



Harassment Counseling Office Newsletter

It's already March now. It's a very busy time of year, how have you been?
We present to you Issue 13 of the Harassment Counseling Office Newsletter.

We would like to once again introduce the Harassment Counseling Office.

■ Where is the Harassment Counseling Office?

There is a Harassment Counseling Office located on each of the three campuses:
Suita, Toyonaka, and Minoh.

Suita Campus	School of Engineering, Building U1E, 4 th floor
Toyonaka Campus	Health and Counseling Center, East Staircase, 2 nd floor
Minoh Campus	Administration Building, 3 rd floor

■ When can I receive counseling?

If you would like to meet with a counselor, please first give us a call.
(refer to the back)

We will arrange a time and date for your appointment.

The office is open during lunch break.

For detailed operating times please refer to the website.

■ Who can I talk to at the office?

At the Harassment Counseling Office there are counselors and faculty/staff counselors.

You can find the names of our counselors listed on the Osaka University website.

Counselors are under the duty of confidentiality, so rest assured when you consult with us

It is also possible to consult with us anonymously.

Please do not worry alone, let us help.



Checking awareness about harassment

The Harassment Counseling Office is conducting a new project, "Harassment Awareness Quiz", to raise awareness about harassment prevention for faculty and staff.

Have you completed it already?

We ask that you please complete it by the end of March, if you have not yet already.

We will update the questions each year, so for the prevention of harassment, we ask for your continued cooperation.

To take the quiz: Login to My Handai, and click on the "Harassment Awareness Quiz" banner.

Column Message from a counselor



The recent situation of harassment

The Harassment Counseling Office for academic, power, and other kinds of harassment in Osaka University was established in 2010, and the total number of consultations that year was forty. Though the first year the office operated on a limited scale, full-scale operation began the next year, and the total number of consultations rose to 60. By 2016, the total number of consultations had doubled, at 124 cases. These details are included in the annual Harassment Office report published at the end of each year, so here we will focus on recent trends in harassment.

Concerning harassment trends, recently we have seen an increase in two types of consultations. The first is preliminary consultations by graduate schools and departments about responding to harassment. The second is consultations from people close to the victim.

I think preliminary consultations are a good sign, and can be interpreted as an increased awareness about harassment by members, and their desire to prevent secondary damage or the emergence of new problems after harassment has been dealt with. Consultations from bystanders can be categorized into two types – people close to the alleged harasser, and people close to the victim. Sometimes those who come to consult are themselves angry with the alleged harasser, and want to use this opportunity to deal with that anger. Because the role of the office is to work things out, it is difficult to deal with such cases. Sometimes the person who comes to consult is the victim's guardian, who heard about the situation from the victim. Surprised at the situation and wanting to help, they come to the counseling office to consult with the counselors. Because the guardian has only heard one side of the story, it is easy for them to make decisions emotionally. In the process of working things out, we listen to both sides, and may have an opinion differing from the guardian's. For example, the alleged harasser was said to have yelled in a loud voice, but other witnesses said they were speaking in a normal, usual voice. In order to avoid these kinds of problems, it is our desire to be able to talk to the victim directly in the counseling office. Although we understand the feelings of the guardians, we place utmost importance on the hopes and wishes of the victim. Moreover, when the subjective decisions of the guardian differ from those of the victim, working out the situation can be greatly complicated. We ask that you would try to make objective decisions.

When your words or actions, even unintentionally, cause another person to feel uncomfortable, it is your responsibility as a member of society to explain take the situation seriously, and do your best to explain and apologize.

We counselors believe that with the awareness of each and every person, harassment can be eradicated altogether. Here at the Harassment Counseling Office we are doing all that we can. We ask that all of you would adopt this mindset, and act carefully and sensibly.

Osaka University Harassment Counseling Office

Toyonaka campus 06-6850-5029 (sexual, academic and power harassment)

06-6850-6006 (academic and power harassment)

Suita campus 06-6879-7169 (sexual, academic and power harassment)

Minoh campus 072-730-5112 (sexual, academic and power harassment)

Website http://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/ja/guide/student/prevention_sh



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