

Harassment Counseling Office Newsletter

It's June now, three months since the beginning of the new school year. By now even those new to this university have settled in. We present to you Issue 10 of the Harassment Counseling Office Newsletter.

Please make use of the "Aiming for a Harassment-free University" leaflet

The Harassment Counseling Office makes "Aiming for a Harassment-free University" leaflets to increase awareness about harassment in the university. In addition to explaining the university stance towards harassment and different kinds of harassment, the leaflet also shows the location of Harassment Counseling Offices on each campus. The leaflet has been updated this year into a convenient and portable tri-fold brochure. Make sure to pick one up!



The leaflet can also be downloaded from the Harassment Counseling Office website.
http://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/ja/guide/student/prevention_sh

Announcement

A workshop for Faculty/Staff counselors be held on Monday, July 24th (Toyonaka Campus) and Friday, July 28th (Suita Campus)

The Harassment Counseling Office holds an annual workshop for faculty/staff counselors and departmental faculty/staff counselors. Some counselors may be worried about how to counsel or what to do after a counseling session. If you are a newly appointed counselor or even if you already attended the workshop last year, it will be a good chance to learn about the latest information, so please attend! The workshop will be held at both Toyonaka and Suita campuses. For more information please contact personnel affairs in your departmental office.

Lending of educational materials

Here at the Harassment Counseling Office, we have educational resources and materials about harassment, including books and DVDs that can be borrowed. The materials can be borrowed for personal use, or for use in your research laboratories, offices, etc. Some of the DVDs have runtimes of a few minutes, while others include useful discussions that can be used after watching. Content covers academic harassment, power harassment, and sexual harassment. For detailed information about the materials, please check the Osaka University website under "Preventing all types of harassment." If you would like to borrow some materials, please contact the Administrative Office for Harassment Countermeasures, Department of General Affairs.

Column Message from a counselor

Here at the Osaka University Harassment Counseling Office, we believe that besides Academic, Power, and Sexual Harassment, harassment related to pregnancy, birth, and childcare are also possible. This position of ours is clearly stated in the leaflet about harassment.

One of the mechanisms which cause sexual harassment are traditional societal views towards gender roles, such as "a real man should work and support their family" or "a woman should marry, bear children, and watch over the house", which might be imprinted on our consciousness without our notice. When words like these are used carelessly, they are hurtful and should be considered Gender Harassment, regardless of one's gender identity.

Whether in the research laboratory or workplace, people should be respected as individuals regardless of their sex, age, or experience. In a society where prejudices and gender consciousness are common, harassment is frequent concern, especially when a "power relationship" exists, such as those between seniors and juniors, instructors and students, or supervisors and workers. Anyone can become a victim or perpetrator of harassment. There is no end to sexual or alcohol harassment occurring at drinking gatherings for classes, clubs, or circles, or at workplace welcome parties. Besides drinking situations, harassment also occurs in situations such as conference presentations or on trips where the number of people involved may be limited, but power relationships exist. Some people come to visit the counseling office with concerns such as "I don't want to make a big deal out of it" or "even if I receive counseling, there's nothing that can be done because the other person is in a position of power." As harassment usually occurs within our everyday relationships, I feel that such worries and struggles are perfectly normal. As we listen to their feelings of anxiety and indignation resulting from experiences of harassment, we do our best to be empathetic and supportive. Needless to say, while the counseling office is not a cure-all, for all those who have the bravery to come knock on our door, we pledge to work together towards finding a solution.

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

