

Recruitment of Specially Appointed Assistant Professor (Research) Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University

Position Overview The Ito Laboratory at the Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University, invites applications for a Specially Appointed Assistant Professor (full-time). This position is part of a high-impact international collaboration as the International Centre for Community-Based Loneliness Prevention (ICCLP) led by International Distinguished Professor Clifford Stevenson (Nottingham Trent University, UK) and Dr. Ayahito Ito (Tohoku University).

The International Centre for Community-Based Loneliness Prevention (ICCLP) is a global collaboration between Tohoku University, Nottingham Trent University, Hokkaido University and the University of Queensland. Our mission is to understand bio-psycho-social mechanisms of loneliness and to reduce loneliness by applying the Social Identity Approach to Health, which emphasizes the power of group belonging for wellbeing.

We are seeking an ambitious researcher to join our team aimed at advancing evidence-based community interventions for the prevention of loneliness and social isolation. This role offers an exceptional opportunity to engage in cutting-edge interdisciplinary research integrating the Social Identity Approach, community-based intervention science (e.g., Community Sheds), and large-scale social data analysis.

Job Details

- **Job Title:** Specially Appointed Assistant Professor (Research) -equivalent to a full-time postdoctoral researcher
- **Number of Positions:** 1
- **Work Location:** Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University (Kawauchi Campus)
 - Address: 27-1 Kawauchi, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi, JAPAN
- **Research Focus:** The successful candidate will play a central role in comparative research across national contexts, collaborating with Tohoku University, Nottingham Trent University (UK), and the Social Identity and Groups Network at the University of Queensland (Australia).
 - *Note:* Collaboration with Nottingham Trent University will be primarily remote, with an annual visit to the UK for on-site training and joint research.

Key Responsibilities

1. Research & Analysis:

- Conduct literature reviews and engage with research on loneliness and the Social Identity Approach to Health.
- Design and conduct primary data collection (e.g., online surveys, behavioral experiments, community-based studies).
- Perform secondary analyses of large-scale datasets (e.g., nationwide panel data, ToMMo/UK Biobank collaborations).
- Analyze data, interpret findings, and generate original theoretical and applied insights.

2. Dissemination & Application:

- Write manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals and present findings at international conferences and stakeholder meetings.
- Develop policy recommendations and training materials for local community organizations.
- Draft research proposals for external funding in collaboration with senior colleagues.

3. Project Management:

- Manage research projects and liaise with internal and external collaborators.
- Ensure high standards of research governance and data management (e.g., GakuNin RDM).
- Provide guidance to students and research assistants as necessary.

Note: This is a research-focused position with no teaching duties.

Qualifications Essential:

- PhD in Psychology, Social Psychology, or a closely related field (obtained by the start date).
- Track record of peer-reviewed publications as lead author in psychology or related fields.
- Strong proficiency in quantitative methods (survey research, experimental design, or panel data analysis) or qualitative methods (interview and ethnography).
- Ability to work collaboratively in multidisciplinary and international teams.
- **English:** Ability to communicate research effectively.
- **Japanese:** Sufficient proficiency for participating in community-based research and stakeholder communication (native or near-native preferred).

Desirable:

- Experience with community-based field research or intervention evaluation.
- Experience conducting secondary analyses of large-scale datasets.
- Familiarity with the Social Identity Approach or loneliness research.

Employment Terms

- **Start Date:** April 1, 2026 (Negotiable)
- **Contract Term:** Annual contract, renewable based on performance and budget, up to a maximum of March 31, 2030.
 - Probationary period: 6 months.
- **Salary & Benefits:**
 - Salary determined under the Annual Salary System in accordance with Tohoku University regulations.
 - Insurance: MEXT Mutual Aid Association, Employment Insurance, Workers' Accident Compensation Insurance.
 - Commuting allowance available (car commuting permitted with parking fee).

- **Working Hours:** Discretionary Labor System for Professional Work (Specialized Professional Work System).
- **Holidays:** Weekends (Sat/Sun), national holidays, and year-end/New Year holidays.

Application Instructions Please submit the following documents via email by the deadline. Submissions in both Japanese and English are accepted.

1. **Curriculum Vitae** (Use [the university-specified form](#))
2. **List of Research Achievements**
3. **Summary of Research Achievements** (Max. 1 page)
4. **Statement of Aspirations** (Max. 1 page)
5. **Contact Information for References** (1–2 people)

Submission Email: reiko.iwanari.c3@tohoku.ac.jp

- *Please replace "*" with "@" if copying from a protected source.*
- *Subject Line:* "Application for Project Assistant Professor - [Your Name]"

Deadline: Friday, January 23, 2026

Contact: Iwanari (Ms.), Ito Laboratory Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University Tel: +81-22-795-6143 Note: Travel expenses for interviews will not be reimbursed. Applications will be kept confidential and documents will not be returned.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Tohoku University promotes activities to increase Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and encourages people of varied talents from all backgrounds to apply for positions at the university.

- Tohoku University's website about the DEI Declaration is here:
<https://dei.tohoku.ac.jp/en/vision/about/>
- Pursuant to Article 8 of the Act on Securing, Etc. of Equal Opportunity and Treatment between Men and Women in Employment, Tohoku University shall, as a measure for increasing the presence of women among the academic staff, prioritize the hiring of women deemed qualified for each job opening, based on impartial evaluation.
- Tohoku University has published 'Tohoku University - Live as Who You Are - Guidelines for Gender and Sexual Diversity' to provide explanations and details of how those at the university should respond with respect to diverse sexuality. The purpose of the guidelines is to create an environment in which all students, faculty, and staff respect diverse sexuality in their academic, research, and professional activities.
- Please see the Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Tohoku University website:
https://dei.tohoku.ac.jp/en/support_program/consulting/for_minority/
- Tohoku University has the largest on-campus childcare system of all Japanese national universities. This network comprises three nurseries: Kawauchi Keyaki Nursery school (capacity: 22) and Aobayama Midori Nursery school (116), both open to all university employees, as well as Hoshinoko Nursery school (120), which is open to employees working at Tohoku University Hospital. In addition, Tohoku University Hospital runs a childcare room for mildly ill and convalescent children, which is available to all university employees.

- See the following website for information on these and other programs that Tohoku University runs to assist work-life balance, to support researchers, and to advance gender equality, including measures to promote childcare leave among male employees.
- Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Tohoku University website:
https://dei.tohoku.ac.jp/en/support_program/consulting/for_family/
- Human Resources and Planning Department website:
<https://c.bureau.tohoku.ac.jp/jinji-top/external/a-4-kosodate/>