

Associate Professor Position and Project Associate Professor  
at the Division of Multisensory Integration Systems,  
Department of System Neuroscience, National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS),  
National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS)

National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS), National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS), Okazaki, Japan, invites applications for the position of Associate Professor and Project Associate Professor. Please recommend suitable candidates and disseminate this posting to those who wish to apply.

1. Position

Associate Professor, one position  
Project Associate Professor, one position

2. Affiliation

(Upon hiring) Division of Multisensory Integration Systems, Department of System Neuroscience, NIPS, NINS  
(Range of change) Workplace designated by NINS

3. Research field

The Division of Multisensory Integration Systems, led by Dr. Ryo Sasaki, conducts systems neuroscience research especially aiming to clarify the neural circuit dynamics of cognitive functions underlying flexible decision-making and efficient control of sensorimotor transformations by using rodents and non-human primates, especially macaque monkeys as a model animal. By utilizing originally-created virtual reality (VR) system to realistically recreate various natural environments, Dr. Sasaki tries to clarify the brain mechanisms that lead to diverse cognitive behavioral patterns implemented by flexible multisensory integration, such as motion systems, spatial navigation systems, balancing system for risk-reward decisions, and tracking and avoidance systems.

To achieve these goals, we are looking for one associate professor who can conduct comparative research on connectomes between species, including neural circuit analysis of rodents and primates, using patch clamp techniques and gene transfer technologies under a supervision of Dr. Sasaki. Besides, we are also looking for one project associate professor who can measure, manipulate, and analyze neural activities using a combination of imaging and optogenetics, while quantifying cognitive behavior and physiological indices in rodents or primates performing VR tasks and under freely moving conditions. We welcome applications from highly motivated researchers with experience in research with animals such as rodents, primates, or both.

In addition, the successful applicant will be expected to actively engage in collaborative research with both domestic and overseas researchers and arrange research meetings and symposiums, which are important missions of NIPS. As a faculty member of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI), the successful applicant will be in charge of graduate education.

Of note, if the hiring position is a Project Associate Professor based on performance evaluation, the successful applicant will be expected to proceed with the following research project:

(i) “Elucidating the neural circuit dynamics underlying strategic behavior through VR multidimensional measurements,” funded by JST-CREST, part of the research area of “The Power of Life: Elucidating the Power of Life through Innovative Measurement and Analysis Techniques.”

#### 4. Job duties

(Upon hiring) As stated in #3 above.

(Range of change) Job duties designated by NINS

#### 5. Qualifications

Applicants should have a doctoral degree or equivalent research achievement.

#### 6. Period of appointment

Five years. Please note that reappointment is possible based on a performance review, but the total period of employment cannot exceed 10 years from the initial date of employment (in accordance with the institutional regulations). Details are described in the following website; <http://www.nips.ac.jp/recruit/index.html>.

If hired as a Project Associate Professor, the contract period for employment depends on the project, as follows:

(i) Elucidating the neural circuit dynamics underlying strategic behavior through VR multidimensional measurements (JST-CREST): renewed annually based on a performance review, but will be valid until March 31, 2030.

#### 7. Benefits and Conditions

Salary will be determined based on NINS’s payment standards, and according to the applicant’s career, ability, and other factors. Other conditions will be determined as stipulated by NINS.

#### 8. Application documents

(1) Curriculum vitae (please use the designated format\*)

- (2) Summary of past research, reason for applying, and future aspirations (approximately 1,000 words; No format specified)
- (3) List of publications (Appendix 1\*)
  - The publications should be numbered consecutively in order of publication date (chronological order, starting with the most recent publication at the top). The numbers of up to three main publications listed in (5) below should be circled.
  - The publication list must include the names of all authors, titles of papers, journal names, volume number, page number (beginning and end pages, or manuscript number in the case of Open Access Journal), year of publication, and doi.
  - Original papers and review articles (including books) should be listed separately.
  - Papers in press should be included; but papers under submission, those with preprints (e.g., bioRxiv), or those in preparation should not.
- (4) Other reference materials (Appendix 2\*)
- (5) PDF files of up to three main publications
- (6) Letter(s) of recommendation (\*)
  - At least one letter
  - The letter can be sent separately by the recommender.

\*Please download the designated formats for (1), (3), (4), and (6) from the following URL:

<https://www.nips.ac.jp/eng/recruit/index.html>

\*Documents (1) to (6) should be prepared in PDF format. Documents (1) to (5) should be merged into one single PDF file to be submitted electronically.

## 9. Application deadline

All application documents must be received by noon on April 6th (Mon.), 2026 (Japan Standard Time).

## 10. Date of appointment

As soon as possible after the successful applicant is determined.

## 11. Other notes

### (1) Gender equality

1. NIPS complies with the Act on Equal Employment Opportunities and is committed to promoting gender equality.
2. NIPS gives hiring priority to female applicants when they are recognized as equivalent during performance evaluations.
3. Maternity, childcare, or nursing care leave is taken into consideration, if applicants clearly indicate the period of leave on their CVs or other documents.

## (2) Handling of personal information

Personal information pertaining to applications will be managed appropriately in accordance with the Act on the Protection of Personal Information and related rules of NINS. It will be used only for the purpose of selection and employment.

## 12. How to submit the application documents

### (1) Submission process

- (a) Intention to apply: First, applicants must send an e-mail to indicate their intention to apply to the Personnel Section, Okazaki Administration Center (nips-recruit@orion.ac.jp). The e-mail should also include the applicant's "name," "current affiliation and position," "phone number," and "e-mail address."
- (b) The Personnel Section will inform the applicant how to submit their application documents as an electronic file.
- (c) If the applicant's recommender(s) wish to send the recommendation letter separately, the Personnel Section will inform the recommender of how to send the letter. For this purpose, applicants need to inform the Personnel Section of the recommender's(s') name(s), affiliation(s), and e-mail address(es) when they first indicate their intention to apply as detailed in (a) above.

### (2) Important notice

- (a) To protect personal information, do NOT send any application documents by e-mail.
- (b) Notification of the "Intention to apply" must be received by noon on March 30th (Mon.), 2026 (Japan Standard Time).

### (3) Contacts for inquiries

- (a) Inquiries regarding document submission, salary, and benefits

Personnel Section, Okazaki Administration Center

National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS)

38 Nishigonaka Myodaiji, Okazaki, Aichi, 444-8585, Japan

Phone: +81-564-55-7113

E-mail: r7113 @ orion.ac.jp (please remove the spaces before and after @)

- (b) Inquiries regarding research content

Ryo Sasaki, Ph.D.

Professor

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NIPS website: <https://www.nips.ac.jp/eng/>

Laboratory website: <https://www.nips.ac.jp/eng/research/group/post-67/>