

Project Assistant Professor Position at the Section of Brain Function Information,
Supportive Center for Brain Research, National Institute for Physiological Sciences,
National Institutes of Natural Sciences

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

1. Position

Project Assistant Professor, one position (Based on performance evaluation, the applicant may be hired as a postdoctoral researcher (Specially Appointed Research Employee))

2. Affiliation

(Upon hiring) Section of Brain Function Information, Supportive Center for Brain Research, NIPS, NINS

(Range of change) Workplace designated by NINS

3. Research field

The Section of Brain Function Information at NIPS investigates the relationship between brain structure and function by analyzing data acquired with various imaging and spectroscopy techniques using non-invasive Magnetic Resonance (MR) methodologies.

A new research project, “Visualization of Brain Metabolic Networks Using Multi-Nuclear MRS with Ultra-High Field MRI,” has been launched. This project is conducted as part of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Promotion of Development of a Joint Usage/Research System Project: Coalition of Universities for Research Excellence Program (CURE), “Frontier of Spin Life Sciences (Spin-L)”. Specifically, the project aims to visualize the metabolic dynamics of astrocytes and neurons using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and MR Spectroscopy (MRS) with nuclides such as ^{31}P and ^{13}C , in addition to the commonly measured ^1H , to deepen our understanding of the metabolic mechanisms supporting brain function. Furthermore, by integrating with functional MRI (fMRI) and diffusion MRI (dMRI) analyses of functional and structural connectivity, the project seeks to establish novel physiological indicators that link metabolism and neuronal networks.

We are recruiting one individual to conduct research, primarily focusing on high-resolution metabolic and functional measurements in small animals. This work will utilize the 11.7 Tesla preclinical MR system scheduled for installation at NIPS. Additionally, the successful candidate will participate in translational research that bridges animal models to humans by integrating MR measurements. We seek candidates with experience in MRI studies involving

both animal models and humans. Desirable attributes include an interest in brain metabolism and network analysis, and a willingness to participate in the development of new measurement and analysis techniques. However, direct experience is not necessarily required for highly motivated individuals who are willing to collaborate on new research projects.

If appointed as a Project Assistant Professor, the successful candidate will concurrently serve in the same capacity at the Core for Spin Life Sciences, Okazaki Collaborative Platform, NINS. In addition to the primary project, the role requires participation in separate research projects involving collaboration with domestic and international partner institutions participating in the Spin-L. Furthermore, the successful applicant will, in accordance with the institute's mission and employment framework, also have opportunities to engage in collaborative research with domestic and international researchers and participate in graduate education as a faculty member of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI).

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 (including those expected to obtain it by the time of employment) or possess equivalent research achievements.

6. Period of appointment

The contract period will be renewed annually based on a performance review, but will be valid until March 31, 2029. It may be renewed up to March 31, 2034, depending on the project status and the employee's work performance, attitude, and ability.

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 a single PDF file to be submitted electronically.

9. Application deadline

All application documents must be received by noon on January 8 (Thursday), 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 considered 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 wishes 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 December 25 (Thursday), 2025 (Japan Standard Time). However, the Personnel Section will be unable to respond from December 29, 2025 through January 3, 2026 due to the year-end and New Year holiday period.

(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

Masaki Fukunaga, Ph.D.

Project Professor

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

<https://www.nips.ac.jp/sbfi/>