



Harassment Counseling Office Newsletter

It's been three months since the start of the new academic year, and we hope everyone has had time to get settled in.

This is now the second year of the Harassment Counseling Office Newsletter. Please look forward to many new topics and articles.

Feature Sexual minority

A few months have passed already in the new school year, and with the new environment come many opportunities to meet various people. In this feature, we would like to touch upon sexual minorities, whom you might have already met, or may meet in the days to come.

From the moment we are born, our sex is determined based on our physical (biological) traits. Later, as males or females living in society, we pursue romantic relationships (sexual orientation) even as we develop our understanding of gender roles and what it means to be male or female. As this is the typical pattern in society, it's easy to think that this is how things should be.

However, these "societal expectations concerning sexuality" do not always apply to everyone. Sexual minorities are individuals who do not fit these particularly societal sexuality norms. Some examples include individuals whose gender identity differs from their physical gender, or individuals attracted to the same sex. A person's sexual identity is not merely binary between male and female, but rather extremely diverse and fluid, differing according to each individual. You may have heard of LGBT (an abbreviation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender), a category often used to describe such sexual minorities.

Although these individuals are called minorities, various studies and statistics suggest that sexual minorities make up at least 3-5% of the population. This means that in a class of thirty students, one may be a sexual minority.

Although there is a tendency of sexual minorities to gather attention in the media where they are actively included and accepted, many individuals choose to live while keeping their sexual orientation and identity a secret. This is not only due to a negative societal or personal perception towards sexual minorities or the difficulty of living as one, but also because of the possibility of being ridiculed or rejected after coming out.

There are people who may be hurt by the slightest words. Do not assume that this does not concern you, but be considerate and remember that we share this space in life with many different people.

Osaka University Harassment Counseling Office

Toyonaka campus 06-6850-5029 (sexual 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/for-student/ja/guide/student/prevention_sh



Column Message from a counselor



There are about 2000 international students from around the world enrolled at Osaka University. The university is a place where students of diverse backgrounds and individual uniqueness can come together. Interacting with diversity and the unfamiliar provides an opportunity to better understand yourself and widen your perspectives. It gives you a chance to notice things you would never notice on your own. When we build relationships with others while respecting their backgrounds, our differences give birth to richness. However, sometimes a person believes that only their own background and values are correct, and this leads to many conflicts. Starting in 2014, an “Anti-Harassment Workshop for International Students” is hosted several times a year by the Center for International Education and Exchange ⁱ, the Osaka University International Students Association ⁱⁱ, and the Harassment Counseling Office. Many opinions are exchanged during these workshops.

“It’s normal to do this and this in my country, but in Japan It’s different.” “I felt it was strange, but thought I should bear it because maybe It’s just a difference in culture.” “Please tell me what harassment is like in Japan.” “Even if it’s the same country and culture, doesn’t each person take things differently?” Through the workshop, students are able to realize that the things they accept to be normal are understood differently depending on one’s society, culture, religion, and personal factors.

Furthermore, they are able to reconfirm the importance of having a place where they can talk about harassment. Some people continue to be silent victims of harassment, enduring discomfort because they are too considerate of others and their mutual relationship. For these victims, having a safe place where they can openly share their feelings is greatly reassuring. The presence of supportive friends that care and don’t leave the victim alone; all these factors contribute to the prevention of harassment.

At Osaka University, there are many support systems in place, in addition to the ones mentioned above. By utilizing these groups and resources, it is our heartfelt hope that each student can enjoy the meaningful university life that comes from diversity.

ⁱ CIEE: <http://ciee.osaka-u.ac.jp/>

ⁱⁱ OUISA: <http://ouisa.info/>

<https://www.facebook.com/OUISA-Osaka-University-International-Students-Association-大阪大学留学生会-1469346063279129/?fref=ts>

Sexual Harassment Awareness Workshop

Open to all Osaka University students, faculty and staff

2016
5/27 (Fri)

FREE! Will be conducted in English. NO registration required.

CIEE
Center for International Education and Exchange

OUISA
Osaka University International Students Association

Contact: <http://ouisa.info/>
ouisa.osaka.u@gmail.com

18:00 - 19:30
IC HALL ROOM 5-6
Suita Campus

