

Tenure Track Assistant Professor Position in Environmental Medicine

Kochi Medical School of Kochi University invites outstanding applicants, with a track record of developing innovative diagnosis of disease conditions, medical prophylaxis, and treatment in Environmental Medicine to apply for a tenure track assistant professor position (leading to a tenured position), funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

The appointment will be for five years, and the successful candidate is expected to lead a new independent research group at the Department of Environmental Medicine. Additionally, he/she will be required to participate in research projects in the Centre for Innovative and Translational Medicine.

At the beginning of the fifth year of employment, there will be an assessment of performance. If the outcome of the assessment is positive, the assistant professor will be given tenure. (The University will continue to evaluate the competency of the tenured faculty every 5 years in accord with university policy.)

Research at Department of Environmental Medicine

The Department of Environmental Medicine welcomes applications from all researchers interested in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases caused by environmental factors. One of the major research projects of the Department of Environmental Medicine is Japan Environment and Children's Study (JECS). Kochi University is one of the fifteen regional centers all over Japan. Launched in January 2012, JECS is one of the largest national birth cohort studies in the world. The total number of the participants over the three-year recruitment period will be 100,000, and 6,000 for Kochi Prefecture. The study follows up the participants from the pregnancy period till the children reach 13 years old. Endpoints include 1) pregnancy/reproductive health, 2) birth defects, 3) mental/neuronal development, 4) immunity/allergies, and 5) metabolism/endocrine. To verify the hypotheses, the study will measure the outcomes and will evaluate the environmental exposures. It also investigates confounders, such as other environmental, genetic, social, and lifestyle factors. The Department is in the process of the preparation of its own additional research projects, and welcomes all researchers to apply with a particular interest in this field.

Job Description

The newly appointed faculty member will conduct his/her own research in environmental medicine, public health, international health, or pediatrics. Examples of available facilities are as follows: a DNA sequencer, a confocal laser scanning microscope, an electron microscopy, a PCR, a real-time PCR, an HPLC, mass spectrometer, ultracentrifuge, flow cytometer, lyophilizer, ICP-MS, and animal/RI experimentation facilities.

He/she will be exempted from administrative and managerial tasks throughout the contract period, and from lecturing/supervising at university/graduate school in the first year. From the second year, he/she will lecture at the graduate level and will supervise undergraduate/postgraduate students with the main supervisor. The tasks include:

- Research activities following the research plan submitted in the application
- Lectures in his/her specialties at undergraduate and graduate level
- Supervision of graduate students
- Acquiring external funding
- Presenting papers locally and internationally at conferences.
- Active involvement in local and global communications/contributions
- Jobs assigned by Head of Centre for Innovative and Translational Medicine.

Qualifications: The applicant should be PhD qualified within the last ten years (as of October the 1st, 2012) in environmental medicine, public health, international health, or pediatrics. MD degree holders are preferable, but not essential. All nationalities are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be fluent in English and should be willing to learn Japanese.

Conditions of Employment

The contract will be for five years renewable with every fiscal year. The full-time salary ranges from 300,000 to 500,000 Japanese Yen per month, depending on the qualifications and work experience of the applicant. (A retirement allowance is also included in the monthly salary.) Employment conditions, including commuting and housing allowance, comply with Kochi University's employment policy. He/she will be covered with health/occupational injury/unemployment insurance and be a member of the mutual pension. The position is based at Oko Campus (Kohasu, Oko-cho, Nankoku-city, Kochi, Japan).

Research Funding and Support System

(1) Research Funding

(FY 2012) Maximum 10 million yen / (FY2013) Appx. 5 million yen as Start-up.

(FY2014-) Appx. 2 million yen per year.

* 15million yen per year will be added by MEXT in addition to the funding if he/she is selected as an excellent researcher by MEXT.

(2) Supporting staff

Kochi University will provide technicians' support shared at the mutual research centers.

(3) Child care

Kochi University will take it into consideration with regard to the timing of the tenure track evaluation and extension of the contract, when he/she needs to take some time off due to family events, such as parental leave. There is on-site child care.

(4) Accommodation for international researcher

Accommodation on campus at International Communication House is available for an international researcher to rent, if there is a vacancy at the time.

Mid-term and Final Evaluations

There will be the mid-term evaluation in FY2014, and the final evaluation in the fifth year (FY2016). The candidate will be promoted to a tenured position, if the results of the evaluation are satisfactory. If the results of the mid-term evaluation are excellent, he/she will be promoted to a tenured position before the end of the five years.

If the university decides that the candidate is not appropriate for a tenured position, the safety-net system will support him/her by offering a second evaluation opportunity or by helping him/her to seek a position outside of Kochi University. Additionally, the candidate can appeal in writing within twenty days if he/she has objections to the decision.

The "Tenure Evaluation Committee", consisting of 7 members (including 2 from outside), will comprehensively assess the candidate from various perspectives, such as research results, management skills, education and supervision abilities, social contribution, and

achievements compared to the original research plan. If the Committee decides he/she fulfills the requirements, it will report to the Executive Committee for the final approval.

Application Documents

- 1 Application form (to be downloaded): to be filled in in English/Japanese
- 2 List of research achievements (original papers, reviews, books, presentations in conferences, patent, etc.)
 - List chronologically (new to old).
 - Underline the applicant's name and add * if he/she is the corresponding author.
 - Original papers: List all the author's names, titles of articles and the journal, the volume, the first and the last page numbers, the year of publication, the impact factor, and the information on peer review.
 - Co-authored books: write the chapter and the page numbers responsible for.
 - Five major publications: indicate them with ○ in front.
 - Presentation at conferences: list only major ones, such as those at international conferences, and those he/she was invited as a guest presenter/panelist.
- 3 Summary of research accomplishments
Explain the connection between the research and the five major papers (those with ○). If he/she is not the first/corresponding author, write his/her contribution to the papers.
- 4 External Research Funding (governmental and non-governmental ones)
List all the external funding. For competitive research funding, such as Kaken, provide the information on the amount raised as well as his/her role, such as Principle Investigator or not.
- 5 Five-year research plan and goals, and plans to acquire the external funding.
- 6 A copy of the major publications with ○. (Maximum five papers)
- 7 Contact information of two referees.
- 8 Additional documents may be requested in the selection procedure.
 - ※ The applicant can use any format in A4 for all the documents but 1. Application form.

Application procedure

Interested applicants should send a PDF file containing all the above documents (no.1-6) in one file to tt-koubo@kochi-u.ac.jp . The title of the email needs to be “Application for Tenure Track Position.” If the total size of the email exceeds 20MB, send the emails separately with the number 1/2, 2/2 at the end of the title. He/she should notify the university if acknowledgement of a receipt does not arrive after 7 business days.

Personal information is protected by Japanese national law and Kochi University’s policy. Applicants should be aware, however, the University may contact referees as needed.

Schedule

- Deadline: 17:00 JST Friday, August the 24th, 2012.
- First screening: In August.
All candidates will be contacted by email during August. The successful applicants will also receive details, such as the interview schedule.
- Second screening: Interview(s) will take place in early to mid-September at Oko Campus of Kochi University.
- Selection Criteria: The applicants will be assessed comprehensively, from various viewpoints such as research accomplishments, ability, and potential as a researcher, and teamwork skills.

Contacts

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Inquiries are handled only when sent to the email written above.