

WRH Program – FY 2024-FY 2025 Overseas Researcher Invitation Application Guidelines

1. Aim

Our Institute aims to serve as a top World Research Hub (WRH) and drive scientific and technological progress in various fields. To achieve this, exchanges backed by a strong network of international researchers are essential.

The WRH program provides funding and administrative assistance for inviting world-class researchers to the Institute. As an initiative under the fourth period of the Institute Mid-term Goals and Plans, the program is offered to encourage new international collaborations or deepening and expansion of existing collaborations, as well as to provide opportunities for early-career researchers and students to interact with prominent overseas researchers.

2. Invitation Categories

Application materials:

<https://tokyotech.app.box.com/folder/275345653338>

【Type 0】 (Initiating collaborations)

Outline: Type 0 is designed to provide support through a short-term, trial invitation for initiating collaborations with world-class researchers with whom applicants are “interested in starting discussions about research.”

Support period: In principle, a single approximately 1-week stay in FY 2025.

Conditions for inviting: Invited researcher must be a researcher from abroad who is not a previous collaborator.

Note: Host faculty may later apply for Type I or Type II based on the results of a Type 0 invitation.

【Type I】 (New research collaborations / expanding existing collaborations)

Outline: Type I is designed to provide support for inviting world-class researchers for multiple short periods over multiple years, under objective (i) to create new collaboration opportunities with Institute faculty, or (ii) to take steps to extend collaboration outcomes for deeper and larger research projects.

Support period: In principle, two fiscal years (from FY 2025 to FY 2026 (February 2027)).

Conditions for inviting: Must visit the Institute at least once per fiscal year; combined length of stay must be from one month to a maximum of six months, insofar as budget permits.

【Type II】 (Long-term stays)

Outline: Type II is designed to support long-term stays by world-class researchers, taking sabbaticals, etc., to contribute to the Institute research and education. The objective is to provide opportunities for early-career researchers and students to interact with world-class researchers and directly observe advanced research methods. Type II also supports long-term stays by early-career researchers who demonstrate strong potential to become top-class researchers in their fields, allowing for assessment of whether they could play an active role at the Institute.

Support period: Single stay between two and 12 months; may span fiscal years.

Conditions for inviting: Stay must end by February 2027.

【Invitations starting in FY 2024】

Type 0, Type I, or Type II invitations starting in FY 2024 may be considered if the proposed schedule is feasible. Please consult with the WRH Program Office before applying.

Support periods and conditions for inviting are as described above, but with years adjusted for a FY 2024 start. For Type I invitations starting in FY 2024, the support period will be until FY 2025.

3. Application Requirements

1) Target cases

This program is intended to support opportunities to newly establish international research collaborations or accelerate deepening and expansion of existing ones, or cases that would not be realized with commonly available research funding (when inviting a researcher for a long term, when an early-career researcher serves as a host, etc.). As such, cases to invite researchers for international research collaborations that could be realized with commonly available research funding are not applicable.

2) Eligibility for applicants (host faculty members)

- ① Applicants must be Tokyo Institute of Technology faculty members whose employment is secured during the support period. Assistant professors and specially appointed faculty are also eligible to apply. However, in such cases, due to the need to secure work space, etc., the applicant must apply jointly with a regular faculty member in the position of lecturer or above. For joint hosts, their joint applications will not count towards the application limit described in ③ below.
- ② Applicants must be able to provide the invited researcher with an adequate research environment, such as research funds and office, and fulfil other

responsibilities expected as host faculty members.

- ③ Only one application is permitted per applicant (up to one invited researcher per applicant). Group applications (a group of host faculty members applying to invite multiple researchers) are accepted, but in this case as well, each invited researcher must be assigned one host faculty member.
- ④ Applicants must obtain consent from their school/institute before applying.

3) Eligibility for invited researchers

- ① Invited researchers should be employed by a research institution outside of Japan at the time of application and during the support period. However, persons who have not yet been awarded or only recently been awarded a degree are excluded from this requirement. There is no restriction on nationality.
- ② For Type I and Type II, applicants may choose for the invited researcher to a) be employed as a specially appointed professor/associate professor/assistant professor, or b) be entrusted the work as a (non-hire) visiting professor/associate professor/assistant professor. For Type 0, no Institute title will be provided.
- ③ Invitations for the purpose of extending the tenure of persons already affiliated with the Institute are generally not accepted.

4) Invitation plan requirements

- ① If you wish to apply for a Type I or Type II invitation for a researcher you previously invited under Type 0, explain the relationship between the previous invitation and proposed invitation. In principle, invitations for researchers you previously invited under Type I or Type II will not be accepted.
- ② If applying as a group, include in the invitation plan the composition of the group and relation, roles, etc. of its members. (The same Invitation Plan

can be used for multiple invited researchers.)

- ③ If planning any business trips during the stay, details including funds to cover the trips should be noted.
- ④ For the final fiscal year of the invitation, in principle, the invited researcher must return to their home country by February of that fiscal year.

4. Funding Support

As per “Handling regarding World Research Hub (WRH) Program Invited Overseas Researchers”.

5. Application Procedures

- 1) Application deadline: 2024/09/30 (Mon) 8:30 JST

Note: If you wish to request an urgent screening due to your invitation plan, state the request when submitting your application.

Be aware that after an application is approved, the necessary procedures for faculty selection will take 2 months, and visa application procedures will take further time. When inviting as specially-appointed faculty, a Certificate of Eligibility is also necessary. Plan your invitation assuming that the procedures will complete approximately five months after selection.

- 2) How to apply

Submit the required documents in zip format through the Box page below by the deadline. Then go to Slack channel #t2-irfi-wrh 招聘プログラム and use workflow “申請手続き / Application” to post an application notification.

Box submission page:

<https://tokyotech.app.box.com/f/6c762c22f29b4b21a006f522255a0bc6>

- 3) Required documents

- ① Researcher Invitation Application and Invited Researcher’s Achievements (form; one per invitee; [application-achievements.xls](#))

Requires information from SciVal. See the application materials for details.

- ② Invitation Plan (free format, pdf file, up to two A4 pages; [plan.pdf](#))
For Type 0, an explanation (one A4 page) of your reason for the invitation will be sufficient.

- ③ Invited Researcher’s CV (free format, pdf file, one per invitee; [cv.pdf](#))

- ④ Proof of Agreement to Invitation (email correspondence, etc., pdf file, one per invitee; [agree.pdf](#))

Please name the files as described below:

- For the zip file, use a filename that include the applicant’s name, such as “apply_applicant’s_name.zip”.
- For documents ① through ④, use the filename indicated in [blue](#).

6. Screening and Post-Selection

- 1) The WRH Program Steering Committee will comprehensively screen applications based on the following categories and factors:

<Categories>

- Program types (0, I, or II)
- Research areas (to be specified by the applicant)
 - a. Mathematical Sciences (including Physics, Information, Management, etc.)
 - b. Electrical and Electronic Engineering
 - c. Mechanical/Control/Robot Engineering
 - d. Chemistry and Materials (including Energy Sciences, etc.)
 - e. Life Science
 - f. Social Infrastructure and Social Issue Resolutions, Humanities and Social Science

<Assessment Factors>

- The invitee's research capabilities and/or achievements in previous collaborations with the Institute* (research publications, results of collaborative research)
*Collaboration achievements will be used only for applications selecting Type I, objective (ii).
- Adequacy, necessity, and expected ripple effect of the invitation:
Possibility to be extended to collaborative research involving the Institute faculty members or organization-based international collaborations, significance in applying for (international collaborative) research funding programs, necessity of inviting in relation to faculty hiring plans, etc.

- 2) During the screening process, the WRH Program Steering Committee Chair may contact applicants to inquire about the application contents.
- 3) Screening results are expected to be notified to applicants in October 2024.
- 4) Application approvals may be conditional. In such cases, applicants may be asked to revise their plan, etc.

7. General Notes

- 1) The aim of the WRH Program is to build international collaboration. Activities with mainly educational aims are beyond the scope of this program.
- 2) Invitations for research projects supported by KAKENHI or other competitive funds are not eligible, as the supporting fund should be used to cover such invitations.
- 3) If a selected application is subject to Japanese Security Export Control, confirmation of completion of the necessary

procedures will be required as a condition of the invitation.

https://www.titech.ac.jp/staff/world/export_control/examination_researcher.html

- 4) A visa is not required for visiting faculty members who are nationals of visa-exempt countries and stay in Japan within the permitted period. Ref: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan "Exemption of Visa (Short-Term Stay)"
https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html

8. Inquiries

International Research Frontiers Initiative,
WRH Program Office

Send inquiries via Slack channel [#t2-irfi-wrh](#) [招聘プログラム](#). Inquiries can be posted directly in the channel or using the workflow "申請に関する問合せ / Inquiry".