

University of Miyazaki
Call for applications for a tenure track researcher position in 2024
(Research field: applied biochemistry)

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● **General Information**

The University of Miyazaki has set up an organization titled "Institute for Tenure Track Promotion (ITTP)" for promoting a tenure track (TT) system.

One tenure track position for young scientists is now being offered. Research funds and an independent research environment will be available to the successful applicant. The researcher will be expected to effectively and successfully develop his/her research during a period of five years. If the appointed TT researcher achieves excellent performance during the term of employment, he/she will be promoted to an associate professor position, in principle, in the related faculty or institute through the tenure examination conducted the fifth year. The application guidelines are listed below.

In light of the implementation of gender equality promotion projects at our university, we are looking forward to active applications from women.

Reference homepage <https://www.miyazaki-u.ac.jp/ttkikou/overview/>

● **Application guidelines**

1. Recruitment field and position

Research areas: applied biochemistry

In the field of applied biochemistry, a research area based on synthetic biology, metabolic engineering, biological engineering and applied biochemistry that can broadly cover everything from microorganisms to higher animals and plants.

Position: Tenure-track assistant professor, tenure-track lecturer, tenure-track associate professor (Based on research results)

2. Qualifications

(1) A doctoral degree is required. The candidate should be actively promoting education and research in the field of mechanical engineering research, and also have the ability and strong interest to contribute to regional, social, and international activities. In addition, the candidate should have the capacity to supervise graduate and undergraduate students.

(2) If the Excellent Researcher Program is implemented in 2024 and our university applies to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for this requirement and is approved, it will be a requirement for application to become an Excellent Researcher in the Excellent Researcher Program. The application period for Excellent Researcher status is from mid-May to mid-June every year. For details, please see the homepage below.

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Excellent Researcher Project
Homepage <https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-le/>

- (3) The applicant must be able to communicate in English. The TT researcher must also have the ability to communicate in Japanese. This is because he/she will have to teach students after being promoted to a tenured position.

3. Research funds and environment, participation in education, and other support systems

To enable the TT researcher to develop all-round academic capabilities, the following conditions will be provided.

(1) Research funds

An annual research fund is 2.5 million yen including a start-up fund for the first fiscal year (if a successful applicant is already a staff member of the University of Miyazaki, this will be 2 million yen), 1 million yen for the second, third and fourth years and 600 thousand yen for the fifth year. If the starting day of employment is the middle of the year, this fund is supplied quarterly in the first and the last year. And if the candidate is a LEADER researcher, the research fund should be provided for the LEADER program during the first two years. The research environment improvement costs related to the Excellent Researcher Program are provided to employing institutions to help young researchers build a system in which they can carry out research stably and independently.

(2) Research environment

- (a) The TT researcher will belong to the Institute of Tenure Track Promotion during his/her TT term.
- (b) The TT researcher can concentrate on his/her research with an effort of more than 60%.
- (c) Dedicated research space will be provided to the TT researcher.
- (d) Mentoring is provided by a coordinator and "troika supporters," consisting of two faculty members of the university and one researcher outside the university.

(3) Participation in education

- (a) From the second year, the TT researcher will be partially involved in the education of undergraduate and graduate students to gain teaching skills and experience.
- (b) The TT researcher will be able to supervise graduate student(s) who wish to study with the TT researcher (by negotiation).

(4) Participation in administrative tasks

The TT researcher is basically exempted from management tasks.

(5) Other support systems

- (a) If a female TT researcher gives birth she is entitled to maternity leave. Child-care leave, nursing leave, a nursing room, and a nursery school are also available. Female TT researchers will be assisted by the Kiyohana Athena Support Room. See details at the following URL:
https://www.miyazaki-u.ac.jp/kiyohana/r_career_2/
- (b) International TT researchers will be supported by the English-speaking staff of the ITTP Office and the Global Support Office of the Center for International Relations. The University also provides Japanese language classes for international researchers and their families.

Note: To promote a gender-equal society, we strongly encourage female candidates to apply.

4. Salary and other conditions

(1) Salary will be based on the annual salary system of the University of Miyazaki. Health insurance, long-term care insurance, employee pensions, employment insurance and occupational injury insurance will be paid by individual employees and the University of Miyazaki under relevant Japanese legislation.

(2) Term of employment: 5 years

(3) Evaluations: Research progress and achievements regarding the established goals will be evaluated in the third year of the term (interim evaluation), and again in the fifth year (tenure examination). A TT researcher who demonstrates (in the tenure examination) his/her excellent scientific achievements with regard to the criteria for the appointment of a tenured researcher at the university will, in principle, be promoted to an associate professor position in the corresponding faculty of the university. If the interim evaluation assesses the research progress of the TT researcher as excellent, the university may offer a tenured position in the fourth year of the term. The ruled salary system of University of Miyazaki will be applied to the researcher who will be promoted to the tenured position.

(4) Evaluation criteria:

Interim evaluation criteria

(a) Self-evaluation of the achievements towards goals which will be established at the time of appointment

(b) Research achievements with regard to the publication of scientific papers.

(c) Independent research activity, including the status of funding from outside of the university

(d) Leadership and research networking

(e) International skills for researchers

(f) Teaching skills for undergraduate and graduate students

Tenure examination criteria:

Progress/improvement after the interim evaluation of (a) - (f).

(g) Future potential (including your perspective, how to contribute to the future of the University of Miyazaki)

If the TT researcher has taken childcare leave, the duration will be taken into consideration in the tenure examination.

5. Application documents

(1) Application Form

Please download the application form in <https://www.miyazaki-u.ac.jp/ttkikou/en/application-information> and complete it.

(2) List of publications and presentations

Include original articles in peer-reviewed journals, reviews, books, presentations at academic and scientific meetings, etc. For original articles, please underline the applicant's name and indicate the corresponding author(s) using [*].

Representative publications listed in (6) given below must be indicated using [X] at the head of the respective sentence. For presentations at scientific meetings, list only major presentations, including an invited oral presentation.

(3) List of research fund(s) received, awards, patents, etc.

For research funds, specify whether you were the principal investigator or a research team member

(4) Summary of research accomplishments

Describe your role in the representative publications. If you are neither the first nor the corresponding author of the publications, clarify your contribution (Maximum two pages, font size more than 10.5 points, figures included.)

(5) Five-year research plan and targeted goal(s)

(Maximum two pages, font size more than 10.5 points, figures included)

- (6) Reprints of the representative publications (5 articles or less)
- (7) Letter of recommendation from 2 referees (one page for each is appropriate)

6. How to apply

Please send application documents (1)-(6) in PDF format by e-mail to the Tenure Track Promotion Office (see the e-mail address in Section 7). When submitting documents, please put the "Application for applied biochemistry TT position" in the subject line. Confirmation of receipt of application documents will be sent by e-mail within seven working days. If you do not receive the e-mail, please notify us.

Recommendation letters (7) should be sent directly to our office from referees by post (to the address specified in Section 7) or by e-mail. Applicants must include a list of the two referees with their addresses and contact information in the application form.

Personal information is protected under Japanese law and the rules of the University of Miyazaki. Further inquiries may be made from our office, if necessary, during the selection process.

Note: Application documents will not be returned. Travel expenses for the applicants attending the interview cannot be provided by the University of Miyazaki.

7. Selection schedule

- (1) Closing date for submission of application documents (1)-(7) by e-mail: 5:00 pm, 26th of June, 2024 (Wednesday, Japan Standard Time)
- (2) First screening involving review of documentation: Early July, 2024
- (3) Second screening involving interviews and seminar presentations: 11th (Thursday) of July, 2024
- (4) Final selection: 1st (Thursday) of August, 2024, (scheduled)
- (5) Expected starting date as a TT researcher: 1st of October, 2024

8. Other important considerations

Gender and nationality are not a concern when applying, but from the standpoint of promoting gender equality, our university will give priority to hiring female researchers if they receive similar evaluations during the screening process.

9. Contact information for application submissions and inquiries

Tenure Track Promotion Office / ITTP
Organization for Promotion of Career Management
University of Miyazaki
Miyazaki 889-2192, Japan
TEL: +81-985-58-7859
E-mail: ttooffice@of.miyazaki-u.ac.jp
URL: <https://www.miyazaki-u.ac.jp/ttkikou/>

Communication by email is preferred.

*Please note that we are available for responding only on business days (this excludes Saturdays, Sundays, and Japanese national holidays).