

# Biographical Outline and Achievements of Honorary Doctor of Nagasaki University

The Very First Recipient of Honorary Doctor of Nagasaki University

Dr. Osamu Shimomura

Date of birth: August 27, 1928

## Biographical Outline

April,	1948	Entered Nagasaki Medical Specialized School, Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences
March,	1951	Graduated from the School above
April,	1951	Laboratory assistant of Nagasaki University School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
July,	1959	Research associate of the School above (- September, 1963)
April,	1960	Received a Doctorate degree in Science (Nagoya University)
August,	1960	Researcher at Princeton University on Fulbright Scholarship Program (- August, 1963)
September,	1963	Associate Professor at Nagoya University Water Research Laboratory of the Faculty of Science
October,	1965	Senior research fellow at Princeton University (- 1982)
	1981	Visiting Professor at Boston University (- 2000)
	1982	Senior research fellow at Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts
	2001	Resigned from the Laboratory above and has been continuing research at his house in Massachusetts
	1960	Fulbright Scholarship Program
	2004	Pearse Prize (Royal Microscopical Society)
	2005	Emile Chamot Award (State Microscopical Society of Illinois)
January,	2007	Asahi Prize (Asahi Shimbun Cultural Foundation)
October,	2007	Nagasaki University Distinguished Alumni Award

## Achievements

After graduating from Nagasaki Medical Specialized School, Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dr. Osamu Shimomura became an assistant at his alma mater and earned a PhD in science at Nagoya University. Later, he won a Fulbright Scholarship to study at Princeton University where he chanced to encounter the subject of bioluminescence of the umbrella-shaped glowing *Aequorea victoria* jellyfish, known as "owan kurage" in Japanese, which has become his lifework. He discovered the proteins aequorin and green fluorescent protein (GFP) for the first time in the world and shed light on the emission mechanism of *Aequorea victoria* jellyfish.

He went on to a scientific elucidation of data on many luminescent creatures and has become a world authority in this area. Especially, GFP has made a great contribution to the field of molecular biology as it emits light in a certain place of a living cell when it is introduced into the cell after fusing with other genes. It is frequently used as a reliable reporter of gene expression and localization of a protein. Dr. Shimomura was awarded the 2008 Nobel Prize for discovering GFP.

As described above, after graduating from Nagasaki University, Dr. Shimomura devoted himself to his career in America and became a world-renowned scientist. He has obtained great achievements in the development of academic culture, raised Nagasaki University's international status, and stimulated interest among students and young researchers to pursue their careers. His remarkable attainments in the progress of Nagasaki University's education and research are highly distinguished.