB-SEM, a 10,224-core high-performance computing center with both Ethernet and InfiniBand connectivity, and many other advanced types of equipment.

### **What equipment is NOT available for sharing?**

Under guidance of the Dean of Research, certain equipment is not available for sharing when it is unique to, or intensively used by a specific research unit, such that sharing it would hamper or jeopardize research progress. A given piece of equipment may change status, according to circumstances.

### **How can I purchase large equipment?**

In developing a five-year plan, faculty members should budget for large equipment purchases, after consulting the Research Equipment Database and the Dean of Research. Each fiscal year proposals for common and shared equipment are discussed, and recommendations are forwarded to the President and the Dean of Research. Under OIST's procurement rules, equipment exceeding 5 million JPY is subject to a competitive bidding process.

## Space

### **How is laboratory location determined?**

The location of research unit laboratory space is decided on the basis of specific unit needs as recommended by the Facility, Operation, and Use Section, in consultation, and approved by the President and the Dean of Research.

### **What is the space allocation?**

Space is allocated according to need and availability.

Each faculty member has private office space close to that of other faculty members of different disciplines. The Research Administrator's (secretary's) office is near the faculty member's office in a common space. Researchers and technicians are located in wet lab or dry lab space appropriate to the needs of the research unit. Laboratory space is identified on the lab floor plan and the Facility, Operation and Use Section assists the faculty member in equipping the laboratory and office.

## Technical Support

### **What kind of technical support is available?**

The Research Support Division (RSD) has technical staff to manage common research equipment and to provide technical services. Section Leaders of the Imaging and Instrument Analysis, DNA Sequencing, Animal Resources, Engineering Support, Field Resources and Scientific Computing and data Analysis Sections have research backgrounds and help researchers find the right equipment and supplies for their research needs.

#### Computer support:

Based upon a high-speed 10GB Ethernet backbone network, the campus has a readily accessible network that provides fast, stable connections to various external networks. OIST supports both Mac and PC platforms.

#### High Performance Computing:

OIST operates two high performance computing (HPC) clusters, Sango and Tombo, which are located in the main campus data center. Sango is OIST current main research computing cluster that consists of 10224 compute cores (processor units) and a total of 61 TByte (tera bytes) of memory, which allows it to deliver a peak computing power of about 252.7 TFlops (252.7 trillion floating point operations per second). This ranks Sango at the 281st position in the June 2015 world TOP500. Tombo is the second generation legacy OIST cluster that will be used to provide clusters for workshop and training, test environments, and other research computing services. Tombo consists of 6888 compute cores (processor units) for a total of 33 TByte (tera bytes) of memory, which allowed it to deliver an estimated peak

computing power of about 60 TFlops (60 trillion floating point operations per second).

### **Is there a well-equipped electronic/mechanical/plastics workshop?**

OIST has a mechanical workshop equipped with a lathe, a milling machine, and other machining tools. It is managed by an experienced technical staff, to design and manufacture custom devices and research equipment. An electric workshop is also available with standard equipment. Additional technical staff members are currently being recruited. A new Engineering Support Building is planned which will accommodate the workshops.

## **2. Teaching and Service**

### **What will my teaching obligations be?**

OIST's staff-to-student ratio is very favourable and will remain so (about 50 faculty to 100 students). There is no undergraduate program. The emphasis is on learning research by doing research, with courses as necessary.

All full-time faculty members are expected to teach one approved graduate course per year (two credits per year) as a minimum. The required faculty-class contact time for a two-credit graduate course is 30 hours (in practice 22 hours, if breaks are taken into account). If faculty members share teaching of a course, their teaching credit is pro-rated.

All full-time faculty members are expected to host graduate students on rotations in their laboratories. All OIST graduate students are required to complete three rotations. At least one of the rotations must be outside the specific field of the student's studies at OIST. Therefore, rotation students will at times come from academic fields different from that of the faculty member. The educational aim of a rotation is for the student to understand the questions addressed in the research unit, to become familiar with methods and scientific language used in the field, and to become familiar with the methods used in the research unit. Faculty members are expected to include rotation students in their unit activities and provide them with an opportunity for a substantive research experience.

### **How are courses approved?**

Faculty members are expected to deliver research-informed teaching in their areas of expertise. OIST encourages an interactive, tutorial style of teaching, with "learning by doing" approaches. Course proposals must be formally evaluated by the Graduate School and be approved by the Ministry of Education. OIST expects faculty to develop courses of high international quality.

### **How are graduate students recruited?**

Graduate students are recruited centrally through the Graduate School with the assistance of the Admissions Committee. OIST advertises the Graduate Programme through standard media, and through direct representation at the prestigious Japanese and non-Japanese universities, institutes, and conferences. Applications are made electronically on the OIST web site.

### **Am I permitted to select my own graduate students?**

The selection of graduate students follows a rigorous process that examines academic records and intellectual development potential. Faculty members are encouraged to attract promising applicants to apply, even though the final

selection is made by the OIST Admissions Committee. Graduate students are accepted into the program, and are not assigned to individual labs until after they have completed their rotations.

### **What support is given to graduate students?**

OIST graduate students receive financial support and housing that are competitive with those of the most prestigious international institutions. This includes relocation and settlement support, and financial support of 2.4 million yen per year, payment of tuition costs, and support for travel and conference attendance once per year.

## **3. Conditions of Employment**

### **Working as a foreigner in Japan**

#### **Are working conditions at OIST international?**

OIST provides a very international environment, almost unique in Japan. Particular attention is given to creating an open, cosmopolitan culture.

Presently, over 240 of OIST's approximately 700 employees are non-Japanese, and they represent 50 countries. Thirty-four of 52 (65%) full-time and adjunct faculty members are non-Japanese. Of about 120 Ph.D. students, more than 90 (75%) are non-Japanese, from more than 30 countries. OIST recruitment policy aims for over 50% non-Japanese faculty members, post-docs, and students.

#### **Do I need to learn Japanese?**

The official language at OIST is English, and many people work here without speaking Japanese.

Written and oral working communications must be in English. The selection process of new recruits in administration and research units specifically includes an evaluation of their English competence. Of course, this is not to suggest that everybody at OIST is fluent in English!

Historically, Okinawa has had a larger population of English speakers than the rest of Japan, but it is always useful, and recommended, to learn some Japanese. OIST provides free Japanese and English classes for its employees. At the time of relocation, OIST provides the linguistic support necessary to accomplish a smooth transition.

#### **May I purchase property in Japan?**

Yes, in principle, this is possible. However, if foreigners do not pay with cash, they must secure a mortgage from a Japanese financial institution. Japanese institutions are cautious in general and even more so for loans to foreigners. Some basic eligibility requirements are that the buyer must be a permanent resident, must have stable Japanese income, and must provide a 10 -30% down payment (+10% for miscellaneous expenses). The maximum mortgage term is < 35 years. Some institutions claim that they provide loans to foreign residents. In any case, the assistance of a legal advisor is mandatory.

#### **Will my driver's license be valid in Japan?**

With a license from another country and a clean driving record for more than three months, foreigners can apply for a Japanese license. Depending upon their country of origin, some foreigners may be able to obtain a Japanese license with

only a little administrative work. Others will be required to pass rigorous written and practical driving tests.

Non-Japanese citizens are strongly advised to obtain an International Driver's Permit, which is valid for one year, provided that their foreign licenses remain in force. OIST provides logistical assistance for OIST employees and their families to obtain Japanese licenses.

For Further information;

JAF (Japan Automobile Federation)

<http://www.jaf.or.jp/e/switch.htm>

### **What happens if I incur a disability through sickness or accident?**

There are benefits from OIST's health insurance plan (Private School Mutual Aid) if you have an accident during private activities or from Worker's Accident Compensation Insurance if you have an accident while working for OIST. These insurance plans cover non-Japanese workers as well as Japanese nationals. Depending on the grade of disability, the Worker's Accident Compensation Insurance pays between 131 and 313 days' worth of compensation per year "as long as the disabilities continue" (capped as follows). There are several grades of severe disabilities, from 1st Grade: 313 days' worth of compensation per year (loss of sight in both eyes, loss of both arms or legs, etc.) to 7th Grade: 131 days (loss of some fingers, etc.)

For more details, see

<http://www.shigakukyosai.jp/en/about/about01.html>.

<http://www.generalunion.org/law/workerscomp.htm#08> for more general explanations.

In any case, OIST will provide guidance to employees and their families in the event of such an accident. OIST has no additional insurance scheme, but additional coverage can be purchased privately.

Maximum amount per day by age

30 - 34 yrs ¥16,141

35 - 39 yrs ¥18,548

40 - 44 yrs ¥21,926

45 - 49 yrs ¥24,472

50 - 54 yrs ¥25,013

55 - 59 yrs ¥23,187

60 - 64 yrs ¥19,830

### **In the event of my death, what provisions does OIST make for my dependents?**

There are benefits from OIST's health insurance plan or Worker's Accident Compensation Insurance (for death occurring at work). Worker's Accident Compensation Insurance pays up to 245 days' worth of compensation per year (capped as follows).

One dependent 153 days

Two dependents 201 days

Three dependents 223 days

Four or more dependents 245 days

Maximum per day amount by age bracket

30 – 34 yrs ¥16,141

35 – 39 yrs ¥18,548

40 – 44 yrs ¥21,926

45 – 49 yrs ¥24,472

50 – 54 yrs ¥25,013

55 – 59 yrs ¥23,187

60 – 64 yrs ¥19,830

If death occurs for reasons related to work for OIST (commuting included), a funeral assistance benefit of ¥1,395,000 will be paid, as well as the insurance compensation.

Family members will be repatriated to their home location by OIST.

### **Does OIST/Japan recognise common-law marriage?**

OIST regulations acknowledge common-law marriage. However, the Japanese government does not allow an unmarried partner to obtain a VISA as a spouse. Unmarried partners can apply for short-term visas that allow a stay of up to 90 days for tourism, business, visiting friends, or relatives, or other pursuits that do not include paid activities. For further information;

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/j\\_info/visit/visa/index.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html)

### **Does OIST/Japan recognise same-sex marriage?**

The Japanese government does not recognize same-sex marriages. As with common-law, the employee's partner can apply for a short-term visa.

## **Appointment**

### **What is my position title?**

Faculty members are hired as Professors, Associate Professors, or Assistant Professors, as appropriate.

### **What are the rules for promotion?**

See the Faculty Handbook in the OIST Policy Library

(<http://www.oist.jp/policy-library/3>).

### **What are the rules for tenure?**

See the Faculty Handbook in the OIST Policy Library

(<http://www.oist.jp/policy-library/3>)

## **Salary and Employment**

### **What annual increments are provided?**

OIST has an annual salary plan that provides increases given budgetary constraints.

### **How often is salary reviewed?**

Faculty base salaries are reviewed at the time of research unit evaluation.

### **What are the fringe benefits (housing, healthcare, schools)?**

Fringe benefits include the following:

- Paid holidays (10 days for the first year and 20 days on every employment anniversary date thereafter; holidays are valid for 2 years),

- Paid summer holidays of 7 days between June and September.
- Sick Leave of 6 days per year
- Maternity Leave
- Special Leave
- Childcare Leave and Family Care Leave
- Housing allowance and commuting allowance. Housing may also be rented from OIST.
- Medical insurance, a retirement pension account from the Private School Mutual Aid system, and workers compensation's are major benefits provided by OIST.

We are considering other benefits, such as an education allowance and home leave. At present, if a business trip is made to a location close to the area where family and relatives reside, and if faculty members wish to visit them, paid leave can be granted. The number of paid leave days must not exceed the number of days on business during the trip. Per Diem allowance and lodging expenses are not granted for personal leave. Such paid leave may be granted up to twice per year.

### **What is the relocation allowance?**

A relocation allowance will be paid to move household belongings and to cover miscellaneous expenditures, such as costs of temporary accommodations, incurred during the relocation period.

The amount is;

#### **Relocation from overseas**

Faculty ¥ 269,500

Spouse: ¥ 179,666

Child: ¥ 89,833/child

Shipping cost up to ¥ 1,000,000

#### **Relocation from within Japan**

PI ¥ 171,600

Spouse: ¥ 114,400

Child: ¥ 57,200/child

Shipping cost up to ¥ 700,000

Transportation costs in compliance with OIST's relocation rules for OIST employees and their families will be reimbursed.

## **Part-time positions and outside employment**

### **May I hold a part-time position at another university or organization?**

Yes, this is possible. The position must not conflict with OIST responsibilities. Such positions must be approved beforehand by the Dean for Faculty Affairs.

### **What are the rules governing part-time adjunct faculty appointments at OIST?**

In some cases OIST may make Adjunct Faculty appointments with part-time responsibility for OIST service.

## **Taxation**

### **What taxes must I pay?**

Income and Resident Taxes are deducted from employee salaries. The tax amount is based on variables, such as the number of dependents, the base salary, etc.

Example annual Income ¥13,000,000  
Total Estimated\* Annual Tax (at the age of 45)  
W/O dependent ¥2,431,550  
With 3 dependents ¥2,315,250

\*The actual amount may vary due to other factors.

Other taxes include a consumption tax (VAT) 8%, property tax, gift tax, etc.

Japan has agreements with a number of countries to avoid double taxation. In order to assist foreign employees, OIST has appointed a tax consultant who is familiar with the OIST situation. It is highly recommended that new employees consult this advisor the first time they file their income tax statement to avoid costly mistakes, especially if they have other revenue in addition to OIST remuneration.

### **How are fringe benefits taxed?**

Benefits are taxed on the basis of their in-kind value, or their cash equivalent; therefore, a housing allowance is considered taxable income. The premium for the Private School Mutual Aid Health Insurance is about 4% of your gross salary; unemployment insurance is about 0.6%, and the Private School Mutual Aid Pension contribution is about 7%. These amounts are deducted from your compensation. For Faculty over 40 years of age, a nursing care tax of about 0.05% is levied.

### **What pension funds will I participate in?**

All registered residents of Japan, both Japanese and foreign, who are between 20 and 60, are required to enroll in the Japanese national pension system. All OIST employees, whose average working hours are  $\geq 28$  hours per week, also will be enrolled in the pension plan (Long-Term Benefits) of the Private School Mutual Aid. For further information, consult the website of the Private School Mutual Aid: <http://www.shigakukyosai.jp/en/index.html>

### **Can contributions to the pension fund be reclaimed or transferred to another fund?**

Japan has an International Social Security Agreement with Germany, United Kingdom, Korea, United States, Belgium, France, Canada, Australia, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Spain, Ireland, Brazil, Switzerland, and Hungary (see <http://www.nenkin.go.jp/n/www/english/detail.jsp?id=37>).

OIST employees who leave Japan, who enrolled in the Japanese pension plan for more than 6 months, have two options: they may make a lump-sum withdrawal or transfer the contributed time, provided that they have a pension home from a country with which Japan has an agreement. The two options are mutually exclusive.

Example of lump sum withdrawal payment  
Income ¥13,000,000

Japanese pension enrolled period 5-yrs: ¥1,525,200

The actual amount may vary depending upon factors such as the date that the employee enrolled in or withdrew from the pension plan. The amount of the

lump sum is capped at an amount corresponding to 3 years, regardless of the actual number of years spent at OIST or other institutions in Japan.

## Employee Pension Scheme

### Can my retirement plan be transferred to Japan?

It depends upon the country in which the plan resides. Some countries have concluded an agreement with Japan.

<http://www.shigakukyosai.jp/en/index.html>

[http://www.shigakukyosai.jp/en/l\\_term/index.html](http://www.shigakukyosai.jp/en/l_term/index.html) (see Social Security Agreements)

### Current OIST Pension Plan [Private School Mutual Aid]

This provides a pension at the retirement age of 65 which is based on the average salary after 25 years of contributions, up to a maximum of about 1.7MY per year (2MY per year if there is a dependent spouse). The maximum corresponds to a salary of about 7.26MY or more, so that all Faculty members will be affected by this cap. As a result of the law established in August 2012 and planned to be enforced in April 2017, the requisite total period of membership to receive the Retirement Mutual Aid Pension will be reduced from 25 years to 10 years.

The pension may be transferred to another employer in Japan that also has social insurance.

If there is a pension treaty between Japan and home country, the Faculty member may have the contribution period under PSMA being counted towards the contribution period in the home country, depending on the applicable treaty, or receive any other treatment applicable under the appropriate treaty with the relevant country.

If the Faculty member leaves OIST and Japan before the qualifying period has been reached, a maximum of 36 months of contributions can be taken out as a lump sum calculated as a percentage of 36 times the average monthly salary, where this percentage is variable; at present it is about 7%. For example, if the average monthly salary is 0.62MY (which is the maximum average monthly salary for the calculation of pension), the maximum amount of the lump sum today is about 1.55MY, corresponding to what has been contributed for 36 months.

**It is recognized by OIST that these arrangements are not internationally competitive, and the Board of Governors has instructed OIST to find ways of enhancing the retirement package.**

## Leave and Vacation

### What are the sick leave provisions?

See the Sick Leave section in the OIST Policy Library (<http://www.oist.jp/policy-library/33.3.5>).

### What are the annual vacation provisions?

Each OIST employee is entitled to 10 days Annual Paid Leave during the first year of employment and 20 days per year from the first anniversary date. Any

remaining unpaid leave at the end of the fiscal year, up to 20 days, may be carried forward to the next year. In addition, Summer Vacation of 7 days can be taken between July and September. There are also 15 public holidays during the year and time off from December 29th till January 3rd. Note that OIST remains open 24/7 and that any employee can come to work at any time.

#### Public Holidays

1. New Year's Day: January 1
2. Coming of Age Day: Second Monday of January
3. National Foundation Day: February 11
4. Vernal equinox: Around March 20
5. Shōwa Day: April 29
6. Constitution Memorial Day: May 3
7. Greenery Day: May 4
8. Children's Day: May 5
9. Marine Day: Third Monday of July
10. Respect for the Aged Day: Third Monday of September
11. Autumnal equinox: Around September 23
12. Health and Sports Day: Second Monday of October
13. Culture Day: November 3
14. Labor Thanksgiving Day: November 23
15. The Emperor's Birthday: December 23

#### **What are the maternity leave provisions?**

OIST provides six calendar weeks (in case of multiple pregnancies, 14 weeks) before and eight weeks after giving birth. Paid leave is granted.

#### **Employment of Spouse**

##### **My husband/wife will seek employment. Are there positions at OIST for which he/she can apply?**

It is possible for an OIST employee's spouse to work in Japan with a "dependent" visa, with a restriction on the number of hours worked per week, and upon annual remuneration. It is necessary to ask for authorization from Immigration. OIST will assist employee spouses in searching for job opportunities in Okinawa. However, it must be said that such opportunities are limited for someone who does not speak Japanese.

A spouse can also have normal professional activity in Japan, but must first find a job, and then apply for a Certificate of Eligibility for the type of work visa that pertains to that job. It may be necessary for the spouse to leave the country in order to receive the visa from a Japanese consulate abroad. The employee should contact his/her consulate in Japan, but OIST will assist to the extent possible.

All OIST positions are open to all candidates and are advertised on the OIST external website.

##### **What assistance does OIST provide in finding employment for spouses?**

Consult with the staff at OIST's Resource Center in order to seek employment.

##### **What job opportunities exist in Okinawa?**

Job market is rather small in Okinawa but there are some positions for bilingual persons.

## 4. General

### Banking

#### May I open a bank account in Japan?

Yes, OIST employees can and must open accounts for direct, monthly salary deposits.

#### May I hold a credit card in Japan?

Yes, you can apply for credit cards, but it can be difficult if you have no credit history in Japan. Fortunately, it is possible to obtain credit cards via OIST's Private School Mutual Aid health care provider. You can apply for a VISA, MasterCard, or JCB (a Japan based credit provider). OIST employees are also able to apply for an American Express Corporate Card. This card is primarily for business use, but it may be used for personal expenses, at least until one obtains a normal credit card.

It is recommended that non-Japanese employees keep their current home-country credit cards, at least initially.

### Housing

#### Does OIST provide housing?

Yes, OIST has some central housing for faculty members on campus, both houses and apartments.

#### What is the cost of housing in Okinawa?

The cost of housing varies with style, location, size, etc. The cost in Onna Village for 1~3 bedrooms is about ¥170,000 ~ ¥300,000 per month

#### Where is the housing located?

OIST employees live in many different locations. The most common are:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Onna Village:     | 5-10 min from the OIST campus - convenient for its proximity                                      |
| Ishikawa (Uruma): | 15 min from the OIST campus, convenient for its proximity and shopping                            |
| Yomitan Village:  | 25 min from the OIST campus - a relaxed atmosphere and known for "houses designed for foreigners" |
| Okinawa City:     | 40 min from the OIST campus - a bit further away, but appreciated for its "mixed" culture         |

Although there are many apartments, there are not many houses available for rent near the campus.

#### What is the standard of housing in Okinawa?

There is a wide range of choice, from 2 to 3 bedrooms, with a dining room, kitchen, bathroom, and toilet. Available housing includes large American-style apartments and houses, mixed housing with a tatami room and western rooms, and traditional Japanese housing.

Housing usually includes parking for one or two cars.

#### Does OIST defray the cost of housing?

For faculty members, 80% of the rent is paid, with a cap of ¥160,000 per month.

### **Are the houses furnished or unfurnished?**

Most houses/apartments in Japan are unfurnished, Japanese or western style. Sometimes, kitchen appliances (oven, refrigerator, dryer, and dishwasher) are included. Air-conditioning units are generally installed.

## **Cost of Living**

### **What is the cost of living in Okinawa?**

Living costs, such as housing and food, are more reasonable than elsewhere in Japan. Utility and transportation are comparable to other locations.

Cost of Living Allowance Indexes (The U.S. Department of Defense Travel Management Office Cost of Living Allowance Indices, as of August 1, 2015)

Okinawa	116				
Tokyo	130	London	150	Mexico City	102
Bangkok	128	Paris	142	Brasilia	104
New Delhi	116	Moscow	116	Nairobi	118
Singapore	148	Sydney	138		
Seoul	122				

### **What will it cost to move into my accommodations?**

Since a rent contract on behalf of a faculty member is concluded between OIST and a landlord, agency fees, security deposits, key money, common area fees, and 80% of the rent are absorbed by OIST, while 20% of rent (and any amounts over the cap of ¥160,000), any possible parking costs for a second car, and fire insurance will be paid by the employee. A small deposit for gas use is generally required.

## **Health**

### **What is the health-care system like?**

The Japan health care system is very good and highly subsidized, making it much more affordable than American medicine, for example. Japan's medical insurance is a government plan, and it is mandatory for both employers and employees. The cost of general consultation is roughly split between the individual (30%) and social insurance (70%), but stays at hospitals, surgery, and other procedures are covered by the social insurance system in large part. OIST offers its own program, such as preventive annual medical check-ups (free to employees) and the opportunity to consult OIST's in-house doctor. A Medical Clinic has recently opened. In addition, OIST has a Health Center and Ganjuu, a wellbeing center, available for all staff and family members.

### **Are English-speaking doctors available?**

Yes, many doctors speak or understand English in Okinawa, including OIST's doctor. The same may not be true of receptionists and other medical staff.

### **What kinds of maternity care are available?**

Maternity care at clinics/hospitals is covered by OIST's medical insurance, including delivery costs of ¥390,000 - ¥420,000. The local government also offers free baby/mother check-ups and early childhood vaccination.

Below is a list of clinics/hospitals often used by OIST staff near to the campus and others in Okinawa.

### Clinic/Hospital List

Clinic/Hospital	Opening Hours	Specialty	English	Min. from OIST by car	Emergency
<b>Onna Clinic</b>	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 9:00-12:30 14:00-17:30 Closed: Tue and Thu afternoons, Sun, and Holidays	IM, G, C, P,R	Dr. and technicians speak English	10 min	Able to have minor emergency cases
<b>Yoza ENT clinic</b>	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat 9:00-12:00 14:00-17:30 Closed: Wed, Sun, and Holidays	ENT	Dr. speaks English	10 min	N/A
<b>Furugen Dental Clinic</b>	Mon through Sat 9:00-12:00 14:00-18:30 (17:00 on Sat.) Closed: Sun. and Holidays	Dentistry	Dr. speaks English	20 min	N/A
<b>Life Care Yomitan Clinic</b>	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, 9:00-11:30 14:30-17:30 Closed: Tue and Thu afternoons, Sun, and Holidays	IM, S, P, N, G	Dr. speaks English	25 min	N/A
<b>Rokuto J2 Orthopedic Clinic</b>	Mon through Fri, 9:00-19:00 Weekends 9:00-17:00	Orthopedic, PMR	Some doctors speak English	25 min	N/A
<b>Okinawa Prefectural Chubu Hospital</b>	Mon through Fri, 8:30 to 11:00 *Hours vary depending on the department. Need an appointment for an afternoon visit Closed: Weekends (except the emergency department)	IM, G, C, P, PY, N, OR, PS, NS, CA, CS, GO, ENT, DE, U, A, PMR, RA, E, OS	Most doctors speak English. English brochure is available	35 min	24 hours
<b>Adventist Medical Center</b>	Hours vary depending upon department within the 9:00 - 4:30 work day. Need to check hours before visiting. Closed: Friday afternoons and Saturdays.	IM, P, ENT, GO	Most of doctors and Staff members speak English. English documents are available.	50 min	N/A
<b>University Hospital, University of the Ryukyus</b>	Hours: Mon through Fri 8:00 to 11:00 Hours vary depending upon the department. Need an appointment for an afternoon visit or referral letter.	IM, G, C, P, PY, N, S, OR, PS, NS, CA, CS, GO, ENT, ES, DE, U, A, RA, E, OS	Many doctors speak English	45 min	24 hours
<b>Okinawa Prefectural Nanbu Medical Center/Children Hospital</b>	Hours: Mon through Fri 8:00 to 11:00 Hours vary depending upon the department. Need an appointment or referral letter.	IM, G, C, P, PY, N, S, OR, PS, NS, CA, CS, GO, ENT, ES, DE, A, RA, E, OS	Many doctors speak English	50 min	24 hours

\*Business hours and specialties are subject to change.

<Abbreviations for specialties> IM = Internal Medicine, G=Gastroenterology, C=Cardiovascular Internal, P=Pediatrics, PY=Psychiatry, N= Neurology, S=Surgery, OR=Orthopedic Surgery, PS = Plastic Surgery, NS=Neurosurgery, CA=Cardiovascular Surgery, CS=Cosmetic Surgery, GO=Gynecology & Obstetrics, ENT=Ear, Nose, and Throat, ES=Eye Specialist, DE=Dermatology, U=Urology, A=Anesthesiology, PMR=Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, RA=Radiology, E=Endocrinology, D=Dentistry, OS=Oral Surgery

## Living in Okinawa

### What recreation facilities are available?

Okinawa is one of the most popular resort islands in Japan. There are urban entertainment facilities, including cinema complexes, shopping malls, concert halls with the Ryukyu Philharmonic Orchestra, music bars, and jazz-clubs.

OIST has an agreement with Hotel Moon Beach, located 5 min drive from the OIST campus, for swimming pool, gym and spa access with discounts. There also is a discount for the buffet at the restaurant in the hotel. OIST has other discounts at various hotels for staying and meals, along with discounts at selected local recreational facilities.

OIST has a wide range of clubs on campus, from Bollywood dancing to volleyball. Sports related clubs generally have their activities at a near-by public recreation facility.

### Are there international music/cultural events (e.g. concerts, film festivals)?

There are some international music/cultural events in Okinawa. The Okinawa International Film Festival in March and the Peaceful Love Rock Festival in July are among the most popular.

Many Japanese and local artist concerts are held throughout a year, and there are numerous folk song and dance festivals. On occasion, local artists perform in OIST's auditorium. International music and other artists also come to Okinawa.

OIST also hosts a number of cultural and musical events on campus throughout the year involving local and international artists and performers.

### What do people do for relaxation?

There are lots of things to do, depending upon your preferences. There are outdoor activities, such as fishing, scuba diving, surfing, cycling, or jogging. Indoor activities include karate (Karate was born in Okinawa and Karate-ka from all over the world come for training at the numerous Dojos.), Okinawan dancing and music, pottery, among others.

## 5. Family

### Early childhood education and childcare

#### What are the early childhood education options?

Tedako is the OIST Child Development Center. It is a cooperative effort by OIST employees and their families to foster happy, healthy, compassionate, and socially confident children, who are prepared to successfully face challenges beyond the security of the Pre-school and other CDC programs. These programs are grounded in the belief that children are competent, curious, resourceful learners, and all activities and materials are designed to provoke creativity and wonder, encourage cooperation, strengthen relationships, and build the confidence that is essential to becoming an independent learner.

The OIST community is intrinsically international, but to accommodate children

raised and educated here, the staff of the Pre-school and other CDC programs include Japanese and English speakers. Additionally, curriculum and management of all CDC programs are well balanced, with qualified, experienced educators and parents from both Japan and abroad, cooperating to provide children with an international perspective and a firm grounding in Japan.

The OIST CDC offers the following preschool and kindergarten services for the children of OIST employees and students:

- Tedako Pre-School: Full-time care for children 2 months to 6 years of age and part-time care for children attending local kindergarten. Hours are from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday through Friday.

### **What are the OIST Tedako Child Development Center Fees?**

Fees are based on yearly household income and range from 12000JPY-50000JPY per month. Please email [tedako@oist.jp](mailto:tedako@oist.jp) for details and registration.

### **We are new to Japan and to OIST, what is used to verify our household income?**

Please bring us a tax document from your previous country or a payslip from your previous employer.

### **Is it possible to have drop-in care for a child for casual or occasional use?**

We are happy to accommodate occasional situations that arise, if we can, but it will be based on space availability.

### **Will parents be allowed to come and have lunch with their child?**

Yes, it's a great opportunity to spend time with your child during the day.

### **At the time of registration, will we need to submit health certificates?**

Yes, before admission, a record of immunizations must be submitted.

### **What is the sibling discount?**

The first child pays full price and each additional sibling receives 25% off.

### **What is the teacher ratio for children ages 3-5?**

Our Center aims to provide 1 teacher for every 12 children. The legal minimum is 1 teacher for every 20 children.

### **Will the partial immersion be implemented for babies too?**

The bi-lingual program starts when the children start to speak.

### **Is it possible to have automatic monthly payments made through my bank account?**

For OIST employees, we can do a payroll deduction, and for OIST temporary staff, we will accept a bank transfer.

### **Do you take children off-campus for field trips or other excursions?**

Yes, we have a bus and also planned several annual Saturday on campus events such as sports day.

## **Other Nursery and Preschools in Okinawa**

### **Okinawa International School in Naha (1 hr drive from campus)**

Child's age: 1 year old to elementary school. 12ys  
Address: 2-34-22 Sobe, Naha, Okinawa  
Tel: 098 835 1851  
URL: <http://www.ois-edu.com/>

English is the official language.

**East West Montessori** in Chatan (40 min drive) 3 years old.

Child's age: 2-6 years old  
Address: 465-2 Ihei, Chatan-Cho, Okinawa  
Tel: 098 983-7303  
URL: <http://www.eastwestms.com/>

English is their official language.

**Cherry Blossom Preschool & Toddler Center** in Nakagusuku (40 min drive)

Child's age: 2 months up to 3 years old (toddler) 3-5 years old (pre-school).  
Address: Toddler Center: No. 1827 Parkside Terrace  
269 Ogido, Kitanakagusuku-son, Okinawa  
Preschool: No. 1823 Parkside Terrace  
269 Ogido, Kitanakagusuku-son, Okinawa  
Tel: 098-935-2780 (Pre-school) 098-935-3441

(Toddler center)

URL: <http://www.cherryblossomsch.org/>

English is the official language.

**Okinawa Montessori** in Chatan (30 min drive)

Child's age: 2.5 years to 6 years  
Address: B5 1-348 Miyagi, Chatan, Okinawa  
Tel: 098-936-6044  
URL: <http://www.okinawamontessori.com/>

English is the official language.

**Sunshine Montessori School** in Chatan

Child's age: 1.5-5 years old  
Address: 1-9-10 1F Kitamae Chatan, Okinawa  
Tel: 098-936-9968  
URL: [www.sunshinemontessoriokinawa.com](http://www.sunshinemontessoriokinawa.com)

English is the official language.

**Babysitter: Baby Smile Okinawa Service**

Tel: 090-1611-3593  
Fee: \$8 per hour for one or two children, \$10 per hour for three children  
URL: <http://babysmileokinawa.ti-da.net/c120387.html>

They provide babysitting service in English, mostly to American families and almost all the babysitters speak fluent English.

**Yuuna Hoikuen**

Child's age: 1 month, 6 months to 4 years old  
Address: 6632 Onna, Onna son, 904-0411 7545-3 Onna, Kunigami District, Okinawa 904-0411  
Tel: 098-966-8177

They don't have English-speaking staff, but they welcome OIST employee's children.

Awase Zenrin Gakuen ( May no longer exist; The phone number listed now belongs to Budou Hoikuen)

Child's age: 8 months to 5 years old  
Address: 4-45-5 Awase, Okinawa-shi, 904-2172  
Tel: 098-937-3200

A few staff members understand English.

### **Aozora Hoikuen**

Child's age: 1 month to 4 years old: (Gakuen: 5- 12 years old)  
**Hours: 7:30-19:00**  
Address: 1-29-33 Ageda, Okinawa shi, 904-0012  
Tel: 098-939-3090

A few staff members understand English.

Oome Youjien ( May no longer exist; The phone number listed now belongs to Budou Hoikuen)

Child's age: 3 months to 4 years old  
Address: 217 Kojya, Okinawa shi, 904-2161  
Tel: 098-937-3200

Few staff can understand English.

There are 30 other day care centers in Okinawa-shi, and a few staff members understand English.

### **Gakudo Hoikuen Peter Pan**

Child's age: 5 months to 10 years old  
Address: 210-3 Aza kina, Yomitan son, 904-0302  
Tel: 098-958-1577

A few staff members understand English at present.

### **Tanpopo Nyujien**

Child's age: 5 months to 2 years old  
Hours: M-F: 7:30-18:30; Saturday: 7:30-16:00  
Address: 2717-52 Aza Zakimi, Yomitan son,  
Tel: 098-958-2692

(No English speaking teachers at present).

### **Izumi Hoikuen**

Child's age: 10 months to 5 years old  
Hours: M-F: 7:30~18:00; Saturday : 7:30-2:00  
Address: 513 Aza Furugen, Yomitan son,  
Tel: 098-956-9057

A few staff members understand English, but they welcome OIST employee's children.

## **Information about local schools (elementary through high school).**

### **What types of schools are available for my children?**

Both public Japanese schools in your school district and private international schools are available.

### **Does OIST have any programs for school age kids?**

OIST provides an afterschool program and a holiday program for children aged 5-12. In order to attend the afterschool program, students are picked up from their schools by OIST transit and brought to OIST. The holiday program runs during elementary school holidays and during vacations. Parents can bring their child to OIST on days when schools are closed and OIST is open. Please contact [julia.nabholz@oist.jp](mailto:julia.nabholz@oist.jp) for more details.

### **What are the teachers' qualification requirements in Japan?**

To teach in a public school, teachers must obtain a university certificate before being hired. Each international school has its own professional requirements; most require a degree in the field and a certification or license. Please contact the schools directly to obtain this information.

## **Public Schools**

### **Which schools would my child be eligible to attend?**

Applicants will be automatically enrolled in the school in the district where they reside. Onna Village residents are eligible to attend the public elementary school in the Village. For example, on-campus residents are in the Onna Village school district. If parents prefer another school in Onna Village, submission of an additional document to the Village office is required.

### **What is the public school application procedure?**

To enroll in public school, the child needs to be registered with the Village and parents must submit an enrollment request at the Village hall.

1. *Submit application materials to the Board of Education.*

- a. *Enrollment Request (編入学申請書 hen-nyu gaku shinsei sho)*
- b. *Certificate of Residence of the family (to be obtained at the village hall for a small fee)(住民票謄本 juminhyo tohon)*
- c. *Change of School District Request (校区変更願い koku-henko negai), if requesting to attend a school outside the school district of residence.*

2. *A letter of acceptance will be mailed to the resident's home.*

3. *Bring the letter to the school and receive an orientation package.*

### **Are there any programs in Japanese public schools that can support children who do not speak Japanese?**

The basic assumption of Japanese education is to educate Japanese children. Support for non-Japanese-speaking children varies from school to school. It depends on the financial condition and attitude of each local board of education.

In Onna Village, the local and prefectural boards of education and the prefectural government have developed a special program with an English-speaking teacher at Onna Elementary School and Junior High School, to provide educational support for non-Japanese-speaking children. This "International Classroom" provides learning support for non-Japanese-speaking children.

Parents interested in the special program at Onna schools should contact [julia.nabholz@oist.jp](mailto:julia.nabholz@oist.jp)

### **When would my child be eligible to start?**

The Japanese school year starts in April, but children can start at any time during the school year.

## **When are the Japanese school holidays, entrance, and graduation dates?**

The school year starts in April and ends in March.

Summer Vacation (5-6 wks): end of July to August

Winter Vacation (1-2 wks): around Christmas to early January

Spring Vacation (1-2 wks): end of March to early April

National Holidays (See Leave and Vacation Section above)

## **What are the costs for Japanese public schools?**

There is no tuition; however, on average, fees for one year will be a little less than 10,000 yen/month. These fees include things like lunch, materials, and a PTA membership fee.

### **Local Schools located near OIST**

#### **Elementary Schools (6 - 12 year old)**

##### **(Onna Village)**

Onna Elementary School

Kisenbaru Elementary School

Yamada Elementary School

Afuso Elementary School

Nakadomari Elementary School

##### **(Okinawa City)**

Goeku Elementary School

Nakanomachi Elementary School

Moromi Elementary School

Koza Elementary School

Ageda Elementary School

11 other Elementary Schools

##### **(Ishikawa)**

Miyamori Elementary School

Iha Elementary School

Shiromae Elementary School

##### **(Yomitan Village)**

Tokeshi Elementary School

Yomitan Elementary School

Kina Elementary School

Furugen Elementary School

Furugen Minami Elementary School

#### **Junior High Schools (13 - 15 years old)**

##### **(Onna Village)**

Onna Junior High School

Kisenbaru Junior High School

Yamada Junior High School

Afuso Junior High School

Nakadomari Junior High School

##### **(Okinawa City)**

Goeku Junior High School

Yamauchi Junior High School

Bito Junior High School

Koza Junior High School

Misato Junior High School

##### **(Ishikawa)**

Ishikawa Junior High School

Iha Junior High School

##### **(Yomitan Village)**

Yomitan Junior High School

Furugen Junior High School

#### **High Schools (16 - 18 years old)**

Kyuyo Senior High School (Okinawa)

Koza Senior High School (Okinawa)

Misato Senior High School (Okinawa)

Ishikawa Senior High School (Ishikawa)

Maehara Senior High School (Uruma)

Gushikawa Senior High School (Uruma)  
Yomitan Senior High School (Yomitan)  
Kadena Senior High School (Kadena)

## International Schools/ Private Schools

### What international schools are available for elementary through high school?

There are several "international" (English speaking) schools in Okinawa. A summary of schools is provided below.

### What are the costs for private and international schools?

Tuition and fees vary from school to school and range from 600,000 to 1,000,000 yen per year. See below for a summary based on the 2012-2013 school year tuition.

### Does OIST contribute to the costs?

OIST does not contribute to the cost of children's private tuition expenses.

### International /Private Schools located in Okinawa

#### Busy Bee International School

Private: Secular  
Accreditation: None  
Grades: 1 and 1/2 to 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Curriculum: A-Beka  
Address: 885 Kitamae Chatan-cho,  
Bus: Yes  
After School Program: 6:30am to 6:00pm  
Tel: 098-935-4751  
URL: [www.busybee-school.jp](http://www.busybee-school.jp) (Only Japanese)  
Mail: [info@busybee-school.jp](mailto:info@busybee-school.jp)  
Tuition: They do not discuss fees over the phone.

#### New Life Academy

Private: Religious  
Accreditation: None  
Grades: Toddler through 12<sup>th</sup> grades  
Curriculum: Curriculum developed base on US core standards  
Address: 134-1 Noborimata Nakagusuku  
Bus: Yes (¥5,500 - ¥ 15,000 )  
After School Program: 6:30am to 6pm  
Tel: 098-870-3893  
URL: <http://www.newlifeacademy.com/>  
Registration fee ¥30,978; Book fee ¥34,289 to ¥50,250; Tuition ¥54,729 x 10 times (months)

#### Okinawa AMICUS International School

Private: Secular  
Accreditation: accredited by MEXT (Japanese Ministry of Education)  
Grades: Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
Curriculum: Japanese curriculum in accordance with the standard of

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan (MEXT). Taught in both English and Japanese.

[Tuition]

Registration fee ¥220,000

Kindergarten: 665,000yen

Elementary: 819,000 yen

Junior High School: 660,000 yen

Costs for lunch fees, school bus, uniform, gym clothes, etc. are not included in the above costs. Sibling discounts are available.

Address: 1212-1 Enobi, Uruma, Okinawa, 904-2205  
(15 min drive from Campus)

School Bus: ¥10,500 to ¥13,000

After School Program: after school programs such as Music, Horse-riding, and Art & Crafts.

Tel: 098-894-4912

URL: <http://www.amicus-okinawa.jp/en/index.html>

**Okinawa Christian School International (OCSI)**

Private: Religious

Accreditation: accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Grades: elementary school (Pre K -Grade 5), middle school (Grades 6-8), and high school (Grades 9-12).

Curriculum: All subjects are taught in accordance with the Expected Student Outcomes (ESO), which are derived from OCSI's Christian Philosophy of Education. Their teaching style, curriculum, and school calendar are compatible with the American educational system. Instruction in a cross-cultural environment encourages bilingualism, but English is the language of instruction. OCSI also offers English language support for ESL students.

[Tuition]

Kindergarten: approx. 600,000 yen

Elementary school: approx. 580,000 yen

Junior high school: approx. 660,000 yen

Senior high school: approx. 660,000 yen

Registration, tuition, Insurance, parent teacher fellowship, retreat/camp fee and PE uniform (only for 3-12 grades) are included in the above costs.

Annual lunch fee (kindergarten: 39,600 yen, elementary: 48,900-56,100 yen), lunch card (25 days for 9,250 yen) for junior high and high school students and school bus service (Zone 1 to 4: 70,000-132,500 yen annually) are optional.

Address: 1835 Zakimi, Yomitan, Okinawa, 904-0301  
(20 min drive from Campus)

School Bus: School bus service includes three different routes: one from the South (Oroku, Oonoyama) through West Central (Kadena) to the school; one from the East Central to the school; and the other also from East Central (Uruma-shi, Ishikawa and Nakadomari in Onna village) to school

After School Program: 3-6 pm after-school programs for elementary students where they can do their homework, learn on computers,

etc. Contents of the program will be varied and decided by the teacher in attendance.

Tel: 098-958-3000  
URL: <http://www.ocsi.org/joomla/>

### **Okinawa International School**

Private: Secular  
Accreditation:  
Grades: 1 year old to Jr. High  
Curriculum: International Baccalaureate program  
Tuition: 1 year to 6 years; Registration fee, ¥40,000; Facility fee ¥73,000; Tuition, ¥57,000 to ¥68,000  
Elementary Registration fee, ¥73,000; Facility fee ¥73,000; Tuition, ¥74,550 to ¥77,700  
Junior High: Registration fee, ¥108,000; Facility fee, ¥90,720; Annual Tuition ¥1,028,236  
Address: 2-34-22 Sobe Naha  
Tel: 098-835-1851  
School Bus: Yes  
URL: <http://ois-edu.com/>

### **Okinawa Shogaku Junior & Senior High School**

Private: Secular  
Accreditation: accredited by MEXT (Japanese Ministry of Education)  
Grades: Junior high school and high school  
Curriculum: Junior high-Two Specialized Academic "Courses" of Discipline (Super-Advanced "Course" and Advanced "Course")  
High school - Six Specialized Academic "Courses" of Discipline (Top National Universities Course, Liberal Arts National Universities Course, Science-Oriented National Universities Course, Private Universities Course, Sports-Oriented Course, International Department of Humanities & Sciences Course)  
Tuition: Junior high school: Registration fee, 120,000¥; Annual payment, ¥462,047  
High School: Registration fee, 120,000¥; Annual payment, 470,950¥  
Costs for the school bus, uniforms, gym clothes, etc. are not included in the above fees.  
Address: 747 Kokuba Naha  
School Bus: Yes  
After School Program:  
Tel: 098-832-1767/ 098-853-1579

URL: <http://www.okisho.ed.jp/en>

### **Santa Monica International School**

Private: Secular

Accreditation: "Fully Accredited for Grades Pre Kindergarten through 8th Grade by the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges." WASC

Grades: Pre-school, kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school and high school.

Curriculum: Providing education combining Montessori American & Japanese curricula

Tuition: Application Fee: 10,000 yen  
Kindergarten (full time): 660,000  
1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 660,000  
\*The fees above do not include education/materials fee

Address: 210-6 Hamagawa, Chatan Chatan-Cho

School Bus:

After School Program: before- and after-care 6am-6pm

Tel: 098-936-3656

URL: <http://www.santamonicainternationalschool.com/>

### **Zion Christian Academy**

Private: Religious

Accreditation: accredited member of ACSI

Grades: kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school and high school.

Curriculum: They provide education in accordance with American curriculum with the emphasis on "Christianity". Their curriculum is 100% focused on value and moral training that centers on Biblical truth, and their adoption of and adherence to the ABEKA Book curricula are committed to a philosophy of excellence in education.

[Tuition]

Kindergarten( 3-5 years): 52,500 yen X 10 months

Elementary school (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>): 52,500 yen X 10 months

Junior/Senior high school

(6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>): 58,300 yen X 10 months

Registration, sports fee, uniform fees, and textbook fees are not included in the above fees.

After School Program: a 6-8 am before school program as well as a 3-5:30 pm after school program where students can do their homework or other educational activities

Tel: 098-936-9986

URL: <http://zionchristianministries.org/zcai/>

Buses: Transportation arrangements possible.

## **U.S. Base DODS Schools**

### **Can my child attend schools in US military bases?**

This is possible if space is available and if some other criteria of eligibility, such as nationality or SOFA status are fulfilled. Tuition fees range from US\$16,000 - 20,000/year. Access is extremely limited for those without direct affiliation with the U.S. DOD or other government agencies.

Please contact the Department of Defense District School Pacific  
<http://www.pac.dodea.edu/>