

Call for Postdoctoral Fellow (Fixed-term Project Researcher) (Team Science "Social Learning")
at IRCN, The University of Tokyo

At the International Research Center for Neurointelligence (IRCN), we promote interdisciplinary Team Science with the aim of elucidating the principles underlying the emergence of human intelligence and developing innovative artificial intelligence technologies grounded in these insights.

Within the Team Science "Social Learning," we seek to clarify the mechanisms by which infants acquire intelligence through social interactions with others, using cognitive psychology experiments and computational modeling studies. For further details, please refer to the activities of the related research laboratories.

We are currently recruiting a researcher (Project Researcher) to participate in this project. Researchers with an interest in interdisciplinary collaborative research are strongly encouraged to apply.

- Cognitive developmental robotics lab (Nagai lab): <https://developmental-robotics.jp/en/>
- Baby lab: <https://babylab ircn.jp/en/>

1	Title / Number of positions	Project Researcher / One
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	<p>International Research Center for Neurointelligence, The University of Tokyo, Institutes for Advanced Study (7-3-1 Hongo Bunkyo-ku Tokyo, 113-0033 JAPAN)</p> <p>[Scope of change]</p> <p>- Project Researcher: In principle, within the same center.</p>
6	Job Description	<p>The Team Science "Social Learning" aims to elucidate the mechanisms by which infants acquire intelligence through social interactions with others, using cognitive psychology experiments and computational modeling studies. The successful candidate will be engaged in designing and conducting cognitive psychology experiments with infants, analyzing behavioral and physiological data using computational approaches, and/or performing constructive validation of developmental mechanisms through computational modeling. For further details, please refer to the activities of the related research laboratories.</p> <p>- Cognitive developmental robotics lab (Nagai lab): https://developmental-robotics.jp/en/</p> <p>- Baby lab: https://babylab ircn.jp/en/</p> <p>[Scope of change]</p> <p>- 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.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PhD in developmental psychology, cognitive science, neuroscience, computer science, or relevant fields ● Skills to design and conduct cognitive psychology experiments ● Skills to analyze behavioral and physiological data using computational approaches ● Communication skills in English
13	Application documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cover letter (English or Japanese) ● Curriculum vitae (English or Japanese) ● 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 Researcher at IRCN Team Science". (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	<p>(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.</p> <p>(2) Travel cost will not be paid in screening process.</p> <p>(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)</p> <p>(4) The University of Tokyo promotes gender equality and actively encourages women to apply.</p> <p>(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.</p>