THE Awards Asia 2020 - Outstanding Support for Students

Institution Name	Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST) Graduate University
Submission title or project name	Socially responsible professional and career development
Nominee/key personnel	Aya Puca, Professional and Career Development Coordinator
URL	https://groups.oist.jp/grad/career-development
Submission	The Professional and Career Development (PCD) program at OIST fosters well-rounded student-scientists by incorporating culturally-relevant projects and seminars into the STEM curriculum to encourage budding scientists to consider the local impacts of their research. Cultivating this type of mindset not only produces good citizens, but also encourages students to think about the potential impacts of their research, and how to communicate that impact with the public. All OIST students are required to take an Okinawa 101 seminar and participate in one of several group projects, such as the Okinawa Scientific Mentoring Project that connects graduate students with local grade school students to teach them about life as a scientist. Through these projects, students learn important skills such as time management, team building and problem solving, as well as social responsibility. Though the projects are focused on the Okinawan community, students can bring these skills to anywhere in the world.