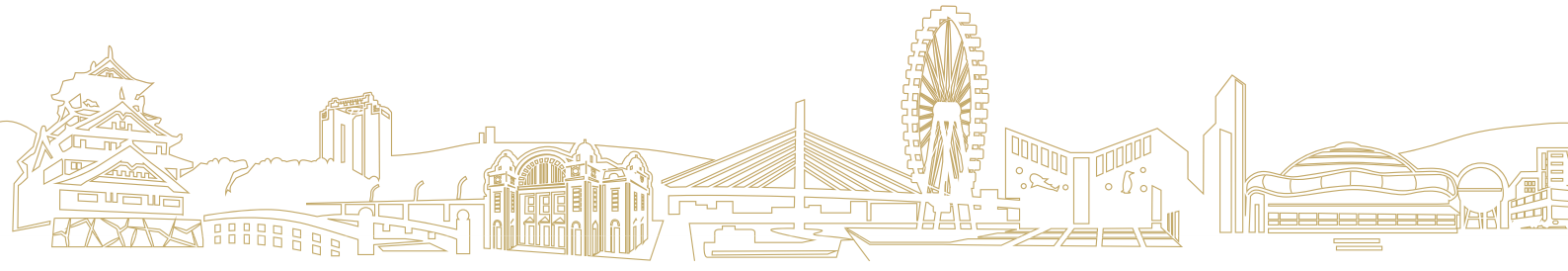
OMU Report 2025

English Edition

Osaka Metropolitan University

公立大学法人 大阪
University Public Corporation Osaka



University Public

OMU Report 2025

University Public Corporation Osaka

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Corporation Osaka

Since its establishment in 2022, Osaka Metropolitan University has strived to become a globally-oriented institution while maximizing its comprehensive knowledge as one of Japan's leading universities with 12 undergraduate schools and 15 graduate schools. The 2024 academic year saw the university making significant steps toward growth with the publication of wide-ranging and outstanding research by faculty members, initiatives aligned with the OMU Vision 2030, the full-scale launch of the Program for Forming Japan's Peak Research Universities (J-PEAKS), receiving the top number of applicants among national and public universities for the fourth consecutive year, and the vibrant activities of students in extracurricular and volunteer endeavors.

Over the 2024 and 2025 academic years, the new School of Engineering and Smart Energy Buildings on Nakamozu Campus, the new School of Science Building on Sugimoto Campus, and the new School of Nursing building on Abeno Campus were completed, further enhancing our educational and research environment. In addition, September 2025 saw the long-awaited opening of Morinomiya Campus. Embodying the concept of a "Forest of Knowledge," this is a next-generation urban campus coexisting with the local community, where approximately 6,000 students, faculty, and staff gather. With Morinomiya Campus at the center, we will actively engage in solving urban challenges and fostering innovation by leveraging not only research, education, and social initiatives, but also our urban think tank and technology incubation capabilities.

Furthermore, at the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, we hosted a joint pavilion with Iida Group Holdings, a unique exhibition and first in Japan to feature collaboration between a company and a university. This pavilion showcased artificial photosynthesis technology and proposed a vision for the cities of the future. As a local university, we actively supported the event's success and are grateful to have received the opportunity to gain invaluable experience in shaping next-generation cities and developing human resources. Beyond this, we are undertaking diverse initiatives leveraging our university's research outcomes and students' creativity.

We will continue to embrace dialogue and challenge as faculty and staff, striving alongside our diverse stakeholders to build a vibrant university that contributes to the well-being of Osaka, Japan, and the world, and supports sustainable societies and lifestyles. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the prospective students, Osaka Prefecture, Osaka City, the national government, private enterprises, donors, and the many graduates and alumni. We are committed to meeting your expectations and sincerely ask for your continued support and cooperation.

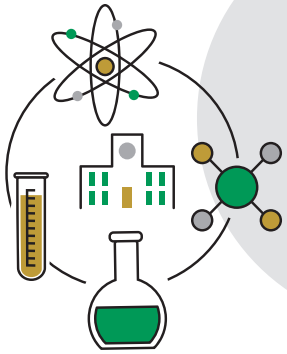
Shinichi Fukushima
Chairperson of the University Public Corporation Osaka

Mission

University Public Corporation Osaka

3 Key Objectives

1 Conduct Advanced Research



Being an advanced research university
by performing state-of-the-art, interdisciplinary research

2 Foster Excellent Personnel

Developing globally competent, highly
qualified personnel who are
adaptable and have practical skills

3 Contribute to Osaka

Contributing to Osaka's development
by solving urban issues and
strengthening industrial competitiveness

OSAKA

+

Urban Think Tank Function & Technology Incubation Function

OMU at a Glance

Undergraduate

- Agriculture
- Business
- College of Sustainable System Sciences
- Economics
- Engineering
- Human Life and Ecology
- Law
- Literature and Human Sciences
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Science
- Veterinary Science

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Graduate

- Agriculture
- Business
- Economics
- Engineering
- Human Life and Ecology
- Informatics
- Law
- Literature and Human Sciences
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Rehabilitation Science
- Science
- Sustainable System Sciences
- Urban Management
- Veterinary Science

15

The Graduate School of Drug Discovery Sciences is scheduled to open in April 2026.

Undergraduate student capacity

3rd among Japan's national and public universities

Enrollment

16,000

Faculty and staff

3,400 (including approx. 1,400 faculty and 2,000 staff)

University Rankings

OMU aims to rank within the top 500 universities globally by 2030 and within the top 200 in ten years.

Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2025

World **1,201-1,500**

Japan **31-62**

Number of universities ranked: 2,092, with 119 in Japan

QS World University Rankings 2026

World **901-950**

Japan **20-22**

Number of universities ranked: 1,501, with 47 in Japan

Ranked in the top 500 in the world in three fields in the QS World University Rankings by research field

- Agriculture & Forestry (401-475)
- Chemistry (451-500)
- Physics & Astronomy (451-500)

Academic Ranking of World Universities 2025

World **401-500**

Japan **11-13**

Number of universities ranked: 1,000, with 29 in Japan

THE Impact Rankings 2025

World **401-600**

Japan **14-21**

Number of universities ranked: 2,318, with 68 in Japan

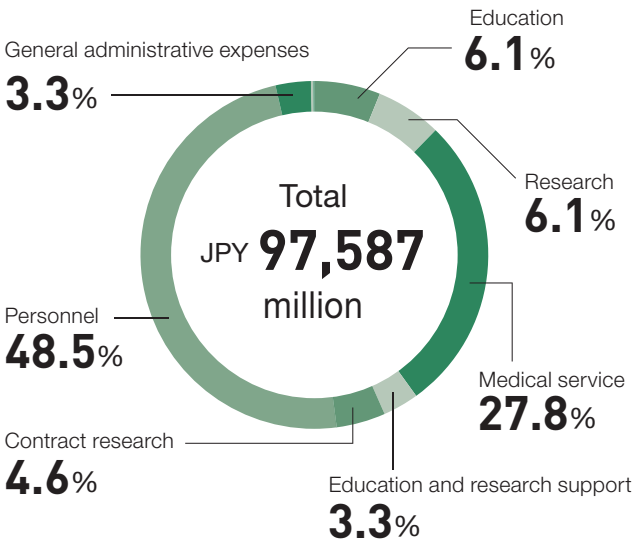
THE Japan University Rankings 2025

Japan **33**

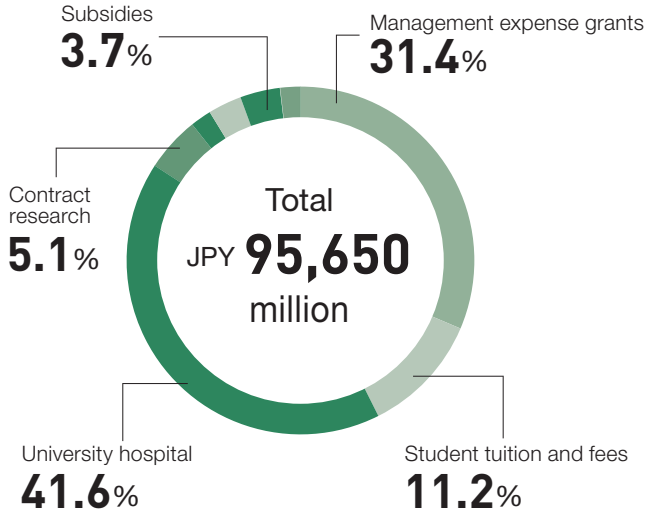
Number of universities ranked: 257

Overview of the Statement of Income (FY2024)

Expenses

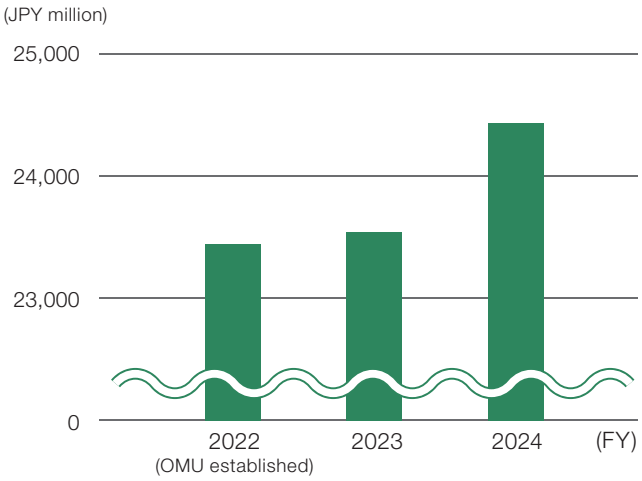


Revenue



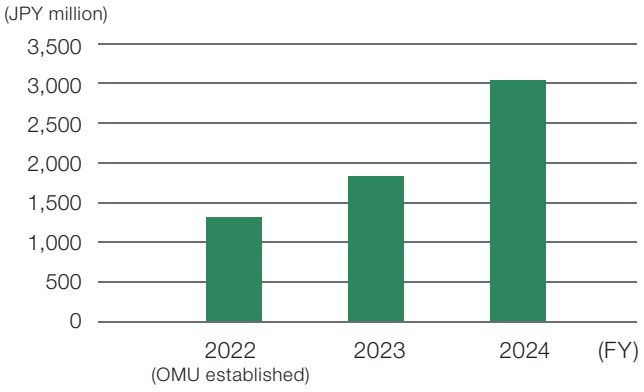
Revenue from Management expense grants

In accordance with the Local Independent Administrative Agency Act, Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City provide OMU with a fixed amount of management expense grants necessary for university operations. In the 2024 fiscal year, revenue from management expense grants increased by approximately 1.5 billion yen compared to 2023, due in part to rising personnel costs following government salary recommendations.



Revenue from Subsidies

Subsidies have grown since the university merger in 2022. In the 2024 fiscal year, they increased significantly thanks to the proactive efforts to secure funding through programs such as J-PEAKS and Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING).



Urban Think Tank and Technology Incubation Function

With Morinomiya Campus as its headquarters, Osaka Metropolitan University is evolving into an urban think tank and technology incubator that is driving innovation towards a sustainable future.

Urban Think Tank Function

Solve urban issues & draw a vision of the future society

In joint development with the government and community, we identify themes based on various social issues, employ advanced knowledge, and shape the future society.

Level 3

Shaping future society

Research Institute to Shape Future Society (provisional name)

Cultivating and fostering imagination for the future

We will establish the Research Institute to Shape Future Society (provisional name), which will explore possible future societies from diverse perspectives with consideration to issues such as climate change and population dynamics. We will also examine policies for creating a better society and actively share information both domestically and internationally.

Level 2

Solving urban challenges

Open Lab for Co-Creation of Policy

Strengthening the relationship between OMU and society

We are committed to implementing research outcomes to help solve social issues in local communities. Through ongoing dialogue with government agencies and other stakeholders, we aim to identify future challenges that local communities and cities may face, and initiate efforts to address those emerging issues.

Level 1

Solving local challenges

Collaboration and Contribution Center for Community / Lifelong Learning Center

Identifying local needs and promoting problem-solving initiatives

By matching local needs with the university's strengths, we will work to address emerging social issues and enhance our contribution to the community.

Driving J-PEAKS forward: The MulCo Project begins

Through our project proposal, we were selected by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for the FY2023 "Program for Forming Japan's Peak Research Universities (J-PEAKS)" as the only public university chosen for this prestigious government program.

Building on the support acquired through J-PEAKS, we are launching a university-wide initiative called the Multilevel Co-Creation Project (MulCo Project). This initiative aims to implement OMU's research outcomes into society through diverse co-creation activities involving faculty, staff, and students.

Technology Incubation Function

Strengthen industrial capabilities through corporate cooperation using seeds of research

We will combine the comprehensive knowledge of the university and work together with industry, academia, government, and the local community to resolve social issues and promote the creation of innovation.

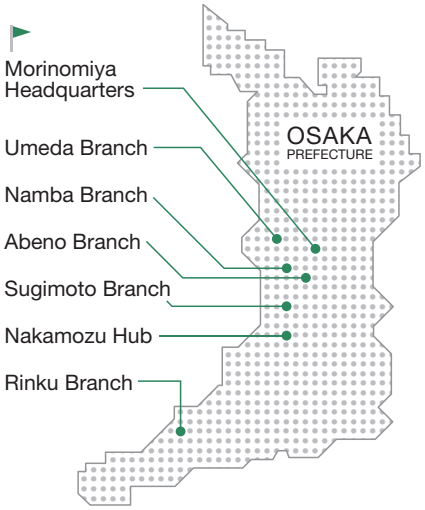
Mechanism for promoting the Urban Think Tank Function and the Technology Incubation Function

Innovation Academy

Innovation ecosystem hub for building a new society

The purpose of the Innovation Academy project is to build the “University-wide Networked Innovation Ecosystem” by placing on all campuses the “Living Lab” function developed jointly by industry, academia, government, and the local community.

Industry, academia, government, and the local community will work together, design projects to solve issues, and conduct experiments aimed at social implementation. Subsequently, value creation and proposals for a new society will arise, and this entire process will cultivate personnel and foster startups.



The Smart Energy Building opened on Nakamozu Campus in March 2025.

1st Floor: Open Innovation Space

Serving as a hub for the innovation ecosystem, this space is available for government, industry, and startup pitch events.

2nd Floor: Co-Creation with On-Campus Research Institutes and Analytical Equipment Companies

3rd Floor: Co-Creation with Leading Corporations

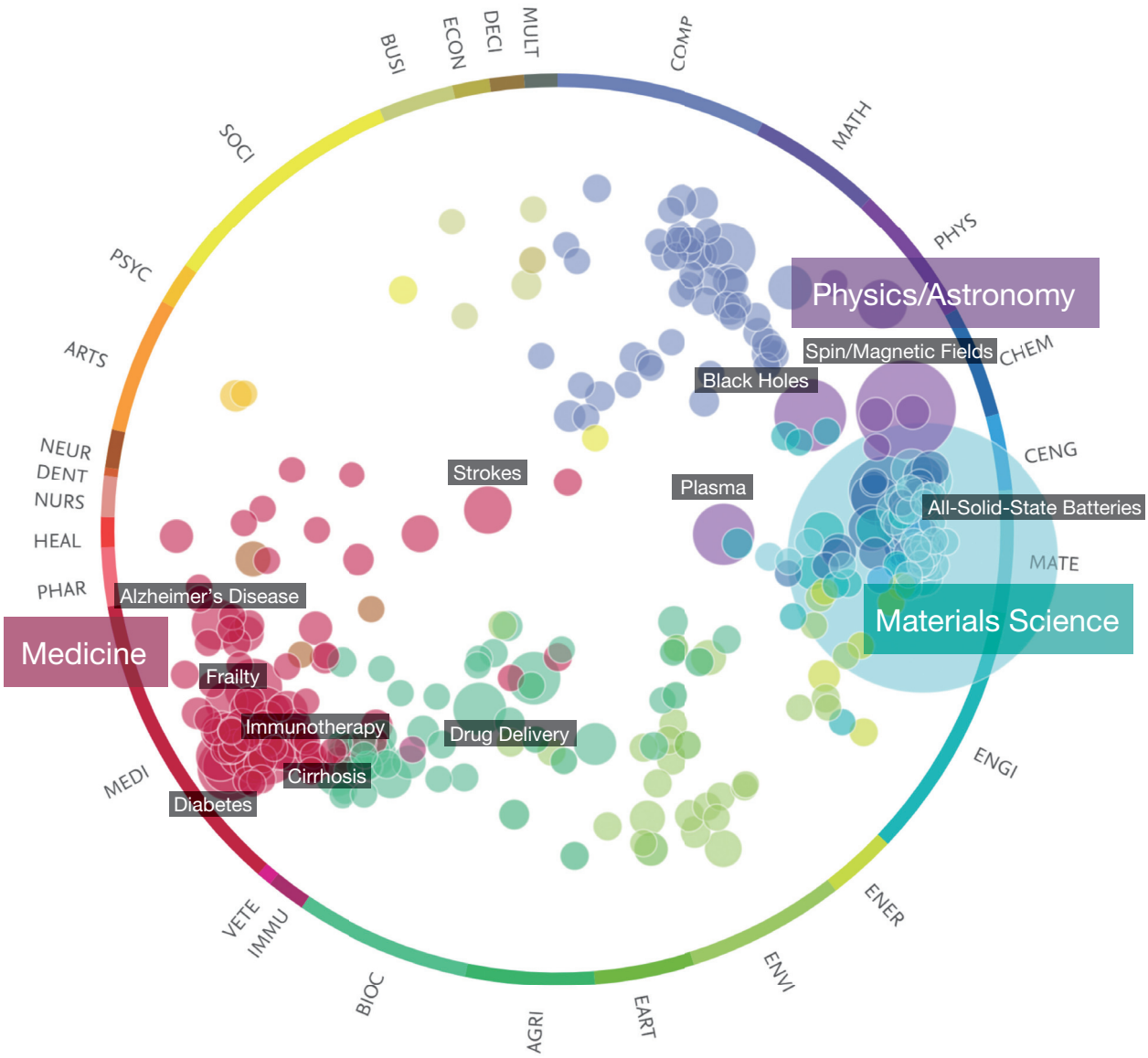
Joint research using cutting-edge evaluation equipment, talent development, data integration, and network platforms

J-PEAKS MulCo Project Kickoff Symposium

On September 3, 2024, the J-PEAKS MulCo Project Kickoff Symposium was held at the Knowledge Theater in Grand Front Osaka. More than 300 participants, including business leaders, academics, and government officials, attended the event.

Aim to Become a 'Center of Knowledge'

The research ability analysis tool SciVal classified approximately 96,000 research topics and mapped areas that fall under the top 1%, such as the number of article citations.
Our globally leading research strengths are reflected in fields, such as materials science for all-solid-state batteries, medicine, and astrophysics.



- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Physics and Astronomy
- Chemistry
- Chemical Engineering
- Materials Science
- Engineering
- Energy
- Environmental Science
- Earth and Planetary Sciences
- Agricultural and Biological Sciences
- Biochemistry, Genetics, and Molecular Biology
- Immunology and Microbiology
- Veterinary Science
- Medicine
- Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Pharmaceutics
- Health Professions
- Nursing
- Dentistry
- Neuroscience
- Arts and Humanities
- Psychology
- Social Sciences
- Business, Management, and Accounting
- Economics, Econometrics, and Finance
- Decision Science
- Multidisciplinary Fields

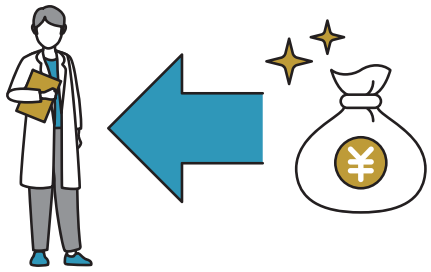
Note: SciVal data from June 13, 2025, covering papers from 2020 to 2025

Research at a Glance

A 'Self-financing' University

External Funding (FY2024)

3,783 projects **13.8** billion yen



(FY2023: 3,986 projects, 11.7 billion yen)

Joint Research (FY2024)

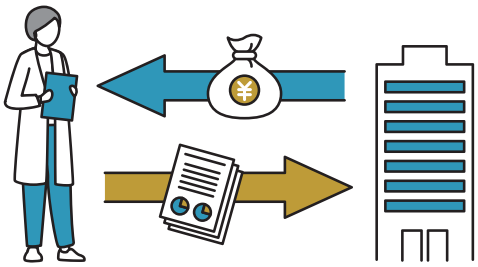
591 projects

(FY2023: 563 projects)

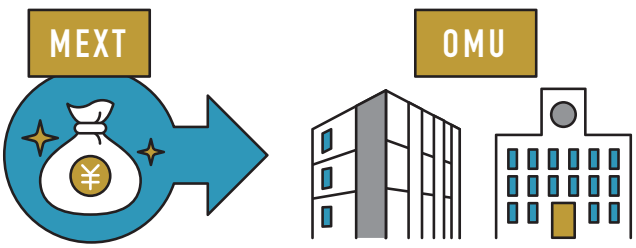
Contract Research (FY2024)

474 projects

(FY2023: 480 projects)



MEXT Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (FY2024)



1,451 projects

2.515 billion yen

(FY2023: 1,684 projects, 2.6 billion yen)

Research Centers

World-Class Research from Osaka

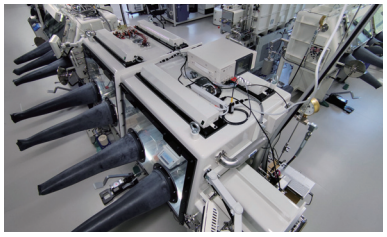
Given the strengths of all our research fields and our rich history, synergies in many fields, including medical-industrial cooperation, disaster prevention, and energy, are an important part of our vision. We will assume our responsibility as a venue for joint development between industry, academia, government, and local community and contribute to solving problems not only in Osaka but also in Japan and around the world.
Five of our university facilities have been certified as Joint Usage/Research Centers by MEXT.

Research Center for Artificial Photosynthesis (ReCAP) Joint Usage/Research Center

ReCAP is recognized globally as a hub for artificial photosynthesis research. Aiming to create fuels and other resources by artificially mimicking the natural photosynthetic mechanisms of plants, the center is engaged in collaborative research with industry, academia, and government to establish and apply new technologies. At the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, the center's research was featured as a main exhibit in the Joint Pavilion Iida Group x Osaka Metropolitan University.

All-Solid-State Battery Research Center Joint Usage/Research Center

The center is actively advancing research towards the practical application of all-solid-state batteries, which are regarded as the ultimate battery technology due to their superior safety and long lifespan. OMU has played a leading role in this field globally, with numerous researchers engaged in diverse studies. In 2025, a new research base was established in the Smart Energy Building on Nakamozu Campus to further promote innovation.



Urban Resilience Research Center (UReC) Joint Usage/Research Center

UReC focuses on a variety of issues facing cities, such as the declining birthrate and aging, poverty and exclusion, multicultural coexistence due to the acceleration of cross-border population movements from abroad, and the expansion of compound disaster risks caused by changes to the global environment. The center promotes interdisciplinary research to solve problems from a multifaceted perspective by integrating liberal arts and the sciences. In addition, the center conducts theoretical and practical research in urban science and disaster prevention with the participation and cooperation of several researchers to promote training of personnel.

Osaka Central Advanced Mathematical Institute (OCAMI) Joint Usage/Research Center

The institute was established in September 2003 for the purpose of collaborating on and jointly developing research in mathematics and theoretical physics, developing a global hub for a meeting of minds with an international researcher community centered on young researchers, expanding research fields, integrating various fields, and strengthening social and regional contribution activities. In addition, the Japan Mathematics Competition, which was previously held at Nagoya University for about 30 years from 1990, has been held as a co-sponsored event with OCAMI since AY2022, and exchanges actively take place among elementary, junior high, and high school students who participate in the competition.

Botanical Gardens Joint Usage/Research Center

As the place for fundamental research in botany, the botanical gardens strive to collect and preserve many different plants. Activities include cultivating a collection of Japanese trees, planting more than 300 species that can be grown in the field, restoring 11 types of forests that are representative of Japan, and restoring forests from the Neogene period, as represented by metasequoia. In addition, the gardens promote the conservation of endangered plants, especially focusing on those from western Japan, by analyzing genetic diversity and developing reproduction methods.

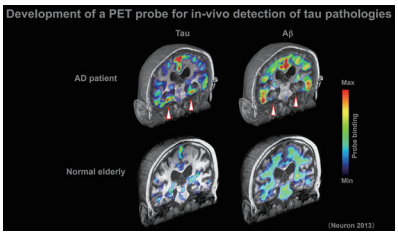
Osaka International Research Center for Infectious Diseases (OIRCID)

OIRCID brings together professionals from various fields and leverages the interdisciplinary knowledge cultivated at OMU.

Guided by its mission to control infectious diseases from the perspective of “macro-infectious diseases,” the center promotes collaborative research with Osaka Prefecture, Osaka City, the Osaka Institute of Public Health, and private-sector partners, thereby fulfilling its role as a think tank for Osaka.

Osaka Center for Geroscience (tentative name)

Scheduled to open in FY2027, the center will comprise of three facilities: Japan’s first dementia-focused research institute and hospital affiliated with OMU’s School of Medicine, along with an Osaka city long-term health facility. The research institute will serve as a hub for basic research on dementia and the development of new therapeutic and diagnostic agents. The hospital will focus on the treatment of dementia, physical comorbidities, and rehabilitation, with the aim of ensuring healthy longevity. As a whole, the center aims to address challenges in an aging society and promote solutions through integrated medical and research functions.



Comprehensive collaboration agreement with Shionogi & Co., Ltd.

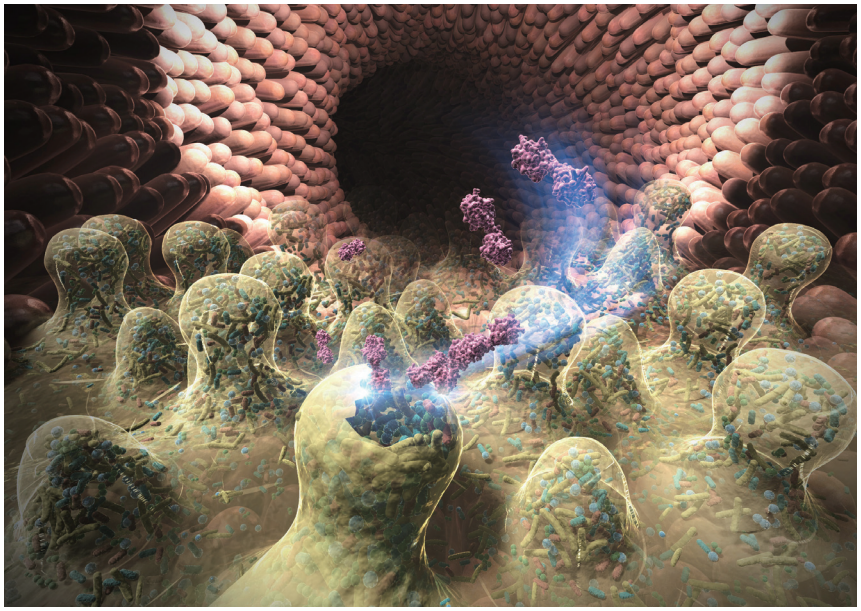
On March 3, 2025, OMU and Shionogi & Co., Ltd. signed a comprehensive collaboration agreement to promote the development of a city resilient to infectious diseases.

Centered on OIRCID, OMU aims to establish the “Osaka Model” of collaboration between industry, academia, government, and local community to improve public health domestically and globally through clinical research networks, talent development, and joint research.

Research Topics

Phage-derived enzyme targets *Enterococcus faecalis* biofilms to mitigate acute graft-versus-host disease

Journal: Nature
Published: 10 July 2024



Acute graft-versus-host disease (aGVHD) is a medical condition that occurs when donor immune cells attack the recipient's tissues after an allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (allo-HCT). The pathogenesis of aGVHD is influenced by gut dysbiosis and Enterococcus domination.

A multidisciplinary team led by Associate Professor Kosuke Fujimoto and Satoshi Uematsu from Osaka Metropolitan University and the University of Tokyo identified a bacteriophage-derived enzyme called endolysin capable of targeting biofilms formed by *Enterococcus faecalis*. Their findings offer hope for tailored interventions in allo-HCT.

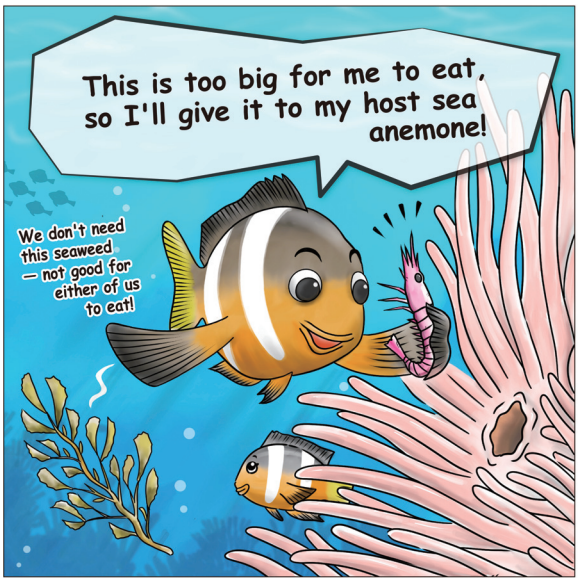
Feeding anemone: Symbiote fish actively feed hosts in wild

Journal: Scientific Reports
Published: 26 February 2025

Anemonefish, also known as clownfish, have been popular attractions in aquariums ever since Disney's animated film Finding Nemo arrived in cinemas in 2003. In the wild, the fish live symbiotically with sea anemones that shelter them from predators and in return, the fish drive away organisms that nibble on their hosts. In captivity, anemonefish have been observed to provide their hosts with food given to them by humans but it's unclear whether this happens in the wild.

An Osaka Metropolitan University Graduate School of Science team led by PhD student Yuya Kobayashi and Professor Satoshi Awata found evidence of this feeding behavior in field experiments. They observed Clark's anemonefish providing food to bubble-tip anemones by attaching clams they could not eat to the tentacles of their hosts. For smaller food, the fish had their fill first before feeding the sea anemones.

The team also confirmed that this feeding behavior directly increases the growth rate of the sea anemones. In other anemonefish species, the number of eggs they can lay increase as the host gets larger. For anemonefish, which typically do not stray far from their host, this feeding behavior is extremely important and ultimately benefits themselves.



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In world 1st, high-quality feline iPSCs generated without genetic footprint

Journal: Regenerative Therapy
Published: 2 September 2024

A common image of cats today comes in the form of cute cat memes online, but these cute images hide the reality that many furry felines have risks of kidney disease. An Osaka Metropolitan University-led team has, for the first time, generated high-quality feline induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), which have the potential to help companion animals and humans alike.

Human iPSCs are generated using just four genes, known as transcription factors; however, feline iPSCs have been difficult to generate using the same process. Graduate School of Veterinary Science Professor Shingo Hatoya led a team that successfully introduced six transcription factors via a Sendai virus vector to generate feline iPSCs from the cells of cats, including cells derived from uteruses donated when cats were neutered.

The study is the first to report the generation of high-quality feline iPSCs. These stem cells exhibit similar properties to other iPS cells, such as the formation of teratomas, showing that they can differentiate into a variety of cells. The stem cells generated also do not have a genetic footprint, meaning there is a lower risk that they form tumors when implanted into another cat. Furthermore, the stem cells can be cultured without relying on a "feeder" layer, which typically consists of mouse fibroblasts that supply essential nutrients and growth factors. This improves safety, as it reduces the risks associated with mixing cells from different species.

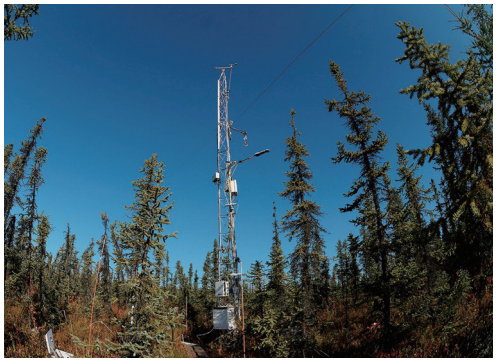
Landmark 20-year study of climate change impact on permafrost forests

Journal: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
Published: 25 October 2024

A long-term study of CO_2 fluxes in northern forests growing on permafrost by an Osaka Metropolitan University-led research team found that climate change increased not only the sources of carbon but also CO_2 sinks.

The 20-year observation from 2003–2022 in the interior of Alaska showed that in the first decade, CO_2-absorbing ecosystems began releasing more carbon than they stored, but in the following 10 years, that trend reversed, with CO_2 sinks increasing by almost 20%.

The study by Graduate School of Agriculture Associate Professor Masahito Ueyama and colleagues reported that the warming led to increased environmental wetness, which aided the growth of black spruce trees.The growing trees absorbed the increasing CO_2 released from human activities during photosynthesis.



A tower installed in a black spruce forest on permafrost in Fairbanks, Alaska, monitors CO_2 exchange and environmental conditions in 30-minute intervals.

Coming in April 2026: OMU's 16th graduate school, the Graduate School of Drug Discovery Sciences

In April 2026, Osaka Metropolitan University will establish the Graduate School of Drug Discovery Sciences and offer both Master's and Doctoral programs. Under the philosophy of "Drug Discovery through Convergence of Knowledge," the graduate school will promote interdisciplinary education and research in drug discovery sciences. It aims to cultivate globally minded researchers with advanced expertise and capabilities, and to ultimately serve as a "Drug Discovery Hub" that bridges academia and industry.

International Relations at a Glance

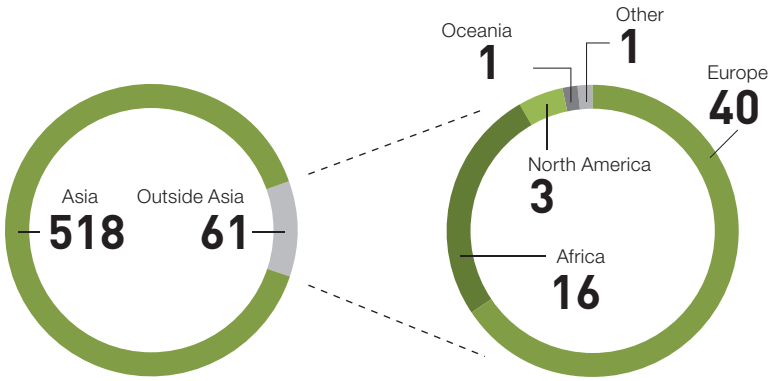
Becoming a university of choice

Creating a multicultural campus that welcomes researchers and students from around the world

Number of international students by region

As of May 2024

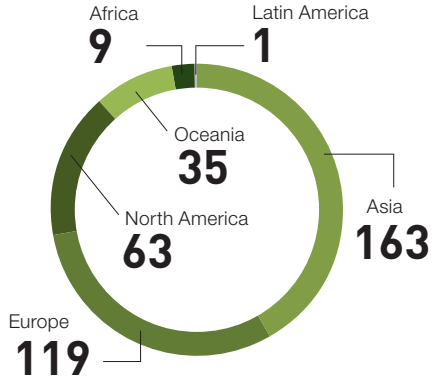
Total **579**



Number of OMU students abroad by region

AY2024

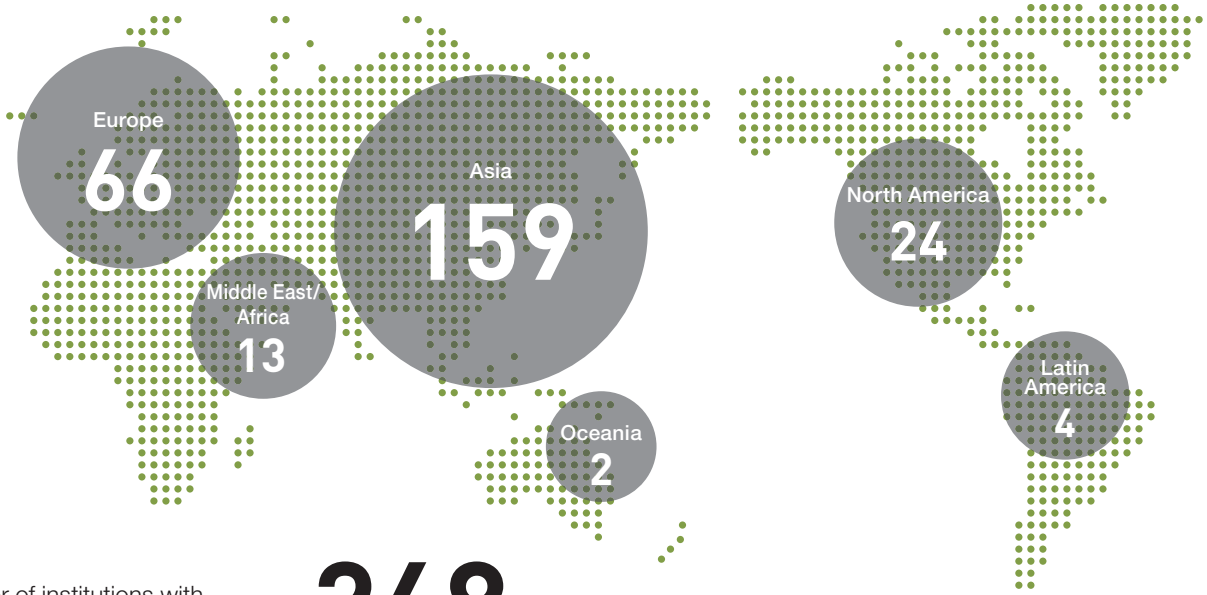
Total **390**



Academic exchanges with overseas universities

As of April 1, 2025

OMU has academic exchange agreements with universities and research institutions in 41 countries and regions.



Number of institutions with academic exchange agreements: **268**

Aim to double the number of international researchers and students by AY2030

Initiatives to Advance Internationalization

Fostering Global Talent

- Fall enrollment introduced in select graduate schools
- Plans to introduce fall enrollment for undergraduate programs
- Expand international student enrollment and enhance support systems
- Strength education and research supervision in English
- Support OMU students to gain diverse international experiences

Campus Internationalization

- Promote a multicultural campus environment
- Enhance international communication for various stakeholders

Establishment of International Research Hubs

- Promote the employment of international researchers and improve their working environment
- Expand international research activities and networks
- Strengthen and activate overseas research centers

Overseas Offices	Shanghai, Hanoi, Kaiserslautern

New Global Network

Building Bridges with Africa

In 2025, OMU further strengthened its academic ties with African nations. Vice President Masahide Takahashi participated in the Japan-Africa University Exchange Meeting 2025 and engaged in discussions aimed at enhancing collaboration between universities in Japan and Africa. OMU and its affiliated hospital welcomed University of Zimbabwe researchers and government officials from Gabon and Zimbabwe, which fostered mutual understanding and laid the groundwork for future cooperation.

Group photo with Vice President Takahashi and the meeting participants

International Exchange Highlights

OMU and NTU sign MOU to advance international collaboration

OMU and Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU) held a formal signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 13, 2025. This agreement was established under the framework of the Program for Forming Japan's Peak Research Universities (J-PEAKS) following a year of dialogue aimed at fostering new opportunities for global academic collaboration.

Building on this agreement, OMU remains dedicated to deepening its partnership with NTU and promoting meaningful international academic exchange through tangible, progressive initiatives.

OMU signs MOU with UC San Diego and hosts Phage Therapy Symposium

On November 8, 2025, OMU held a signing ceremony for an MOU with the University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego), marking a significant step toward strengthening international collaboration in advanced medical research.

This agreement is the result of close collaboration between UC San Diego's leading experts in phage therapy—Prof. Robert T. Schooley and Prof. Steffanie Strathdee—and Prof. Satoshi Uematsu from OMU's Graduate School of Medicine. Their joint efforts have paved the way for new opportunities in research and innovation.

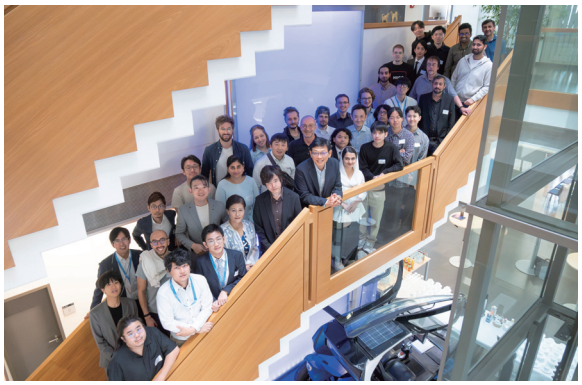
Following the signing ceremony, OMU hosted an international symposium titled "Phage Therapy Against Superbugs: Towards Real World Implementation" to commemorate the opening of the Morinomiya Campus. The event featured keynote lectures by Prof. Strathdee and Prof. Uematsu, offering cutting-edge insights into the clinical application of phage therapy. Prof. Schooley joined as a special guest and shared valuable comments during the discussion.

Strengthening global academic ties with DFKI

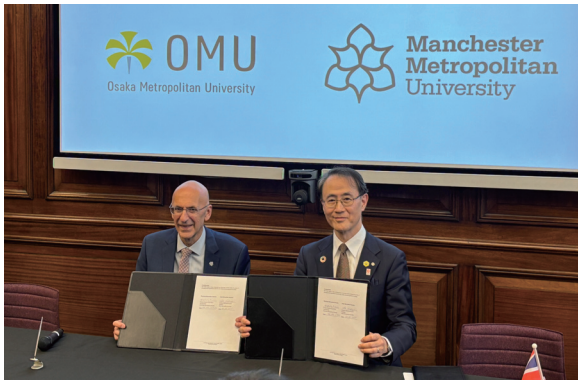
During the 2025 academic year, the ASPIRE project furthered the collaboration with the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI). In September, Professors Koichi Kise, Masakazu Iwamura, and Shoya Ishimaru from the Graduate School of Informatics, along with their students, visited DFKI and participated in a joint AI and informatics workshop with Professor Andreas Dengel and his team.

Professor Dengel also delivered special lectures on AI on Abeno Campus in May and November. In October, DFKI CEO, Professor Antonio Krüger, visited the newly opened Morinomiya Campus, further contributing to global academic and research ties.

During Expo 2025, Professors Kise and Dengel spoke at the Germany Pavilion, sharing their research insights and future perspectives on AI.



Expanding academic horizons: OMU and Manchester Met



On September 5, 2025, President Hiroyuki Sakuragi and Vice President Masahide Takahashi visited Greater Manchester in the United Kingdom to participate in a signing ceremony for academic exchange with Manchester Metropolitan University (Manchester Met). The event was held in conjunction with the Sister City Agreement signing ceremony between Osaka City and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, attended by Osaka Mayor Hideyuki Yokoyama, Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, and Hiroshi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to the United Kingdom.

From Manchester Met, Vice Chancellor Malcolm Press CBE DL and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Science and Engineering, Mark Sterling, attended the ceremony. Representatives from both institutions affirmed their commitment to future collaboration, marking the occasion as a meaningful milestone.

Prior to the ceremony, a campus tour and meeting were held at Manchester Met, joined by OMU's Director Kazunobu Okazaki and Lecturer Takahiro Matsutake from the Research Center for Urban Health and Sports.

Val d'Oise delegation from France visits Morinomiya Campus

On September 18, 2025, a 15-member delegation led by Ms. Marie-Christine Cavecchi, President of the Val d'Oise County Council, France, visited the soon-to-be opened Morinomiya Campus.

Val d'Oise has been a sister prefecture of Osaka Prefecture since 1987, which has in turn fostered active exchanges for over 35 years. OMU has also been engaging with delegations from Val d'Oise since 2002, thus marking this visit as a reunion with President Cavecchi for the first time since 2023.

Vice President Masahide Takahashi, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Sciences and Global Education Yoshiyuki Fukushima, Graduate School of Informatics faculty Professor Hideki Tode and Associate Professor Tran Thi Hong warmly welcomed them.

Morinomiya Campus opening event — Osaka Asia Roundtable 2025

On November 27, 2025, OMU hosted the Osaka Asia Roundtable 2025 at its newly opened Morinomiya Campus. The event welcomed participants from across Asia, including government and municipal officials from Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Singapore, alongside representatives from private sector companies, OMU faculty members, and students.

As part of the opening celebrations, the Roundtable served as an interdisciplinary urban think tank, bringing together experts from diverse sectors to discuss innovative and practical solutions for sustainable urban development.

Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai Highlights

Joint Pavilion Iida Group × Osaka Metropolitan Univ.

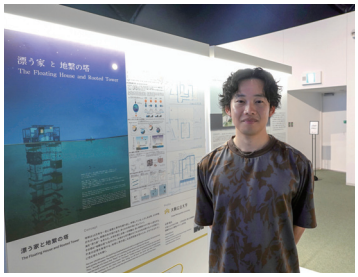
The first and only joint corporate-university pavilion at a world expo

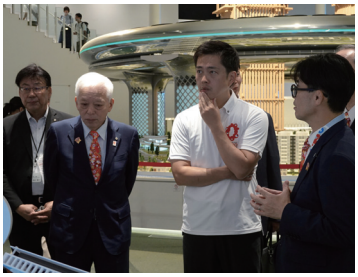
At the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, Osaka Metropolitan University hosted a joint pavilion alongside the Iida Group, with whom we have conducted collaborative research centered on the theme, “Wellness of Human, Society, and Planet Earth.” At the pavilion, we showcased “Artificial Photosynthesis Technology” as a vision for the future of energy in housing, the “Wellness Smart House,” where visitors were able to experience a system that linked health data collected in living spaces to presymptomatic disease improvement based on AI analysis, and the “Wellness Smart City,” which featured a massive diorama measuring 24 by 15 meters. The pavilion also exhibited award-winning entries from the “Future Housing Design Contest” held at the university, showcasing the creativity and vision of OMU students.

The pavilion, designed as a “Sustainable Mobius” to symbolize the fusion of tradition and evolution, as well as continuity, circulation, inheritance, and evolution, featured a three-dimensional structure based on a Mobius strip. Entirely covered in Nishijin textile produced using the latest technology, this was a work of “Nishijin-ori architecture” on an unprecedented scale. As such, it was awarded two Guinness World Records: “Largest building wrapped in Jacquard fabric” and “Largest roof in the shape of a fan.”

On August 2, 2025, during the Iida Group Pavilion Day, a special performance themed “Fusion of Tradition and Evolution” was held at the Shining Hat Hall. A distinguished cast, led by kabuki actor Danjuro Ichikawa XIII, presented an Expo-exclusive version of “Japan Theater: Seimei.” In addition, OMU students, who had received instruction from world-renowned dancer Kento Mori prior to the event, also took the stage to perform a dance.

The Governor of Osaka Prefecture, Hirofumi Yoshimura, and many other guests from Japan and abroad visited our pavilion, where we shared the latest results of our collaborative research with the world.





Research results presented at the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion’s “Cradle of Life” aquaponics

Aquaponics embodies sustainable, circular food production inspired by nature

The Osaka Healthcare Pavilion, featuring an all-Osaka lineup of exhibits, showcased the aquaponics system, “Cradle of Life.” Aquaponics is a recirculating food production system where fish and plants coexist. This installation incorporated research outcomes from faculty members of the R&D Center for the Plant Factory (PFC) along with technologies from PFC Consortium members. A transparent sphere representing the Earth was installed in front of the pavilion, showcasing a recirculating production system combining hydrophonics and land-based aquaculture.

This initiative aimed to teach children the importance of the cycle of life while also contributing to achieving the SDGs.

Strengthening ties with Italy: MOU signed with the University of Florence at Expo 2025

On May 29, 2025, President Hiroyuki Sakuragi and Vice President Masahide Takahashi represented OMU at “The Italian Higher Education System at Expo 2025 Osaka: 1st Italian and Japanese Rectors’ Forum”, held at the Italy Pavilion. During the event, they participated in a signing ceremony to renew the MOU with the University of Florence, represented by its Rector, Professor Alessandra Petrucci.

President Sakuragi and Vice President Takahashi also engaged in constructive discussions with university leaders and faculty members from various institutions attending the forum, aiming to promote international academic exchange and mutual understanding.

OMU hosts tasting event showcasing “WE Rice” at Osaka Healthcare Pavilion

On September 10, 2025, a tasting event featuring “WE Rice” (wx ae double-mutant rice, which produces resistant starch) was held at the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion. Specially Appointed Professor Shinichi Kitamura, a key collaborator in the WE Rice research, attended the event alongside Dr. Thanh Thi Thu Thuy from the Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology.

OMU JICA Scholar speaks at Expo 2025 SDGs panel

On October 5, 2025, Richard Ssempala, a JICA Scholar from Uganda and doctoral student at OMU, took part in a panel discussion at the Expo 2025 Theme Weeks event organized by JICA.

Professor Fujii speaks about cosmic ray imaging inspiring art at the Expo

On September 28, 2025, Associate Professor Toshihiro Fujii from the Graduate School of Science participated as a panelist in the Fusion of Science and Art symposium, held at the Hungarian Pavilion.

Morinomiya Campus

In September 2025, Morinomiya Campus opened.

OMU's main campus opened in September 2025 in Morinomiya, an important eastern hub of Osaka. With excellent accessibility, it's an ideal location for OMU's Forest of Knowledge concept. The main building is 13 stories tall, about 60 meters high, and does not exceed the ridge line of Mt. Ikoma as seen from the castle keep of Osaka Castle. The plaza within also has a view of Osaka Castle. The cafeteria, gymnasium, and library are all in the same building on Morinomiya Campus.

Entrance pilotis featuring tree-shaped columns

Courtyard adjacent to the cafeteria, gymnasium, and lounge

View of Osaka Castle from the 13th floor observation terrace

An expansion of Morinomiya Campus is scheduled to open in 2028.

Campuses

Sugimoto Campus

- Law
- Economics
- Business
- Science
- Human Life and Ecology (Department of Living Environment Design, Department of Human Development and Welfare)

[Opened in April 2024]
School of Science, Building G

Nakamozu Campus

- College of Sustainable System Sciences
- Engineering
- Agriculture
- Graduate School of Informatics
- Technical College (from AY2027)

Note: From AY2028, the Graduate School of Informatics will move to Morinomiya

[Opened in April 2024]
School of Engineering, Building B7

[Opened in April 2024]
Production Engineering Center

Umeda Satellite

- Urban Management (Graduate School for Continuing Education)

Morinomiya Campus

- Liberal Arts, Sciences and Global Education
- Literature and Human Sciences
- Medicine (Department of Rehabilitation Science)
- Human Life and Ecology (Department of Nutrition)

Namba Satellite

(I-site Namba)

Osaka Metropolitan University College of Technology

Note: From AY2027, it will move to Nakamozu

Botanical Gardens

Abeno Campus

- Medicine (Department of Medical Science)
- Nursing
- University Hospital

[Opened in April 2025]
School of Nursing, Building C

Rinku Campus

- Veterinary Science

[Opened in April 2025]
Education and Research Center for Highly Pathogenic Microorganisms

For more information about

Osaka Metropolitan University

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OMU Report

Osaka Metropolitan University

2025

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