

Assistant Professor

Iwate University, Morioka, Japan

Date posted: January 23, 2006

We are looking for a person of a foreign nationality who can fulfill the position of non-tenure-track assistant professor to join the Cryobiosystem Research Center (CRC), Faculty of Agriculture, Iwate University. This position was created in the CRC to actively pursue the achievement of medium-term objectives of Iwate University for Fiscal Years 2004-2009. In the objectives, Iwate University specifically describes its aim to increase the number of foreign nationals among the staff to boost internationalization of educational and research environment on the campus. We also try to expose students to international environment and provide them with opportunities to communicate in English.

Iwate University is located at Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture, in the Tohoku district in Japan, approximately 500 km north of Tokyo. Iwate University was established in 1949 and now has both undergraduate and graduate schools with approximately 800 staff members and 6,300 students. CRC was founded in 1998 as a research center affiliated with the Faculty of Agriculture. CRC entirely devotes to cryobiological research with the goal "to study various biological phenomena occurring at low temperatures and to apply the results of the study to plant and animal breeding technologies." Staff at CRC, five faculty members (see below) and several technical staff members, has been carrying out the studies of the mechanisms of responses to the cold environments (at both chilling and freezing temperatures) in both plants and animals. We use molecular and cellular biological methods to achieve this goal. CRC is the first research center in Japan, and one of the few in the world, that dedicates itself to the study of cryobiology. Details in research interests and recent publications of the faculty members are available at the Center website (see below). Some faculty members participate in the 21st Century Center of Excellence (COE) Program at Iwate University entitled "Establishment of Thermo-Biosystem Research Program: A Case Study of the Responses of Biological Systems to Cold," which is supported by a special grant from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan.

Related websites:

Iwate University: <http://www.iwate-u.ac.jp/English/>

Cryobiosystem Research Center: <http://news7a1.atm.iwate-u.ac.jp/~icg-1/English/e-index.html>

Iwate University 21st Century COE Program: <http://www.iwate-u.ac.jp/coe/en/index.html>

Title of position: Assistant Professor (non-tenure-track)

Period of employment: For three years from the appointment. The contract may be renewed for an additional two-year term depending on the appointee's performance.

Starting date: May 1, 2006 (negotiable).

Requirements: A Ph. D. is required. English fluency is also required. The successful applicant should be able to start research on molecular/physiological/biochemical/cellular mechanisms of plant responses to cold environments immediately after appointment. Possible research areas include, but are not limited to, temperature sensing, signal transduction, regulation mechanism of gene expression, genetics of cold response capacities, application in plant breeding, and omics studies (e.g., proteomics, metabolomics, and phenomics). Other original themes and approaches, if met to the CRC's goal as described above, are also welcome. In addition, we are happy to collaborate with the appointee during the course of research.

Application instruction:

The closing date for application is **February 28, 2006**. The application must include:

1. Curriculum vitae (including applicant's e-mail address).
2. List of publications, research grants awarded and patents obtained by the applicant.
3. Reprints (or photocopies) of three key papers if available.
4. Two references (names and contact information including e-mail addresses).
5. Description of research results in the past and research plan for this position (approximately 1,500 words each).
6. A cover letter to explain your competence for the position.

Salary:

Annual salary (approximately 5.3 and 5.9 million yen for one at age 30 and 35, respectively) will be commensurate with individual's experience in accordance with the provisions of Iwate University. Compensation package (health/dental insurances and others) based on the university regulations will be available.

Additional information:

1. There are five faculty members in CRC. Names and research interests are:
 - Kikukatsu Ito, Associate Professor, Division of Biosystem and Bioresource Technology
 - ✓ Molecular and systems biology of thermogenic plants
 - Shin-ichiro Kidou, Associate Professor, Division of Cold-Response Biology
 - ✓ Molecular mechanisms of vernalization
 - Yasushi Saitoh, Associated Professor, Division of Cell Reproduction Biology
 - ✓ Structure-Function relationship in higher eukaryotic chromosome
 - ✓ DNA replication and chromatin structure
 - Ken-ichi Tsutsumi, Professor, Division of Cell Reproduction Biology
 - ✓ DNA replication, transcription and chromosome structure in animal and plant cells
 - ✓ Ethnopharmacology
 - Matsuo Uemura, Professor, Division of Biosystem and Bioresource Technology
 - ✓ Molecular mechanisms of plant cold adaptation
 - ✓ Roles of abiotic stress-induced genes in membrane stabilization in plants
2. The appointee will co-supervise undergraduate/graduate students with faculty members of CRC.
3. The appointee is expected to teach a biology-related laboratory course and/or a biology-related lecture class at undergraduate and/or graduate levels in English.
4. Detailed information on research field/interest of each faculty member of CRC as well as additional information on CRC and/or Iwate University is available upon request. Please e-mail to the Selection Committee Chair below.
5. Decision by the Selection Committee will be notified to all applicants at the earliest opportunity. Application documents are non-returnable.
6. A few final candidates may be required to attend an interview at CRC.

Please send application or inquiry to:

Matsuo Uemura, Ph.D.

Chair, Selection Committee

Cryobiosystem Research Center, Faculty of Agriculture, Iwate University

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