

Tenure-Track Faculty Positions at the Graduate School of Medicine, Tohoku University

1. Overview

The Graduate School of Medicine at Tohoku University invites applications for open positions at the associate professor and lecturer (senior assistant professor) levels. The successful candidate will join the United Centers for Advanced Research and Translational Medicine (ART), affiliated with the graduate school, to lead interdisciplinary research leveraging cutting-edge technologies to address diverse challenges in medicine and life sciences. At Japan's first University for International Research Excellence, appointees will have the opportunity to pioneer new academic fields and conduct research with the potential for groundbreaking medical applications as Principal Investigators (PIs). Successful candidates are expected to produce high-impact publications and contribute significantly to the advancement of their field.

This position was established as part of the UREX-Tohoku Project, an ambitious plan to establish a world-class research ecosystem at Tohoku University.

https://www.tohoku.ac.jp/research_excellence/en/

2. Qualifications

A Ph.D. at the time of appointment and strong communication skills in English are required for this position. The screening committee will evaluate candidates with outstanding research achievements in medicine and life sciences favorably.

This position is intended for mid-career researchers, and priority will be given to candidates who have acquired their Ph.D. within the last 15 years.

For Principal Investigators in our graduate school as part of the UREX-Tohoku Project, we welcome applicants capable of:

- Proactively leading research, advancing their work toward pioneering new academic fields or achieving breakthroughs in drug discovery, medicine, and related areas.
- Bringing innovative ideas and the potential to tackle challenges in medicine and life sciences, demonstrating strong logical reasoning, methodological rigor, and investigative skills to turn ideas into reality.

- Conducting research on a global scale, actively fostering collaborative projects and partnerships with researchers, institutions, and private companies both in Japan and abroad.

A letter of recommendation from a Tohoku University professor* in a related research field is also required to ensure applicants can effectively carry out research as a mid-career principal investigator. While PIs retain full independence in their research, the recommending professor may provide guidance and support.

*Visiting or specially appointed professors are not eligible.

3. Submission Materials

Submission materials may be submitted in either English or Japanese.

1. Resume ([prescribed format \(EN\)](#) / [prescribed format \(JP\)](#))
2. List of Research Achievements ([prescribed format \(EN\)](#) / [prescribed format \(JP\)](#))
(Original English research articles, English review articles, English books or commentaries, English case reports, Scopus h-index, presentations at international conferences [plenary or invited talks], awards, patents, research funding, professional activities, other notable achievements)
3. Summary of research achievements to date (free format, maximum 1,000 words in English, or 2,000 characters in Japanese)
4. Statement of future research plans and aspirations (free format, maximum 1,000 words in English, or 2,000 characters in Japanese)
5. One letter of recommendation from a Tohoku University professor (free format)
(For reference) Tohoku University researchers directory: <https://www.r-info.tohoku.ac.jp/#/?lang=en>
6. Description of up to five main publications or major achievements
(Free format. If available, please include relevant research performance indicators (e.g. h-index, citation counts) or other evidence demonstrating the significance of each publication or achievement. Copies of the papers or materials do not need to be submitted.)
7. Names, affiliations, titles, and contact information of two referees who can be contacted regarding the applicant. (To be entered directly on the application form)

4. Submission method

Please submit materials 1-6 listed above via the Application Form below.

Application Form: <https://jotform.com/252931585082461>

Deadline: January 4, 2026, 17:00 JST

5. Selection Process

The selection committee will conduct the screening in two stages: a first-round document review and a second-round interview. Applicants who pass the first-round screening will be notified by early February 2026. The second-round interview will then be held either in person (preferred) at the Graduate School of Medicine or online.

The employment start date will be the earliest possible date on or after April 1, 2026 (negotiable).

6. Employment Conditions

1. Salary:

The annual salary for these appointments will be determined in accordance with Tohoku University's Regulations on Employee Salary and will be based on length of experience and performance. The approximate annual salary is 11 million JPY for a lecturer and 12 million JPY for an associate professor. Commuting expenses may also be provided.

2. Employment type: Full-time

3. Working hours: This position is subject to the Discretionary Labor System for Professional Work. The standard working hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., but actual working hours are left to the discretion of the appointed candidate.

4. Term:

The tenure-track term is six years (with the possibility of extension of up to one additional year). Under the Graduate School of Medicine's tenure-track system, appointees who successfully pass the tenure review will be appointed as a tenured UREX Professor or Associate Professor.

5. Research Funding:

An annual base research budget of 4 million JPY will be provided, with flexible use through carryover of unspent funds. In addition, publication fees for high-quality research published in open-access journals may be supported upon review.

Appointees are also encouraged to actively seek external competitive research funding, to further support their research activities.

6. Lab and Office Space Allocation:

Appointees will be provided with an office and research space on the campus of the Graduate School of Medicine.

7. Social Insurance: Appointees will be enrolled in the MEXT Mutual Aid Association (health insurance), employment insurance, and workers' accident compensation insurance.

8. Annual Paid Leave:

Employees are entitled to twenty days annual paid leave per year. The number of days provided is reckoned as of January 1st. Each year, twenty days are added to any remaining paid leave from the previous calendar year (up to twenty days). Annual leave for the first year of employment is calculated based on the start date (e.g., a start date of April 1st would provide 15 days for the remaining nine months of the calendar year).

Additional Information:

- Tohoku University has established a support system to assist the spouses of qualified faculty members in finding employment opportunities for academic and non-academic jobs within the university. For more information, please contact the recruiting department.
- Tohoku University promotes activities to increase Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and encourages people of varied talents from all backgrounds to apply for positions at the university.
Tohoku University's website about the DEI Declaration can be found here:
<https://dei.tohoku.ac.jp/en/vision/about/>
- Pursuant to Article 8 of the Act on Securing, Etc. of Equal Opportunity and Treatment between Men and Women in Employment, Tohoku University shall, as a measure for increasing the presence of women among the academic staff, prioritize the hiring of women deemed qualified for each job opening, based on impartial evaluation.
- Tohoku University has published 'Tohoku University-Live as Who You Are-Guidelines for Gender and Sexual Diversity' to provide explanations and details of how those at the university should respond with respect to diverse sexuality. The purpose of the guidelines is to create an environment in which all students, faculty, and staff respect diverse sexuality in their academic, research, and professional activities. Please see the Tohoku University Center for Gender Equality Promotion website.
https://dei.tohoku.ac.jp/en/vision/consulting/for_minority/

- Tohoku University has the largest on-campus childcare system of all Japanese national universities. This network comprises three nurseries: Kawauchi Keyaki Nursery school (capacity: 22) and Aobayama Midori Nursery school (116), both open to all university employees, as well as Hoshinoko Nursery school (120), which is open to employees working at Tohoku University Hospital. In addition, Tohoku University Hospital runs a childcare room for mildly ill and convalescent children which is available to all university employees.
- See the following website for information on these and other programs that Tohoku University runs to assist work-life balance, to support researchers, and to advance gender equality, including measures to promote childcare leave among male employees.

Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Tohoku University Website:

https://dei.tohoku.ac.jp/en/vision/consulting/for_family/

Human Resources and Planning Department website (Japanese text only):

<https://c.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/jinji-top/external/a-4-kosodate/>