

International Research Organization for Advanced Science & Technology (IROAST) “Foreign Postdoctoral Researcher Invitational Program for Strategic International Growth” Open Recruitment Guidelines (FY2024)

1. Aims

The International Research Organization for Advanced Science & Technology (IROAST) aims to create “international research centers where exceptional researchers gather from around the world.” Toward that end, it has made “recruiting exceptional professionals from overseas” a main pillar of its international strategy, seeking to create a brain-circulation center environment that brings together distinguished researchers from around Japan and overseas. As a part of such efforts, IROAST offers the “Foreign Postdoctoral Researcher Invitational Program for Strategic International Growth.” The aim of this program is to discover exceptional young postdoctoral researchers from overseas who are conducting creative research, and to employ them as fellows to be provided with research opportunities that help them grow into the next generation of leaders at the University and contribute to the circulation of great minds not only at the University but throughout Japan as well.

2. Position Title and Number of Openings

Postdoctoral researcher (equivalent to assistant professor) A few positions

3. Affiliation

Kumamoto University International Research Organization for Advanced Science & Technology

4. Eligible Fields

A person whose field of research aligns with the founding principles of IROAST* and the priority research areas for the second phase.**

* Founding principles: IROAST provides strategic oversight for the University's research units in the natural sciences and discovers/nurtures leading young professionals through international cutting-edge research, support for international joint research, natural science research-center development and reorganization, and a tenure track-based personnel system. Additionally, through collaboration with world-class research institutions, IROAST promotes the growth of distinctive world-class research and sharpening of new domains of research, as well as the fusion of research across departmental/divisional boundaries.

** Second-phase priority research areas: “Science and Technology for Building a Well-Being Society.” That is, world-leading research aimed at building a sustainable, safe, and secure society, as well as the data science-related research to support such a society, based on the 6th Science, Technology, and Innovation Basic Plan and the University's strengths in the natural sciences (advanced materials, environmental bioscience, disaster prevention and mitigation)

(Keywords) Human-friendly technologies: biotechnology & healthcare technology, environment-friendly technology, environmental bioscience
Strengthening resilience: safe/secure society, disaster prevention/mitigation, advanced materials, data science, AI, etc.

5. Job Description

- (1) Under the supervision and guidance of a host professor, acquire the research skills needed to become a PI researcher
- (2) Publish research results as papers in overseas academic journals or present them at international conferences
- (3) Deliver presentations and participate actively in discussions at seminars, exchange meetings, and other such opportunities held by the International Research Organization for Advanced Science & Technology

- (4) Participants may be asked to supervise research by students affiliated with the host faculty member's laboratory
6. Date of hire: September 1, 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter
7. Term of employment: From date of hire through March 31, 2025
(The contract term may be renewed based on an annual performance evaluation. In such cases, the contract will be on an annual basis, and in principle, renewal will be for a maximum of two years from the date of hire.)
8. Qualifications
Applicants must:
- (1) have foreign nationality and hold a doctoral or Ph.D. degree obtained from a foreign or Japanese graduate school (includes those who expect to obtain their degree by the time of employment); or have Japanese nationality and hold a doctoral or Ph.D. degree obtained from a foreign graduate school (includes those who expect to obtain their degree by the time of employment);
 - (2) have received their doctoral degree less than three years prior to April 1, 2024, in principle. (Prospective recipients are eligible to apply.);
*Excludes periods of interruption to research activities for three or more months due to childbirth, childcare, or caring for a child with illness or disability.
 - (3) be active in international research activities;
 - (4) have been informally accepted post-hire by a faculty member affiliated with IROAST (*1) or an IROAST-related faculty member (IROAST research cluster coordinators) at the University.
*1. Refer to the following URL
<https://iroast.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/staff/>
*2. Refer to the following URL.
https://iroast.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/research/research_clusters/
9. Application deadline: Friday, May 31, 2024 Must be received by deadline
10. Documents to submit
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| (1) CV (Form 1) | 1 copy |
| (2) List of achievements (Form 2) | 1 copy |
- Please list according to the following categories: original papers in peer-reviewed academic journals (including those accepted for publication); international conference papers; review papers; commentaries, etc.; dissertation; patents; talks (general talks); academic association awards, etc.; obtained research grants, etc. (if principal); other achievements. Clearly indicate all co-authored works.
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|---|--------|
| (3) Summary of research to date (approximately 500 words on A4 paper) | 1 copy |
| (4) Future plans and future aspirations (approximately 500 words on A4 paper) | 1 copy |
| (5) Names, affiliations, and contact information for up to two persons who may be asked to comment on the applicant | 1 copy |
- Please include their email address and phone number in the contact information.
- *The form can be downloaded from the following URL.
IROAST HP:
https://iroast.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/research/research_support_programs/postdoc-program/
11. How to submit applicant documents
Applicants should submit their documents to the prospective host professor via e-mail.
Digital files must be in Word format.
(Application documents and submissions will not be returned.)

12. Where prospective host professors should submit documents

Prospective host professors should send documents submitted by an applicant to the address below.
(The email subject line should be “Application for IROAST Fellow”)

Coordinator, International Research Organization for Advanced Science & Technology,
Administrative Division of Science and Technology, Kumamoto University
E-mail: szk-kiko@jimmu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

13. Selection method First round: Document screening, scheduled for early June 2024
 Second round: Interview screening, scheduled for mid-June 2024
 *Interviews will be conducted either in person or online.

14. Working conditions, etc.

- (1) Employment status: Kumamoto University fixed-term employee, postdoctoral researcher
(equivalent to assistant teacher)
- (2) Work arrangement: 08:30-17:15 (Work duration: 7 hours, 45 minutes per day)
- (3) Work location: Kumamoto University Kurokami Campus (2-39-1 Kurokami, Chuo-ku,
Kumamoto City)
- (4) Overtime work: Is there overtime, late-night, or holiday work? YES
- (5) Wages, etc.: Pay is issued in accordance with the University’s Regulations Concerning
Wages for Fixed-Term Employees
(From 9,880 yen per day. Depends on age. Allowances provided. Bonus paid
twice annually in June and December)
- (6) Insurance: Employees are enrolled in mutual aid association of MEXT (short-term
benefits services), pension insurance, and employment insurance, and are
entitled to medical benefits, pension benefits, and unemployment benefits.
- (7) Employer: National University Corporation Kumamoto University

15. Other

- (1) In accordance with the regulations of National University Corporation Kumamoto University,
personal information in the application documents will be used only for employment screening
and not for any other purpose. Please note that application documents and submissions will not
be returned.
- (2) Kumamoto University promotes gender equality. Selection will be made in an appropriate
manner in accordance with the spirit of the Basic Act for Gender Equal Society.
(Please see our website for details: <http://gender.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/>)
- (3) Working is not permitted until a residency status allowing work in Japan is obtained.