

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor (PI) or Tenure-Track Associate Professor (PI) at the Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University

Summary

Position: Assistant Professor (PI) or Associate Professor (PI)

Number of Positions: 3

Job type: Tenure-Track (Maximum Term: 7 Years)

- A tenure review will be conducted by the sixth year after appointment.
- Successful candidates will be promoted to Associate Professor or Professor with a permanent position.
- Depending on the candidate's experience and accomplishments, the tenure review may be conducted earlier (early tenure promotion).

Location: Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University 6-3 Aramaki aza Aoba, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi, Japan

Qualifications:

- Ph.D. at the time of appointment
- Distinguished research achievements in the relevant field of expertise
- Demonstrated interest and capacity for (1) interdisciplinary research, (2) exploration of new research directions, and/or (3) original scientific inquiry
- Experience or strong potential to establish and direct an independent laboratory as a Principal Investigator (PI) with autonomous research leadership
- Strong English communication skills

We welcome applications from candidates of all expertise, gender identities, nationalities, and cultural backgrounds.

Submission: Application website: <https://forms.gle/vgMfHSzd7FRSJXg89>

Application deadline: Monday, April 20, 2026, at 12:00 (noon) JST

Starting employment: The earliest date after January 1, 2027

For questions contact

Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University

Center for Research and Education Copoperation in Science, Office for Evaluation
Analysis / Research Strategy

Inquiry Form: <https://forms.gle/4CKA669eamXUtLmf6>

Overview

[The Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University](#) conducts research into the laws of nature across a broad spectrum of scientific fields, ranging from the microscopic world of elementary particles, nuclei, atoms, and molecules to the macroscopic world of life, the Earth, and the Universe, as well as mathematical phenomena. Through these inquiries, we contribute to the advancement of science and uphold the foundations of scientific and technological innovation.

In light of the future development of scientific research, we are seeking highly motivated individuals for tenure-track positions (Assistant Professor or Associate Professor) who are poised to internationally lead core research areas of the future.

The appointee will be affiliated with one of the departments—1) Mathematics, 2) Physics, 3) Astronomy, 4) Geophysics, 5) Chemistry, or 6) Earth Science—and will manage a laboratory as a Principal Investigator (PI), engaging in pioneering research in their specific field or in interdisciplinary research involving these and other areas.

Upon completion of the tenure-track period, the appointee is expected to have established themselves as an internationally outstanding researcher who fulfills one or more of the following criteria:

1. **Interdisciplinary Research:** A researcher capable of collaborating with adjacent fields beyond the boundaries of traditional research areas in science.
2. **Exploration:** A researcher capable of opening up new research fields within science.
3. **Originality:** A researcher promoting highly original research within their scientific domain.

This recruitment is implemented as part of Tohoku University's selection as a University for International Research Excellence, aimed at strengthening the university's research framework.

[Tohoku University's accreditation as a University for International Research Excellence](#)

Qualifications & Submissions

Qualifications

Candidates for this position must hold a doctoral degree upon appointment and demonstrate strong English communication skills.

The selection committee will evaluate applicants on the basis of distinguished research achievements related to any of the six fields: 1) Mathematics, 2) Physics, 3) Astronomy, 4) Geophysics, 5) Chemistry, and 6) Earth Science. The committee will also assess candidates according to: (1) distinguished research achievements in one or more of the six fields listed above; (2) potential for interdisciplinary research; (3) ability to pioneer new research directions; and (4) capacity for original and creative research.

Target Research Fields: All fields of Science (Including interdisciplinary areas merging with biology/life sciences. However, candidates specializing exclusively in biology/life sciences are excluded.)

Department Websites:

1. Mathematics: <http://www.math.tohoku.ac.jp/english/index-e.html>
2. Physics: <https://www.phys.tohoku.ac.jp/en/>
3. Astronomy: <https://www.sci.tohoku.ac.jp/english/department/astr.html>
4. Geophysics: <https://www.sci.tohoku.ac.jp/english/department/gp.html>
5. Chemistry: <http://www.chem.tohoku.ac.jp/english/>
6. Earth Science: <https://www.es.tohoku.ac.jp/EN/>

Target Candidates: 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. However, appropriate consideration will be given to career interruptions due to life events.

Required Documents (Upload via Google Forms)

All documents must be prepared in either English or Japanese.

Please combine the following two documents into a single PDF file (max 10 MB), named "YourName.pdf".

- 1) Curriculum Vitae with a list of research achievements and professional activities (free format, A4).
- 2) Research Activity Plan (up to 5 pages in the free format, A4), including:
 - a. A summary of past research
 - b. A plan for future research
 - c. The intended use of the budget as described in "Special Funding & Duties"

How to apply

Please apply via the "Application Form" link below. (A Google account is required to complete the submission; if you do not have one, please create an account.) The Application process is as follows:

1. Upload the single PDF file containing both your (1) Curriculum Vitae and (2) Research Activity Plan.
2. Enter the following information directly into the Application Form:
 - Applicant's personal information
 - Applicant's researcher identification information (e.g., Scopus Author ID, ORCID, researchmap URL)
 - Relevant research areas (departments) (Select the department(s) you wish to be reviewed by) *
 - Contact information for two referees *

*Refer to the Selection section below for more information

Application Form: <https://forms.gle/vgMfHSzd7FRSJXg89>

Personal information provided through the Application Form will be used solely for the purpose of recruitment and selection at Tohoku University. To ensure fair and expert evaluation, part of the submitted information may be shared with external experts for their opinions. In such cases, all information will be handled under strict confidentiality and appropriate management procedures.

[Tohoku University's basic policy on personal information protection](#)

Application period

Deadline: Monday, April 20, 2026, at 12:00 (noon) (JST)

Selection

The selection process will consist of two stages:

- First stage: Document Screening
 - All applicants will be notified of the results of the first screening by mid-June 2026.
- Second stage: Interview and References
 - Applicants who pass the first screening will be invited to the second screening interview.
 - The interview will take place between July 10 and July 31, 2026.
 - The interview will be held either on-site at the Graduate School of Science (preferred) or online.
 - As part of this process, the referees listed in the Application Form will be contacted by the Graduate School to provide reference reports for the second screening.

Employment will start at the earliest date after January 1, 2027.

Research Areas:

When applying, please select relevant research areas from the six research areas (departments) listed in **Qualifications**. Specify these areas in your Research Activity Plan and select them in the "Relevant research areas" section of the registration form.

If your research is interdisciplinary, please select all applicable research areas (departments).

In principle, the review will be conducted across all research areas selected by the applicant, and one of these departments will become the appointee's affiliation.

However, the selection committee reserves the right to determine a different research area for review or departmental affiliation if deemed appropriate.

Allocation, Laboratory Space & Accommodation

Successful individuals will be allocated an office and laboratory space on campus.

If laboratory space and research equipment are deemed necessary based on the research plan submitted with the application, support will be provided for their allocation. Allocated office and laboratory space will generally be located within the Graduate School of Science (Aobayama Campus).

Appointees are eligible to move into university accommodation if there are any vacancies.

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:

- Assistant professor: 6 to 8 million JPY
- Associate professor: up to 10 million JPY

Special Funding & Duties

This recruitment is part of the university-wide effort to increase research activities on campus as a University for International Research Excellence. As such, selected individuals will be provided with the following funding and are expected to meet the following duties:

Funding:

- Start-up Fund: To facilitate a smooth research start, a start-up fund of up to 10 million JPY will be allocated in the first fiscal year of employment. The final maximum amount will be determined based on a review of the submitted "Research Activity Plan" in Required Documents.
- Basic Research Fund: From the first to the sixth year of appointment, up to 4 million JPY per year will be provided as a basic research fund, based on the

Research Activity Plan. (Please note: The allocation for the fifth and sixth years may be subject to revision following an interim evaluation.)

Duties & Expectations:

- External Funding: Application for additional peer-reviewed grants and other third-party funding, including funding and revenue from joint and endowed research through industry collaboration, is required.
- Publications: The selected individual is strongly expected to produce several high impact publications, such as academic papers and books.
- Evaluation (Tenure Track):
 - An interim evaluation will be conducted by the end of the fourth year of appointment.
 - A formal tenure review will take place by the sixth year. Candidates who successfully pass the tenure review will be appointed as associate professor or professor (permanent position).

Please note: In cases where the appointee takes leave such as childcare leave, the tenure track term may be extended and the tenure review or term expiration may be postponed within the scope of the leave period, if deemed necessary.

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.

Working Hours: Discretionary labor system for professional work. The standard working day is 7 hours and 45 minutes (basic hours: 8:30 AM to 5:15 PM), with working hours left to the individual's discretion.

Holidays: Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, and New Year holidays (December 29 - January 3)

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

Educational & administrative duties

Appointees will engage in educational duties in mentoring early-career researchers, supervising doctoral theses and providing lectures to undergraduate students.

As a member of the Graduate School, the appointee will also be required to cooperate in some administrative duties for the department or graduate school. However, care will be taken to ensure sufficient time for research, in recognition of the appointee's tenure track status and goal of becoming an internationally outstanding researcher.

For questions contact

Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University
Center for Research and Education cooperation in Science,
Office for Evaluation Analysis / Research Strategy

Inquiry Form: <https://forms.gle/4CKA669eamXUtLmf6>
Email (if the form is unavailable): sci-bunseki@grp.tohoku.ac.jp

DEI Promotion

- **Support for Spouses:** 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.

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): 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/>
- Gender Equality: 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.
- Guidelines for Gender Diversity: 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

- Childcare Facilities: 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.
- Work–Life Balance and Research Support: 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/