
Call for Applications: Assistant Professor Positions (EMCRs for International Research Excellence) at Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Tohoku University (Starting in FY2026)

Recruitment:

Tenure-track Assistant Professors (PIs) at the Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences

Summary:

Position:	Assistant Professor (PI)
Number of Positions	7
Job type:	Tenure-track (7-year fixed term) A tenure review will be conducted between the third and fifth year after the initial appointment. If successful, the candidate will be promoted to Associate Professor (tenured). If unsuccessful, the candidate will continue in the current position until the end of the 7-year term (reappointment is not possible).
Location:	Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences 6-3 Aramaki aza Aoba, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi, Japan
Qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Those who have a doctoral degree upon taking up the post• Those who are eager to actively participate in interdisciplinary research• Those who can manage a laboratory as Principal Investigator (PIs) and explore original research topics• Those who have distinguished research achievements in their own field of expertise• Those who have abilities to communicate in English <p>We welcome applications from diverse individuals in terms of expertise, gender, nationality, and culture.</p>
Submission:	Application website https://rct5osp.fris.tohoku.ac.jp/ Opens: Monday, June 16, 2025, at 12:00 (noon) (JST)
Application Deadline:	Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 12:00 (noon) (JST)
Starting Employment:	April 1, 2026

For questions contact

The Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Managing and Planning Division,
Person in charge of human resources

E-mail: kikaku-hr-contact_atmk_fris.tohoku.ac.jp (Please replace "_atmk_" with "@".)

Recruitment

Tenure-track assistant professors (PIs) at Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences

1. Overview

The Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences (FRIS), Tohoku University, is seeking qualified candidates for the position of assistant professor. The selected individuals will belong to the Creative Interdisciplinary Research Division and, as Principal Investigators (PIs) of the University for International Research Excellence, will be engaged in research activities focused on one of the following areas, including all disciplines: 1) Materials and Energy, 2) Life and Environment, 3) Information and Systems, 4) Devices and Technology, 5) Human and Society, or 6) Advanced Basic Science, and interdisciplinary research activities within and outside of the area.

Tohoku University's accreditation as a University for International Research Excellence:

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

This recruitment is being carried out based on the New Human Resource Strategies of FRIS under the University for International Research Excellence and FRIS's "Frontier Researchers for Interdisciplinary Sciences Shoshi Program (FRIS Shoshi Program)."

In the "FRIS Shoshi Program," we support the promotion of world-class research and career advancement in an independent research environment as a research principal investigator (PI) with the cooperation of graduate schools, research institutes and so on across the university and mentors in an interdisciplinary research environment. This will foster researchers with advanced interdisciplinarity and research capabilities who will lead the next generation.

New Human Resource Strategies of FRIS:

https://www.fris.tohoku.ac.jp/media/files/topics/recruit/NewHRStrategies_20241028_EN.pdf

FRIS Shoshi Program:

<https://www.fris.tohoku.ac.jp/en/about/missions/fostering.html>

2. Qualifications & Submissions

Qualifications

Due to the nature of the position, candidates must have a doctoral degree upon taking up the post and have abilities to communicate in English. Distinguished research achievements in one of the following areas: 1) Materials and Energy, 2) Life and Environment, 3) Information and Systems, 4) Devices and Technology, 5) Human and Society, and 6) Advanced Basic Sciences, and willingness to actively engage in interdisciplinary research within and outside of the area will be evaluated by the selection committee.

This position is intended for early-to-mid-career researchers (EMCRs). Candidates who obtained their Ph.D. within the last 10 years will receive prioritized consideration during the selection process. Appropriate consideration will be given to career interruptions due to life events.

Assistant professors (PIs) at the Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences are expected to exemplify the following principles of interdisciplinarity, independence and excellence in their research endeavors.

- Interdisciplinarity
FRIS researchers, while experts in their respective fields, exchange ideas regularly with colleagues from other disciplines and participate actively in interdisciplinary research.

- Independence
FRIS researchers lead a laboratory as Principal Investigators (PIs) and explore original research topics.
- Excellence
To exemplify international excellence in research, FRIS researchers engage in projects with a significant academic or societal impact.

In accordance with the Institute's basic policy of promoting DEI, we actively welcome applications from people with diverse expertise, gender, nationality, and culture.

Required Documents

Please enter the applicant's resume information and information about researcher ID (Scopus Author ID, ORCID iD, researchmap URL), and information about four referees (two or more of whom must be from outside Japan) into the application website, and then convert the following documents into PDF files and apply according to the procedure in "How to Apply." For (3) and (4), please use the forms specified by the Institute. The total file size should not exceed 20 MB. The forms can be downloaded from the website below:

<https://www.fris.tohoku.ac.jp/en/recruit/invitation/>

- (1) Curriculum Vitae with a list of research achievements (research achievements should include papers, books, international conference proceedings, conference presentations (clearly distinguishing between domestic and international, and contributed and invited presentations), awards, industrial property rights, social contribution activities, competitive research funding, collaborative research achievements, and other notable items) (Language: English + Japanese or English. May be disclosed to reviewers inside and outside the university.)
- (2) Description of up to five major papers or up to five major achievements (If there are any numerical indicators that show that the paper or achievement is excellent, please explain them appropriately. Copies of papers and achievements do not need to be submitted.) (Language: Japanese or English)
- (3) Research activity plan (8 pages in the specified format) (Language: Japanese or English)
- (4) Self-evaluation report on research performance (2 pages in the specified format) (Language: Japanese or English)

How to apply

Please apply via the application website below. After completing the pre-registration, you will receive a URL to complete your official registration, and then upload the documents you wish to submit via My Page. Once the upload is complete, you will receive an email confirming receipt of your application.

Application reception website: <https://rct5osp.fris.tohoku.ac.jp/>

You can also access the above website from the recruitment information on Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences' website below:

<https://www.fris.tohoku.ac.jp/en/>

Application period

Opens: Monday, June 16, 2025, at 12:00 (noon) (JST)

Deadline: Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 12:00 (noon) (JST)

3. Selection

The selection committee will conduct the selection process through a first screening based on submitted documents and a second screening based on an interview. The interview will be conducted for successful candidates on one of the days between October 10 and 20, 2025, either onsite (recommended) at the Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences or online. Successful candidates in the first screening will be notified of details by early September 2025.

Employment will start at the earliest date after April 1, 2026.

4. Allocation, Laboratory Space & Accommodation

Successful individuals will be allocated the following research spaces:

- Space in the mentor's laboratory
Upon successful application, space (room and laboratory) to conduct your own research will be provided in the mentor's laboratory (discuss with your mentor professor at the time of application)
- Space at the Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences
As research progresses, necessary research space will be allocated within the institute as appropriate.
- Space at FRIS CoRE (Cooperative Research Environment)
FRIS CoRE, an interdisciplinary collaborative environment under one roof that provides access to basic research facilities in the fields of life science, chemistry, and engineering has been established. FRIS CoRE allows you to conduct a series of daily experiments, discussions and research in fields other than the mentor professor's specialty.
FRIS CoRE (status, etc.): https://www.fris.tohoku.ac.jp/fris_core/en/

There may also be the opportunity to move into university accommodation if there are any vacancies.

5. Compensation & Benefits

The annual salary for the appointment will be determined in accordance with Tohoku University's employment regulations and will be based on the experience and performance of the candidate. The gross annual salary will be approximately 8.1 million JPY in the fifth year after obtaining a doctoral degree.

6. Special Funding & Duties

The recruitment is part of the university-wide effort to increase research activities on campus as University for International Research Excellence. As such, selected individuals will be provided with the following funding as a basis for research operations:

- Basic research funds (including start-up funds allocated only in the first year of appointment)
Basic research funds will be allocated based on application, up to a total of 22.5 million JPY over seven years (12.5 million JPY in the first year of appointment; 2.5 million JPY each in the second and third years; 2.0 million JPY in the fourth year; 1.5 million JPY in the fifth year; 1.0 million JPY in the sixth year; and 0.5 million JPY in the seventh year; flexible use is allowed through carryover).
- Specific research funds
Specific research funds will be allocated up to 3.0 million JPY per year (for designated purposes only), including expenses for hiring assistant staff (up to 1.0 million JPY), expenses for

international collaborative research (up to 1.0 million JPY), and expenses for research space (up to 1.0 million JPY).

- Funds for collaborative research with researchers in other fields, expenses for organizing international conferences, etc. may be provided upon review.

You will be required to apply for additional external competitive funding such as Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, peer-reviewed grants and other third-party funding, including funding and income from industry collaborations and endowed research.

The selected individual is expected to produce several high impact publications.

Research System Strengthening Plan as University for International Research Excellence:

https://www.tohoku.ac.jp/japanese/newimg/newsimg/news20241224_ex_01_en.pdf

A tenure review will be conducted between the third and fifth year after the initial appointment. If successful, the candidate will be promoted to Associate Professor (tenured). If unsuccessful, the candidate will continue in the current position until the end of the 7-year term (reappointment is not possible).

Tenure track system at FRIS:

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

If a tenure-track researcher takes childcare leave, their term may be extended to reflect the duration of their leave, and the tenure review and termination of appointment may be postponed if deemed necessary for teaching and research.

7. Welfare

Successful individuals will be enrolled as a member of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Mutual Aid Association which will also provide health insurance for any dependents. Tohoku University will also provide pension insurance, employment insurance as well as industrial 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).

9. Additional Information

Research areas

Applicants should select one of the six research fields listed in the "Qualification" above and enter it in the research activity plan. However, the selection committee may decide to change the research field to be reviewed.

Mentors

In order to conduct their own research as a Principal Investigator (PI), applicants must select a mentor whose duties include providing research space and research support and apply for the position. Applicants must select a mentor from among professors or associate professors (visiting

or specially appointed faculty members are not accepted) of the University in advance, obtain the mentor's consent to the Internal Regulations on the Mentors below and their responsibilities as attached, and both the applicant and the mentor must review the Checklist for Internal Regulations on the Mentors of the Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences.

When selecting a mentor, the Institute places importance on starting research in a new research environment, such as a laboratory different from the one they have previously belonged to. If an applicants must select a mentor from a laboratory where they have previously belonged, it is essential that their independence as a Principal Investigator (PI) is guaranteed.

Internal Regulations on the Mentors and the Responsibilities of Mentors:

https://www.fris.tohoku.ac.jp/media/files/MentorRegulations_rev20250324_EN.pdf

Checklist for Internal Regulations on the Mentors:

https://www.fris.tohoku.ac.jp/media/files/Mentor_Checklist_20240530.pdf

When selecting a mentor, you can also refer to the Tohoku University researcher introduction website at the following URL.

Tohoku University researcher Introduction: <https://www.r-info.tohoku.ac.jp/>

Research environment

The main job of faculty in the Creative Interdisciplinary Research Division is research, with some administrative duties, but the institute ensures that there is enough time for research, and the research effort of currently enrolled faculty is at a high level of about 70%. Faculty members can flexibly set their research time at their own discretion, making it possible to achieve a work-life balance according to their own plans.

Educational environment

Initially, there will be no student assignment or teaching duties at the Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences. The university is currently considering establishing a system whereby students may be assigned to assistant professors (PIs) of their choice. Please consult with your mentor regarding research guidance for students in their mentor laboratories.

At the Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences, faculty members hire undergraduate students from our university who are interested in research as administrative assistants to the extent that it does not interfere with their studies, to operate laboratories and advance research, provide students with opportunities to experience cutting-edge research, and implement use the "Undergraduate Student Research Work Experience (FRIS URO)" as an initiative aimed at providing students with diverse research experience and financial support, and we encourage its use.

FRIS URO: <https://www.fris.tohoku.ac.jp/recruit/fris-uro/>

10. For questions contact

Person in Charge of Human Resources, Managing and Planning Division, Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences

E-mail: kikaku-hr-contact_atmk_fris.tohoku.ac.jp (Please replace "_atmk_" with "@".)

11. DEI Promotion

- The Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences has established a basic policy for promoting Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), set up a working group, and aims to be a leading research institute in DEI. We are working to create and support an environment in which all

researchers and staff can smoothly conduct research, education, and work.

The Frontier Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Sciences' efforts to promote DEI:

<https://www.fris.tohoku.ac.jp/en/about/dei.html>

- 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/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/EN_GuideLine.pdf

- 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:

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

12. Other information

An information session for this call will be held online on Friday, June 13, 2025, from 13:00 to 14:00 (JST). If you would like to participate, please apply via the form below.

Registration for information session:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/6yUgu0jIR8CfVQXWQskBoQ>