Call for Project Research Associate / Postdoctoral Fellow (Fixed-term Project Researcher) (Nagai Laboratory)
at IRCN, The University of Tokyo

Yukie Nagai lab at IRCN investigates the mechanisms underlying human cognitive development and disorders through computational approaches. We develop computational neural networks inspired by the human brain and examine what mechanisms enable the networks to acquire human-like intelligence. For more information, please visit our lab homepage at https://developmental-robotics.jp/en/.
We are currently seeking researchers (Project Research Associates or Project Researchers) to participate in the following projects:
(a) CREST "Cognitive Feelings that Mediate Between Perception and Emotion" (PI: Yukie Nagai, Period: Oct 2021 - Mar 2027)
(b) Moonshot "Development of "Jizai Hon-yaku-ki (At-will Translator)" connecting various minds based on brain and body functions" (PI: Kenichiro Tsutsui, Period: Sep 2022 - Mar 2027)

1	Title / Number of positions	Project Research Associate or Project Researcher / One or Two
2	Employment period	From adoption date to March 31, 2027. Starting date is negotiable
3	Renewable	The contract will not be renewed.
4	Probationary period	14 days from the date of hiring.
5	Place of work	Yukie Nagai (IRCN Principal Investigator) lab, International Research Center for Neurointelligence, The University of Tokyo, Institutes for Advanced Study (7-3-1 Hongo Bunkyo-ku Tokyo, 113-0033 JAPAN) [Scope of change] - Project Research Associate: Place designated by the University. (In principle, University academic staff shall not be ordered to be reassigned or assigned to work on an external assignment against their will. Details are in accordance with Article 4 of the University of Tokyo Regulations on Conditions of Employment of Academic Staff.) - Project Researcher: In principle, within the same center.
6	Job Description	(a) CREST "Cognitive Feelings that Mediate Between Perception and Emotion" This position involves research aimed at constructively investigating the mechanisms underlying diversity in human sensorimotor behavior and subjective experience, using neural network models and probabilistic models. The work requires technical expertise in developing neural network and probabilistic models, as well as foundational knowledge in cognitive neuroscience, psychology, and developmental disorders. The researcher will also collaborate closely with project members to formulate and test principled hypotheses about cognitive functions. For further details, please refer to the laboratory website (https://developmental-robotics.jp). (b) Moonshot "Development of "Jizai Hon-yaku-ki (At-will Translator)" connecting various minds based on brain and body functions" This position focuses on developing computational methods to estimate, predict, and visualize mental states such as emotions and intentions from motor signals (e.g., gestures, facial expressions, speech) and physiological signals (e.g., heart rate, respiration, EEG). The work requires knowledge of signal processing techniques, including image and audio processing, as well as expertise in machine learning and neural networks. The researcher will also work collaboratively with project members to conduct cognitive psychology experiments involving infants and individuals with developmental disorders. For further details, please refer to the laboratory website (https://developmental-robotics.jp). [Scope of change] - Project Research Associate: The University may order employees to be reassigned to different positions, or order them to take up additional positions or to work on an external assignment. (In principle, there is no such thing as being ordered against one's will. Details are in accordance with Article 4 of the University of Tokyo Regulations on Conditions of Employment of Academic Staff.) - Project Researcher: The University may order employees to be reassigned to different positions, or order them to take up additional positions or to work on an external assignment.
7	Working Hours	Under the discretionary work system for specialized work, the employee is considered to work 7 hours and 45 minutes per day.

8	Holidays	Saturday and Sundays; Statutory public holidays of Japan; Year-end and New Year holidays(December 29 through January 3)
9	Paid Leaves	Annual paid leaves, refreshment leave, congratulatory or condolence leave, etc
10	Salary & Benefits	● Salary: Annual salary system in accordance with the University of Tokyo Regulations, with a monthly salary of around ¥380,000 - ¥500,000 including Merit Based Allowances. (Salary is to be determined according to qualifications, ability, experience, etc.) ● Commuter allowance: If conditions apply, JPY55,000 per month at maximum ● No retirement benefits or bonuses
11	Available insurances	Eligible for MEXT Mutual Aid Association (health insurance and pension insurance), employment insurance, and workers' accident compensation insurance in accordance with laws and regulations. *MEXT: Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
12	Qualifications	● PhD in engineering, computer science, cognitive science, neuroscience, or relevant fields ● Programming skills ● Communication skills in English ● Experiences in computational neuroscience and/or cognitive developmental robotics are preferred
13	Application documents	● Cover letter (English or Japanese) ● Curriculum vitae (English or Japanese) 　　　　　　　　　Link to CV templates　https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/about/jobs.html　(ENG) 　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/ja/about/jobs/r01.html　(JPN) ● Publication list (English or Japanese) ● Research plan (English or Japanese, A4 2-3 pages) ● Name, affiliation, and email address of two references (one of which should be a current employer or supervisor)
14	Submission	Interested applicants should send application materials (PDF format) to: yukie#ircn.jp with the email title "Application for Project Research Associate / Project Researcher at IRCN Nagai Lab". (Please replace # with @ before using this email address)
15	Application Deadline Selection Process	February 15, 2026. Once a suitable candidate has been selected, the recruitment process will be closed. All applications will be screened, and only those qualified will be scheduled for an interview (on-site or via video). If your application passes the screening, you will be contacted by email for an interview.
16	Inquiries	Yukie Nagai lab, International Research Center for Neurointelligence Attn: Yukie Nagai e-mail：yukie#ircn.jp *Please replace # with @ before using this email address.
17	Recruiter Name	The University of Tokyo
18	Status of measures to prevent passive	Smoking is prohibited on the premises (smoking areas are located outside)
19	Notices	(1) Submitted documents will not be returned. Personal information is handled carefully according to the Privacy Policy of the University of Tokyo, and will be used only for the job selection process. (2) Travel cost will not be paid in screening process. (3) For details on work conditions, please see the University of Tokyo Regulations on Conditions of Employment of Fixed-term Project Academic and Administrative Staff. 　https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/about/rules_main.html (4) The University of Tokyo promotes gender equality and actively encourages women to apply. (5) If you are personally in contract with foreign governmental bodies, corporations or universities, or you are in receipt of a large benefit (financial or any other form) from foreign governmental bodies during the period of your employment, the provisions of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (FEFTA) may prohibit or restrict the sharing of technology that are designated as controlled technology possibly making it difficult for you to fulfill your duties as an academic or administrative staff of the university as a result. Therefore, in such cases it is necessary to keep such contracts/benefits within the scope where it does not hinder the sharing of technologies necessary for your duties by the university.