

Niigata University ‘Swing-by’ Program for Fostering Young Faculty Members

(Recruitment and Training Program for Young Faculty Members)

Call for applications for Assistant Professor in Brain Research Institute, Niigata University

Niigata University is implementing the "Niigata University Young Faculty Swing-by Program," a program for the collective recruitment and training of young faculty members, targeting outstanding young researchers who are active in a variety of fields in Japan and overseas. This program is designed to foster researchers who are willing to conduct cross-disciplinary research at the university while deepening their research in their respective fields of specialization.

In the Young Faculty Swing-by Program, we will recruit young faculty members from across disciplines. Recruits will be selected through a first round of selection based on their expertise in their respective fields, followed by a second round of selection based on comprehensive perspectives by the executive officers. The selected faculty members will be affiliated with the academic departments, etc., according to their fields of expertise, and will concurrently serve in the Institute for Research Administration, which is in charge of promoting research at Niigata University, and will be engaged in activities to bring forth the seeds of new interdisciplinary research that can become the new flagship of Niigata University.

Research Field for Recruitment

Science communication, Medical-Criminal Law, Informational Sociology of Disaster, Food-Tech Science, Structure engineering and earthquake engineering-related (Applied mechanics, Computational mechanics), Inorganic chemistry, Nonsmooth Optimization, Life science (Department of Neurophysiology, Virology, Div of Eating Behavior–Health Interface, Tissue Regenerative Science, Clinical nursing science), Interdisciplinary Research on Brain Pathology

Number of Positions

Around 10 persons expected

As a part of this recruitment, we are recruiting faculty members in charge of the Interdisciplinary Research on Brain Pathology field.

1. Job Type

One Tenure-track Assistant Professor (A-five-year tenure. Not renewable after five years)

Based on performance during the first four years of appointment, a comprehensive evaluation will be conducted in the fifth year. This evaluation will assess research achievements, success in securing external funding, and other relevant factors, and may lead to a transition to a permanent assistant professor position. Further details will be provided after appointment.

2. Expected Date of Joining

April 1, 2027

3. Affiliation

The selected candidate will, as a general rule, participate in projects promoted by BRI and will be based within the Institute under the guidance of multiple BRI professors who serve as mentors and are responsible for the relevant projects. Specific assignments will be determined through consultation, taking into account the candidate's research focus and the broader impact on BRI as a whole. Independent research will be carried out proactively under the guidance of each mentor. While research is the primary focus, engagement in teaching and other activities may be expected when they contribute to professional and career development. In addition, during the first three years of appointment, the selected candidate will concurrently serve as a faculty member in the Swing-By Program under the University's Institute for Research Administration.

Note: For preliminary inquiries regarding assigned fields or the research environment, please contact the administrative office listed below.

4. Job Description

[Affiliation] Brain Research Institute

[Job Description]

1. Research

The selected candidate will be responsible for promoting interdisciplinary research on neurological disorders and strengthening BRI's research infrastructure.

Specifically, BRI's world-class brain resources will be fully leveraged to integrate its strengths in morphological, physiological, and molecular functional analyses with cutting-edge data science. Building on data-driven research that combines brain imaging, tissue imaging, and multi-omics data, the selected candidate will engage in research aimed at elucidating disease mechanisms, advancing diagnostic and prognostic capabilities, overcoming neurological disorders, understanding disabilities, and fostering collaborative research across laboratories and departments within the university.

2. Education:

The selected candidate may be responsible for, or assist with, lectures, seminars, and research supervision, and may also be involved in fostering the next generation of researchers and students in the field of interdisciplinary neuroscience.

3. Outreach Activities

The selected candidate may be expected to participate in outreach activities, such as giving seminars and lectures to elementary, junior high, and high school students, as well as to members of the local community.

4. International Activities

Participation in international joint research, student exchange, and collaborative supervision is expected, contributing to the advancement of international

education and research activities through collaboration with other faculty members. In addition, active involvement in the international expansion of research and the development of global research networks may be required.

- * As a general rule, you will be working as a faculty member employed in the Swing-by Program concurrently with the Institute for Research Administration for three years from the time of hiring.

[Research Field] Interdisciplinary Research on Brain Pathology

[Note]

Work will be conducted as part of a research group, with the expectation that independent principal investigator (PI) status will be developed over time. Interdisciplinary research topics spanning the entire scope of BRI—rather than being limited to specific clinical departments or fields—are strongly encouraged. Such topics include, but are not limited to, the integrated analysis of multi-omics and imaging data, data-scientific applications of clinical information, and the exploration of new areas in brain science through collaboration with other departments within the University.

5. Qualifications

- (1) As a general rule, applicants should have obtained their PhD in the relevant field within the past five years, including those expected to obtain their degree by the appointment date.
- (2) Individuals who aspire to become independent PIs and lead cutting-edge research in the future.
- (3) Individuals with a proven track record of cutting-edge research in their field of expertise or those who have consistently published academic papers.
- (4) Individuals who understand the objectives of the Swing by Program and are committed to actively contributing.
- (5) Those who are able to live in Niigata City or its suburbs, and carry out his/her duty after being hired.

6. Terms of Employment

- (1) Work Location: Brain Research Institute, Niigata University (757 Asahimachidori 1-bancho, Chuo-ku, Niigata City, Niigata Prefecture, Japan)
- (2) Salary: Annual salary system based on “Regulations for New Annual Salary System for Faculties of Niigata University,” and other benefits as per the University rules and regulations
- (3) Employment Type:
 - Employment time : Basically, discretionary labor system for specialized work (deemed working hours: 7 hours and 45 minutes a day).
If the professional business-type recruiting labor system is not applied, a fixed working hour system will be applied, with a weekly working hours of 38 hours and 45 minutes and a daily working hours of 8:30 am to 5:15 pm (break time: 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm).
Whether a discretionary work system or a fixed working hour system is applied will be determined at the time of hiring.

- Holidays : Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, holidays around the end of the year and the beginning of the year, etc.
- (4) Health insurance: Provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Mutual Aid Association, Employment Insurance, Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance
- (5) Laboratory: Depending on the nature of the research activities, either a shared or a private room will be assigned. Shared laboratories and facilities are also available within BRI.

7. Support for Nurturing Young Researchers

In order to take advantage of the Swing-by Program, which is a collective recruitment system that transcends fields, we ask that you concurrently serve at the Institute for Research Administration for the first three years after your appointment and engage in the following activities

- To proactively develop networks across departments and disciplines.
- To conduct interdisciplinary exchange activities utilizing the established network and disseminate the results widely inside and outside the university.

In order to realize the above, the following activities and others are included.

- Planning and management of employer synchronization meetings and interdisciplinary exchange meetings
- At least once a year, exchange of opinions with the president and board members
- Training on teaching methods at universities

In addition, the University has the following research support systems, which we expect you to make active use of.

- Niigata University equipment sharing system
- Support for obtaining external funds such as ‘Kakenhi’
- Regular interdisciplinary exchange meetings
- Allocation of start-up research funds from the Swing by Program
- Other training for education and research activities

* In addition to the above, BRI plans to provide its own support, including access to shared infrastructure facilities at the Incubation Lab, the allocation of start-up funds as needed, and various forms of educational and research support—such as guidance from faculty mentors in securing external funding —among other initiatives.

8. Application Documents

Please submit your application online via the JREC-IN Portal. If you have difficulty applying online, you may send the following documents by postal mail.

For this call, “researchmap” will be used to review your academic achievements, external funding history, and major publications.

- (1) Curriculum Vitae (You must include your photograph for personal identification purpose).

In the "Awards and Penalties" section of your resume, please provide not only awards and criminal penalties, but also any past disciplinary actions taken against students due to sexual harassment or sexual violence, and if applicable, the specific reasons that led to such actions. If there is no column for "Awards and Disciplinary

Punishments," please indicate in Remarks, etc. whether or not there were any awards or disciplinary punishments and the reasons for them.

In the unlikely event that there is any misrepresentation of your career history, your employment may be cancelled or you may be subject to disciplinary action.

- (2) An outline detailing your current and past research activities as well as your future aspirations for education and research at Niigata University. Each of these should be approximately two A4 pages.
- (3) Contact information, including email addresses, of two references who can independently evaluate your academic achievements, character and conduct.
- (4) Research plan on Interdisciplinary Research on Brain Pathology (approximately two A4 pages). Please describe the purpose, background, and methods. Figures may be included where appropriate; color figures are acceptable.

*If applying by postal mail, please also send

- (5) A list of research achievements (Please organize your achievements by category, such as peer-reviewed papers, international conference papers, books and other publications, patents, and academic awards. The documents should be prepared on A4-sized paper.
- (6) Status of external funding (Please indicate whether you served as the principal investigator or a co-investigator).
- (7) Printouts or copies of up to three major research achievements.

*You may be required to submit additional documents if necessary.

*Please confirm that all the required documents are included in an envelope. Outside the envelope please specify clearly in red ink "Enclosed the application documents for 'Swing-by' program for ●● (your desired faculty)", and send it to the address shown below by registered post or courier service (in a way which allows you to confirm that your application has been received by us).

*Application documents will not be returned, and handled with strict confidentiality. Your personal information obtained by Niigata University in the process of the recruitment will be properly handled based on "Act on the Protection of Personal Information", and will not be used for any purpose other than the selection process.

9. Screening and Selection Schedule

- (1) Application Deadline: August 19, 2026. (5:00p.m. Japan time)
- (2) First screening: Late August to mid-September, 2026: Review of application documents and an interview (conducted either in person or online).
- (3) Notification of the result of the first selection: Late September 2026.
- (4) Schedule for final screening: Scheduled from October to November 2026.
Interview by University President and board members (Online interview might be conducted).

(5) Notification of the result:

Applicants will be notified of the result after the selection process is over.

* Applicants are responsible for all costs associated with the selection process, including travel and accommodation expenses.

10. Contact Information:

For any further information, please contact us by e-mail.

(1) Applications should be submitted to:

General Affairs Section, Administration Office
Brain Research Institute, Niigata University
757 Asahimachidori 1-cho, Chuo-ku, Niigata-shi, Niigata 951-8585
E-mail noukenshomu@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp

(2) Inquiry:

General Affairs Section, Administration Office
Brain Research Institute, Niigata University
E-mail noukenshomu@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp

11. Inquiries Regarding the Content of the Work:

General Affairs Section, Administration Office
Brain Research Institute, Niigata University
E-mail noukenshomu@adm.niigata-u.ac.jp

12. Others

*Niigata University has set up the “Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” in our campus, and is firmly committed to gender balance and supporting physically handicapped researchers (<https://diversity.nu.niigata-u.ac.jp/>).

*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.

*This call for applications is open to all, with no restrictions on specific research fields or professional backgrounds. Applications are welcomed from motivated researchers representing a wide range of research fields and diverse backgrounds.