

Niigata University ‘Swing-by’ Program for Fostering Young Faculty Members
(Recruitment and Training Program for Young Faculty Members)
Assistant Professor - Brain Research Institute, Niigata University

Niigata University has established a unique ‘Swing-by’ program for fostering young Faculty Members, since 2020. This program provides generous support to newly appointed young Faculty Members who are active in various research fields not only in Japan but also globally. Through this program we hope to enhance the research activities of Niigata University to a higher level and leap forward to a bright future.

‘Swing-by’ Program is designed to foster newly recruited young researchers by training them at Niigata University and preparing them for a leap in their respective research fields, similar to artificial satellites and spacecrafts which attain momentum and change in flight paths in the space using the gravitational pull of the celestial bodies. In this program, we will recruit young faculty across all disciplines in a single recruitment drive. They will be provided a conducive research environment, which helps them to carry out top level research in their field of specialization, as well as encourage interdisciplinary approach. We will also mentor them with technical support and startup research funds to assist in securing grants from competitive research funding agencies and industries.

This year, we plan to recruit and train about 15 young researchers in the following research areas. Initial screening will be conducted based on the applicant’s expertise in his/her specialization, followed by a second stage of screening from a broader perspective, which will be conducted by the University President and Executive board members. Selected researchers will be appointed to a Faculty in accordance with their field of expertise, concurrently in the Institute for Research Promotion. The Institute for Research Promotion will take a lead role in fostering and supporting them to take new challenges in teaching and research at Niigata University.

Niigata University is committed to enhancing the diversity and inclusion of its faculty, and encourage its female and foreign researchers to play an active role in university. We welcome proactive applications from a global perspective.

Research Field for Recruitment

Public administration in the context of natural disaster, Forest Conservation and Wildlife Management, Carbon-neutral Technologies(Photovoltaics, Solar cells, Artificial photosynthesis, Water splitting, Photocatalysts, Solar thermal energy engineering), Algebra and Geometry(algebraic geometry, number theory, differential geometry, topology and related fields), Plant Genetics and Breeding, Ecological Dentistry, Functional regenerative oral medicine, Research on advanced brain pathology analysis,

Number of Positions

About 15

As part of this, BRI is seeking a faculty member in charge of research areas related to advanced brain pathology analysis. The successful candidate will be based at BRI, which has the largest collection of brain disease samples in the world along with advanced imaging facilities. The successful candidate will conduct his/her research with the support of a mentor (a BRI full-time professor). The research can be conducted in any field or method, as long as it is related to advanced brain pathology analysis. Applicants from fields such as psychology, mathematics and AI are also welcome.

BRI is enhancing young researchers' start-ups. The institute provides efficient support for the research environment, including the establishment of an incubation lab and preparation of shared infrastructure, allocation of start-up expenses, and mentoring by BRI faculty members. In addition, a tenure review is planned if the young faculty achieves excellent research performance. If approved at a rigorous review, a tenured position will be offered.

Before applying, applicants should contact his/her prospective mentor for consent. Those who have difficulties to find his/her mentor should reach out to BRI contact below.

1. Job Type

An Assistant Professor

- Fixed term appointment for 5 years.
- A tenure review will be conducted in the 5th year if his/her research performance is excellent. If approved, a tenured assistant professor position will be offered.

2. Expected Date of Joining

As soon as possible after April 1, 2023

3. Affiliation

The successful candidate will be based in the department of the BRI mentor to conduct research. He/she will be involved in teaching and other activities that may be beneficial to his/her career. During the first 3 to 5 years of employment, he/she is also assigned to the University's Institute for Research Promotion by participating in the program of fostering young faculty that provides research support.

4. Job Description

Research on advanced brain pathology analysis

- The successful candidate will be expected to conduct research as part of the research group.

5. Qualifications

- (1) Candidates must have earned a PhD or equivalent in relevant fields within the past 5 years, or those who are expected to earn a PhD by the date of appointment.
- (2) Candidates should be eager to become independent as PIs in the future and develop cutting-edge research.
- (3) Candidates should be able to live in Niigata City or its neighborhood to carry out research after appointment.

6. Terms of Employment

- (1) WORK LOCATION: 1-757 Asahimachidori, Chuo-ku Niigata 951-8585 JAPAN
- (2) SALARY: Annual salary system in accordance with the Regulations for New Annual Salary System for Faculties of Niigata Universities, and other University rules.
- (3) WORKING HOURS AND HOLIDAYS:
 - Working hours: Discretionary Working System (deemed working hours: 7 hours and 45 minutes per day)
 - Holidays: Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays, and New Year's holidays (Dec 29 – Jan3).
- (4) INSURANCES: The MEXT Mutual Aid Association, Employment Insurance, Workers' Accident Compensation Insurance.
- (5) LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT: The shared room will be provided for research.

7. Support for Fostering Young Researchers

The University will provide supports to the successful candidates in order to enhance fields of expertise and take on the challenge of new developments beyond the existing field of research. The supports include:

- (1) Providing start-up research funds. (In addition to the annual research funds provided by BRI).
- (2) Niigata University equipment sharing system
- (3) Training Program (support from the University and URA, etc.)
 - Getting support for winning external grants such as “KAKENHI”
 - Participating in regular cross-disciplinary meetings
 - Participating in networking meetings of young researchers
 - Attending training courses on educational policy and methods at the University
 - Giving lectures and presentation at events related to the promotion of research
 - Attending training courses on education and research activities etc.

In addition to the supports from the University listed above, BRI will assist the successful candidate regarding the research environment that includes; the establishment of an incubation lab and preparation of shared infrastructure, allocation of start-up expenses, and mentoring by BRI faculty members.

8. Application Documents (one copy each, A4 size, no specific format)

- (1) A Curriculum Vitae with candidate's ID photo and signature
- (2) List of achievements: presented in order of original articles (peer reviewed, published, or in press [attach a copy of acceptance email]), external grants, and awards.
- (3) Reprints of major research publications (2 papers)
- (4) Research plans on advanced brain pathology analysis (1-2 pages, include its purpose, background and methods)

*Additional documents may be requested if necessary.

- Make sure to enclose all the required documents and send it to the given address below by the way in which delivery can be confirmed.
- On an envelope, clearly express in writing “Application for ‘Swing-by’ position”.

- Application documents will not be returned. Applicants' personal information will be handled based on "Act on the protection of personal information held by incorporated administrative agencies etc." and will not be used for any purpose other than the screening process.

9. Screening Process

- (1) CLOSING DATE: Monday 5 September 2022 at 5:00 pm (JST)
- (2) 1ST SCREENING: from late September to mid-October 2022 (Applicants who pass the initial document screening may be invited for an online interview)
- (3) 1ST SCREENING RESULTS: late October 2022
- (4) 2ND SCREENING: from November to December 2022 (Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview by the University board members [in-person or online])
- (5) 2ND SCREENING RESULTS: as soon as a decision is reached

*All costs relating to the selection process such as travel expenses and accommodation fee must be borne by the applicant.

10. Submission and Inquiry

General Affairs Section
Administration Office, Brain Research Institute, Niigata University
1-757 Asahimachidori, Chuo-ku, Niigata 951-8585 JAPAN
Phone: +81 25 227 0601
Fax: +81 25 227 0507
Email: noukenshomu@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp

*To make inquiries, please contact us by email.

11. Additional Information

*Niigata University has set up the "Office for Equality and Diversity" in our campus, and is firmly committed to gender balance and supporting physically handicapped researchers (<http://www.niigata-u.ac.jp/geo/>).

*Niigata University is promoting hiring of faculty members who have a flexible attitude in today's global society and to realize the globalization of our campus. We welcome applications from foreigners who can communicate with researchers and students in English. Japanese communication skill will be an added advantage, but not an essential condition for the application.