

**7th Job Openings for Tenure-Track Associate Professor Positions through the HIRAKU Consortium, Japan (Applied Chemistry / Associate Professor (Tenure-Track) / Yamaguchi University)**

March 2017

Hiroshima University, Yamaguchi University, and Tokushima University have jointly established a consortium called “Home for Innovative Researchers and Academic Knowledge Users (HIRAKU).” The consortium focuses on human resource development and the allocation of young researchers and graduate students in cooperation with firms, universities, and institutes in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions. Supported by Funds for the Development of Human Resources in Science and Technology through Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the consortium aims to improve regional potential in science, technology, and innovation. As a main part of its activities, the member organizations of the Consortium has launched a joint call for applications for tenure-track researcher's positions from promising young researchers within and outside Japan in order to promote in these regions them and encourage them to become distinguished researchers. For these purposes, the ideal candidate for the position will be required to conduct active independent research in the specified research fields as a tenure-track associate professor at each university, collaborate with diverse actors, contribute to the Consortium, and develop research careers in an uncertain world.

For this job opening, Yamaguchi University invites applications for one full-time tenure-track associate professor position in Applied Chemistry.

**1. Number of Positions Available, Areas of Research and Institution**

**(1) Job classification:** Associate Professor (tenure-track)

**(2) Number of positions available:** One

**(3) Areas of Research:**

Applied Chemistry

(Applicants are assumed to have expertise in Physical chemistry and Catalysis.)

**(4) Affiliation (Appointment):**

Graduate School of Sciences and Technology for Innovation, Yamaguchi University

## **2. Application Requirements**

Applicants must satisfy all of the following requirements.

- ① Applicants should hold a PhD that was acquired after April 1, 2006, or have equivalent research experience, and should be under 40 years old (\*1) as of April 1, 2016.
- ② Applicants should be able to communicate in English.
- ③ Applicants should be able to lecture and provide research supervision to undergraduate and graduate students in Japanese or English.
- ④ Applicants should be able to begin working immediately after October 1, 2017, and no later than the end of the Japanese fiscal year 2017.
- ⑤ Applicants should actively contribute to science, technology, and innovation.

\*1: Applicants who participated in the mandatory clinical practice in Japan are eligible to apply unless they are 43 years old or older as of April 1, 2016. Since this project is supported by Funds for the Development of Human Resources in Science and Technology under MEXT, these age restrictions are subject to exceptional treatment by the Ordinance for Enforcement of the “Koyou taisaku” Act 1-3 (1-(3-2)).

## **3. Employment Conditions**

### **(1) Term of Appointment**

-The term of appointment is from October 1, 2017, to September 30, 2022.

-An associate professor (tenure-track) of this job opening could possibly change his or her workplace within the consortium organizations through an agreement between the consortium and the associate professor. In such a case, the term of appointment will remain the same, and the associate professor will adhere to the standards of each of organization.

-The associate professor will receive midterm evaluations by September 2020 and final evaluations by March 2022. The associate professor who pass his or her tenure reviews with Yamaguchi University will receive tenured positions, which are on a permanent basis with a mandatory retirement age.

-Depending on the final evaluation by the consortium, an associate professor of this position could be appointed by an organization that participates in the consortium through an agreement between the associate professor and the organization.

### **(2) Annual Salary**

- ① Annual salary, including allowances, will be approximately 4,800,000-6,600,000 yen depending on the successful applicant’s research

experience (salaries will be calculated according to the annual salary rules of Yamaguchi University).

- ② Various types of insurance (health, mutual aid pension fund, unemployment, and accident compensation) are available to an associate professor of Yamaguchi University.

### **(3) Work Conditions**

- ① The employment conditions and regulations of Yamaguchi University shall apply as deemed appropriate.
- ② The first place of employment will be located on the Tokiwa campus of Yamaguchi University.
- ③ A discretionary working-hour system is in place for professional work. This means an associate professor can manage their own working hours, although formal working hours are considered to be 7 hours, 45 minutes a day.
- ④ A maternity and childcare leave system will be applied.

### **4. Work Description**

An associate professor of this position will be required below as an associate professor's work of each organization and contributions for the consortium.

- ① Conducting research activities inside and outside the consortium based on the research plan ("research effort" should be more than 60%)
- ② Actively working to obtain external research funds
- ③ Producing research outputs (e.g., publication in SCI journals and/or patents)
- ④ Disseminating research outputs to society, including presenting results at international conferences
- ⑤ Giving lectures and advising undergraduate and graduate students in their research
- ⑥ Participating in activities related to external research funds (even research activities related to external funds will be included as part of the research effort)
- ⑦ Being involved in other duties as considered necessary by each organization
- ⑧ Planning and operating international meetings, symposiums, and network activities organized or co-organized by the consortium
- ⑨ Attending training, lectures on faculty development, etc., conducted by organizations in the consortium
- ⑩ Being involved in other duties as considered necessary by the head of the executive committee of the consortium

## **5. Special Notices Related to the Consortium**

### **(1) Role of the consortium in this job openings, processes for employment and career development in the consortium**

- Application materials should be submitted to the secretariat of the HIRAKU consortium. The council of the consortium will determine the successful candidates after consulting with the organizations that will accept the candidates. The successful candidates will then be hired by the organizations as a faculty member (hereinafter referred to as a Consortium Associate Professor).
- The term of the Consortium Associate Professor will be same as 3(1).
- For the betterment of his or her development as a researcher, a Consortium Associate Professor might be able to conduct his or her research at other organizations inside or outside of the consortium. Such arrangements should be made through an agreement between the consortium and the Consortium Associate Professor.
- Consortium Associate Professors are expected not only to conduct excellent research but also to be involved in consortium-related teaching, networking, and training activities to further their career development as researchers.
- Consortium Associate Professors are expected to provide experiences and information for the consortium through the activities described above, via evaluation and training processes with their mentors in order to assist us in improving this system.
- Thus, applicants will be evaluated based on not only their research results and potential but also their ability to collaborate with diverse actors and develop their research careers by utilizing the research and training opportunities described above.

### **(2) Research Funds**

During the first fiscal year, about 4,000,000 yen (\*2) will be provided to each Consortium Associate Professor as a start-up fund. During the second fiscal year, about 2,000,000 yen (\*2) will also be provided (the total amount will be about 6,000,000 yen). In addition, during the term of appointment, about 500,000 yen per year (\*2) will be provided for the consortium activities such as for training and registration costs for domestic or international conferences. These funds must be used in accordance with the regulations of the workplace, the funding agencies, and the Japanese government.

\*2: The amount could change depending on the grant-in-aid situation.

### **(3) Personnel Support**

- ① Research and teaching education will be supported by mentors who are senior researchers in the consortium.

② Other research and teaching activities will be supported by university research administrators (URAs).

#### **(4) Additional Remarks**

Personal research spaces (offices and laboratories) will be preferentially allocated for Consortium Associate Professors.

## **6. Application Materials**

### **(1) Application Documents**

- ① Curriculum vitae (including expected research field and workplace as bellow, using application form 7)
  - Graduate School of Sciences and Technology for Innovation, Yamaguchi University
  - Applied Chemistry
- ② List of research activities (e.g., books, reviews, original papers, conference proceedings); attach copies of no more than five major papers
- ③ Summary of past research activities (up to four pages on A4 paper including figures)
- ④ Research plan at the consortium (up to four pages on A4 paper including figures, a future research plan for five years to come)
- ⑤ Aspirations for contributions to science, technology, and innovation (one page on A4 paper)
- ⑥ List of references

\*All of the above documents must be written in English or Japanese and be filled in the application form. The application form can be downloaded from the following URL: [http://home.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/hiraku/younger\\_tenuretrack/](http://home.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/hiraku/younger_tenuretrack/)

### **(2) Inquiries about Applications**

Please contact us with any questions by e-mail at:

General information and procedure about this job opening:

[consortium-koubo@office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp](mailto:consortium-koubo@office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp)

(Secretariat of the HIRAKU consortium)

Specific information for the research environment about this job opening:

[nkymm@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp](mailto:nkymm@yamaguchi-u.ac.jp)

(Masaharu Nakayama, Head of Department, Department of Applied Chemistry Faculty of Engineering, Yamaguchi University)

### **(3) Protection of Private Information**

Private information related to the application is protected by the Personal

Information Protection Law and the consortium's regulations (for the moment, we will invoke the regulations of Hiroshima University). Personal information related to submitted documents may be provided to other organizations in the consortium, through the council and/or executive committee of the consortium, with strict measures to avoid information leakage.

## **7. Deadline for Submission and the Selection Process**

### **(1) Deadline for Submission**

The deadline for submitting the application is 10 a.m. on May 15, 2017 (Japan Standard Time).

### **(2) Submission**

All documents should be submitted in PDF format with the file name Consortium(7)\_(last name of applicant\_first initial) (e.g., Consortium(7)\_(Einstein\_A)) to the following e-mail address:

**consortium-koubo@office.hiroshima-u.ac.jp**

(Secretariat of the HIRAKU consortium)

The total file size must not exceed 10 MB. Larger documents may be submitted in separate files numbered as follows: 1/2, 2/2, etc. File compression must not be used. The secretariat will send a confirmation of receipt to each applicant. It is strongly advisable to make sure this confirmation message arrives after submitting the application.

### **(3) Selection Schedule**

- ① The first screening (by the specific research area)
  - The results of the first screening will be announced by e-mail to applicants around late July 2017.
  - Successful candidates from the first screening will be given information about the second screening.
  - There is a possibility that an interview will also be conducting during the first screening. In this case, the transportation cost for the interview will not be reimbursed.
- ② The second screening (by interview) will be conducted around August 2017.
  - The results of the second screening will be announced to the applicants by the end of August 2017.

### **(4) Selection Standards**

The first and second screening will evaluate in terms of research activities, the originality and realization of research plans, and potential research impact (e.g.,

contribution to science, technology, and innovation).

## **8. Additional Remarks**

(1) We strongly welcome applications from female and international researchers.

(2) Yamaguchi University enforces support for female researchers.

① Each female Consortium Associate Professor will receive guidance related to job environment preparation and maintenance via the Yamaguchi University Support Office for Female Researchers in collaborations with Gender Equality Promotion Office and each Department.

② Women will be preferred among candidates with equal qualifications for the gender equality promotion.

(References)

Yamaguchi University:

<http://www.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp/english.html>

Yamaguchi University Gender Equality Promotion Office (Japanese):

[http://www.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp/institute/\\_3694.html](http://www.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp/institute/_3694.html)

Yamaguchi University Support Office for Female Researchers

<http://wr-shien.kenkyu.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp/en/>

<Home pages related to this job opening>

HIRAKU consortium:

<http://home.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/hiraku/en/>

Yamaguchi University Graduate School of Sciences and Technology for Innovation:

<http://www.gsti.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp/en/>

Yamaguchi University Faculty of Engineering:

<http://www.gse.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp/EN/>

Yamaguchi University Tenure track program related to the consortium (Japanese)

<http://kenkyu.yamaguchi-u.ac.jp/tenure/faculty/>