

Internal regulations on mentor faculty of the Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Tohoku University

Established on July 22, 2014

Revised on June 28, 2021

(Purpose)

Article 1. These regulations are intended to support the promotion of world-class research by young researchers in an independent research environment, through cooperation between the departments of Tohoku University and the Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences (hereafter “the Institute”), as part of the initiatives by Tohoku University to develop young researchers.

(Assignment)

Article 2. The Director of the Institute shall allocate a mentor faculty member to each Assistant Professor and fixed-term Associate Professor affiliated to the Institute.

(Responsibilities)

Article 3. Mentor faculty shall carry out the following responsibilities, the details of which shall be stipulated separately. (See Appendix “Request to Mentor Faculty”)

- i. Provide an independent research environment and research support
- ii. Provide career-path-related support
- iii. Provide support for health and safety, and research ethics, etc.
- iv. Provide support for educational opportunities
- v. Any other tasks requested by the Director of the Institute, as necessary

(Appointment)

Article 4. Mentor faculty shall be appointed from among full-time Professors and Associate Professors of Tohoku University.

4-2 A mentor faculty member shall be appointed by the Director of the Institute based on a request to the Director of the Institute from a mentee faculty member after having sought the approval of the mentor candidate.

(Term)

Article 5. The mentor faculty member’s term of appointment shall be for the duration of the mentee faculty member’s affiliation to the Institute.

(Change)

Article 6. If it becomes necessary to change a mentor faculty member during the mentor faculty member’s term of appointment, the mentee faculty member shall make a request to the Director of the Institute after having sought the approval of the new mentor candidate.

Supplementary Provision:

These regulations shall enter into force on July 22, 2014 and are applicable as of April 1, 2014.

Supplementary Provision:

These regulations shall enter into force on June 28, 2021 and are applicable as of April 1, 2021.

Revised on June 28, 2021

Request to Mentor Faculty

Professor Toshiyuki Hayase  
Director  
Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences

When appointing young researchers as fix-term faculty members at the Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences (FRIS), FRIS requests full-time Professors or Associate Professors at the university to serve as mentors for the researchers. This request is made as part of a university-wide effort to support the promotion of world-class research by young researchers in an independent research environment through cooperation between the departments and FRIS, following the internal regulations on mentor faculty at the Creative Interdisciplinary Research Division of FRIS, and with the approval of the heads of the mentors' departments.

We sincerely ask the mentors, who understand and support young researchers, to perform the following tasks. For fostering young researchers at Tohoku University, we would like to ask for your cooperation.

**1. Provide an independent research environment and research support**

Mentors are asked to provide an independent research environment and research support for the young researchers. While we understand that the concept of an independent research environment varies from department to department, at the very least, young researchers should be able to secure research space and execute their research expenses. When assigning administrative duties at your laboratory or department to the young researchers, we sincerely ask you to consider their roles and positions in the university and to consult and agree with them.

For research support, we would appreciate it if you would consider the use of laboratory equipment and supplies by the young researchers. Please consult and agree with the young researchers to the use of the equipment and supplies. In addition, please provide advice and counsel to them as necessary.

**2. Provide carrier-path-related support**

Since April 2021, FRIS has been implementing a tenure-track system so that

talented young researchers devote themselves to challenging research for a long time in an independent environment to improve their careers. In addition, as a career path for the young researchers at FRIS, the existing liaison with departments is still being implemented.

Tenure Track System at FRIS:

<http://www.fris.tohoku.ac.jp/en/about/tenure-track.html>

We sincerely ask mentors to provide support and advice to the young researchers about their career paths, including this system.

**3. Provide support for health and safety, and research ethics, etc.**

While FRIS will provide the young researchers appropriate guidance on health and safety, research misconduct, etc. at monthly staff meetings and other opportunities, we would appreciate your specific guidance at your department, workplace, and research site.

In addition, an order for dual duties shall be required for the young researchers' activities at the working departments. We sincerely ask the heads of the departments to send the request for the dual duties to FRIS.

**4. Provide support for educational opportunities**

From the perspective of the career paths, we sincerely ask the mentors to provide educational opportunities for relevant undergraduate and graduate students of the department to the young researchers. When assigning education duties to the young researchers, we sincerely ask you to consider their roles and positions in the university and to consult and agree with them.

In such a case, an order for dual duties shall be necessary for the educational activities at the departments. We sincerely ask the heads of the departments to send the request for the dual duties to FRIS.