

Project Assistant Professor Position at the Section of J-PEAKS and Regional Alliance
Promotion, Center for Research Collaboration,
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, two positions (Based on performance evaluation, the applicant may be hired as a postdoctoral researcher (Specially Appointed Research Employee))

2. Affiliation

(Upon hiring) Section of J-PEAKS and Regional Alliance Promotion, Center for Research Collaboration, NIPS, NINS
(Range of change) Workplace designated by NINS

3. Research field

NIPS is an inter-university research institute in the field of basic medicine that aims to elucidate the functions and mechanisms of the human body. NIPS will participate in the project entitled “Aiming to realize a next-generation research-intensive university that circulates research and social implementation by establishing itself as a world-leading research promotion and human resource development center for Body Sphere research” as a partner institution of Ritsumeikan University under the Program for Forming Japan’s Peak Research Universities (J-PEAKS), implemented by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. In this project, NIPS will contribute to the body sphere research and human resource development promoted by Ritsumeikan University by measuring brain and bodily activities during communication using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and optically pumped magnetometer-based magnetoencephalography (OPM-MEG).

Accordingly, we are recruiting one researcher each for the following two research areas (MRI or OPM-MEG), who will conduct these studies with motivation and collaboration.

(Research using MRI) We invite applications from individuals who can conduct inter-institutional hyperscanning experiments (simultaneous multi-person measurements) using fMRI in human participants, as well as perform data analysis. Applicants with experience in fMRI-based hyperscanning experiments and/or experimental system development are especially welcome.

While prior experience in MRI-based experimentation or data analysis is desirable, it is not strictly required. We welcome applicants who are highly motivated to take on new research challenges.

(Research using OPM-MEG) We invite applications from individuals who will use the OPM-MEG system, scheduled to be installed at NIPS, to experimentally measure brain and bodily signals during motor behavior and communication, and will conduct data analyses. We particularly welcome those who are eager to develop measurement technologies and analysis methods for low-constraint OPM-MEG recordings and to apply these methods to innovative research. Experience in MEG or electroencephalography (EEG) measurement and analysis is desirable but not essential; applicants with strong motivation to pursue new research topics are encouraged to apply.

In addition to the above main research themes, the successful candidate will also participate in another project aimed at developing novel methods to assess mental states and individual traits using OPM-MEG, EEG, and other physiological signals.

(Collaborative Research and Education)

Successful applicants will actively engage in collaborative research with Ritsumeikan University and other partner institutions, as well as contribute to graduate student training and education, which are key missions of this program. They will also have opportunities to participate in other NIPS research projects, joint research programs, and graduate education as a faculty member at the Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI), in accordance with the mission of NIPS and the framework of employment.

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

The contract period will be renewed annually based on a performance review, but will be valid until March 31, 2030. It may be renewed up to March 31, 2035, 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 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 include the applicant's "name," "current affiliation and position," "phone number," "e-mail address," and "desired research methodology (MRI or OPM-MEG)."
- (b) The Personnel Section will inform the applicant as to 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 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) Regarding document submission, salary, and benefits

Personnel section, Okazaki Administration Center, 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) Regarding research content

(Research using MRI)

Masaki Fukunaga, Ph.D.

Project Professor

Section of Brain Function Information

Supportive Center for Brain Research, NIPS, NINS

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

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(Research using OPM-MEG)

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Professor

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