

Call for Applications: Program-Specific Junior Associate Professor, Developmental Biology Group (Hiiragi Group)

Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Biology (ASHBi), KUIAS Kyoto University

25 December 2025

Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Biology (ASHBi) was selected by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) as a part of the World Premier International Research Center (WPI) Program, and it was established within Kyoto University Institute for Advanced Study (KUIAS) on 30 October 2018 with Mitinori Saitou, a world-leading developmental biologist, at its head.

ASHBi is now looking for a Program-Specific Junior Associate Professor in the laboratory of Professor Takashi Hiiragi (Developmental Biology Group). Details are as follows.

1. Job Titles:

Program-Specific Junior Associate Professor

2. Number of Positions:

One (1)

3. Affiliation:

Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Biology (ASHBi), KUIAS Kyoto University

Yoshida Konoe-cho, Sakyo, Kyoto 606-8501 Japan

[range of alteration] If the university permits or requests teleworking, the place of work includes the home, etc.

4. Eligibility:

Essential requirements are as follows:

1. The candidate has a Ph.D.
2. The candidate has excellent research achievements in the related fields and ability to supervise postdoctoral fellows and graduate students.
3. The candidate should have the ability to develop and manage his/her research projects.
4. He/she has high-level communication skills in English.

5. Starting Date:

April 1, 2026 or the earliest possible date thereafter (adjustable according to individual requirements)

6. Term:

From the day you take the position (negotiable) to March 31, 2027.

In and after the following year, the contract can be renewed annually depending on achievements until March 31, 2028. (Renewal of the contract is determined by taking into account the work volume at the time of the expiration of the contract period, work performance, attitude, ability, the status of progress of work performed, and the acceptance of the external funding for which the employee is employed.)

Initial probationary employment period: six (6) months

7. Job Descriptions:

ASHBi will investigate the core concepts of human biology with a focus on genome regulation and disease modeling, creating a foundation of knowledge for developing innovative and unique human-centric therapies. The key goals are: 1) to achieve outstanding research in key individual themes in human biology in the area of reproduction, development, growth and aging as well as heredity and evolution; 2) to elucidate the principles for the emergence of species differences among humans, non-human primates, and rodents for proper extrapolation of the findings in model organisms to humans; 3) to generate primate models for key gene functions and intractable diseases; 4) to reconstitute key human cell lineages and tissues in vitro and validate their properties based on integrative information; and 5) to contribute to formalize an ethics for the use of human/non-human primate materials and create a philosophy to direct the values of the Institute's research outcomes.

The institute is seeking suitable candidates for Program-Specific Junior Associate Professor to accelerate its mission. Developmental Biology Group (Hiiragi Group) aims to understand the mechanisms of early development conserved or distinct across mammalian species by using embryos. In particular, the group will gain a fundamental understanding of the development from fertilization to implantation. The successful candidates will have strong expertise in quantitative biology and interdisciplinary approaches, including mathematics or physics. The candidate is expected to perform high-level research and act as the leading researcher in human biology and the related fields, in a stimulating international research environment.

8. Working Conditions:

Five (5) working days per week (days off: Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays, year-end and New Year holidays, and Foundation Day, as per University guidelines)

Working hours: 38 hours 45 minutes per week under a discretionary labor system.

•If the discretionary work system for specialized work is not applied, the employee works from 8:30AM to 5:15PM with one hour break (12:00-13:00).

•Overtime may be required when necessary.

9. Salary:

Paid annually in compliance with the rules of Kyoto University.

10. Allowance:

No allowance (such as for commuting, housing, bonuses, etc.) will be provided.

11. Social Insurance:

National Public Service Mutual Aid Association health policy

Employee's pension insurance

Employment insurance

Worker's accident insurance

12. Deadline:

Open until the position is filled.

13. Evaluation Procedure:

Submitted applications will be reviewed, if necessary followed by interviews for short-listed candidates.

14. Application Method:

Application documents must be prepared in English according to the "**Application Guidelines**", and submitted as email attachments.

Submit via email to: ASHBi-recruit@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp

15. Additional Information:

Submitted documents are used only for the purpose of applicant screening and hiring. Personal information will not be disclosed, transferred or loaned to a third party under any circumstances without just cause.

Kyoto University promotes gender equality. As part of our university's measures to promote gender equality based on the provisions of Article 8 of the "Act on Securing Equal Opportunities and Treatment for Men and Women in the Field of Employment (Equal Employment Opportunity Act for Men and Women)", we will give priority to hiring women, if the evaluations are the same in the selection process. To prevent passive smoking, Kyoto University prohibits smoking at indoors and outdoors at all campuses except for the designated smoking areas.

Application Guidelines

Follow the instructions below to prepare and submit your application. Write in English, and use a 10.5 point font or larger. You may include photographs or charts in color or black and white. Please submit your application via email.

Deadline: Open until the position is filled
Submit by email to: ASHBi-recruit@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp
(Related documents should be sent as email attachments)

Applications with serious deficiencies and/or false information will not be evaluated.

1. Basic Information (CV)

- (1) Name
- (2) Home Address and Contact Information (phone, email, etc.)
- (3) Recent Photograph
- (4) Date of Birth, Age, and Gender
- (5) Academic Degree (including date of acquisition)
- (6) Nationality
- (7) Current Appointment (your current affiliation, department, and position)
- (8) Education (begin with high school and list education)
- (9) Professional Experience
- (10) Awards
- (11) Position Sought (host research group name, job title)
- (12) Contact details of two (2) references (name, affiliation, position, address, e-mail address)

2. Research Proposal (within 5 pages)

Concisely describe the research objectives to be achieved during your time at ASHBi, focusing on the unique ideas and methods you will use to reach them.

3. Reasons for applying for ASHBi (within 1 page)

1. Why are you applying to ASHBi?
2. Explain how you will contribute to furthering the research activities at ASHBi.

4. List of Publications/Grants

Describe your publications in reverse chronological order, including published papers, books, invited lectures, awards, patents, etc. Describe the grants you obtained.

Contact

Email: ASHBi-recruit@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Address: Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Biology (ASHBi) KUIAS, Kyoto University
Yoshida Konoe-cho, Sakyo, Kyoto 606-8501 Japan