

Nagoya University Young Leaders Cultivation Program for Academic Year 2026
— YLC (Young Leaders Cultivation) —
Application Guidelines

1. Objectives

Nagoya University (“the University”) declares in its Academic Charter that its primary goal is to become a leading global research university. Achieving this requires young, independent faculty capable of pioneering significant fundamental research. The YLC Program seeks to hire outstanding new doctoral graduates as Designated Assistant Professors (“YLC faculty members”), offering training and support to help them contribute to the advancement of education and research at the University with a broad international and interdisciplinary vision.

2. Recruitment Details

- (1) Fields : All fields in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.
- (2) Position : Designated Assistant Professor (full-time, fixed term)
- (3) Employment : April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2031 (*1)
- (4) Vacancies : Approximately 8 (*2)
- (5) Responsibilities :
 - ① Conducting research as outlined in the submitted application.
 - ② Participating in symposia, etc. hosted or co-hosted by the Institute for Advanced Research (IAR), and presenting at, planning, and organizing other activities including seminars.
 - ③ Publishing research findings in the University database and elsewhere, and reporting on research activities.
 - ④ Engaging in educational activities, such as conducting classes and instructing graduate students in the host department (effort limited to 30% of working hours).
 - ⑤ Serving as mentors to students in the Doctoral Education Program.
 - ⑥ Fulfilling additional responsibilities as deemed necessary by the IAR Director.

(*1) If already employed at the University, the contract must not exceed 10 consecutive years from the initial employment at the University.

(*2) Subject to change depending on the circumstances.

3. Eligibility Requirements

- (1) Degree
 - Applicants must have earned their doctoral degrees within the last eight years as of April 1, 2026 (*1 and 2).
 - Applicants must disclose any gaps in their research career on their application.
 - (*1) This includes those expected to receive a doctoral degree by April 1, 2026 and those for whom fewer than eight years have passed since conferral of their doctoral degree, excluding any periods of maternity leave, paternity leave, and childcare leave (“childcare leave, etc.”).
 - (*2) Applicants who will not obtain their doctoral degree by April 1, 2026 will not be eligible for employment.
- (2) Endorsement:
 - Applicants must be endorsed by a faculty member employed at the University (the host faculty member)

at the time of application (*1 and 2) and the endorsement must be confirmed by the head of the department to which the host faculty member belongs.

(*1) For information on University faculty members, search:

<https://profs.provost.nagoya-u.ac.jp/search?m=home&l=en>

(*2) This excludes emeritus professors, fixed-term faculty members, and tenure track faculty members.

(3) Other

- ① Preference shall be given to applicants with postdoctoral experience, e.g. a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).
- ② We welcome applications from researchers of foreign nationality, Japanese researchers who received their degrees from institutions abroad, Japanese researchers who have a total of over one year of educational and research experience overseas, and researchers of Japanese or foreign nationality who have experience, domestically or overseas, participating in international collaborative research. Those in fields where study abroad is not an essential component should note this on their application.
- ③ The YLC program is committed to achieving 50% representation of female faculty members. If applicants are deemed equal in terms of their achievements (including research, educational and societal contributions, and personal attributes; hereinafter referred to as “achievements”), we will proactively hire female applicants.

4. Working Conditions

- (1) Affiliation: Assigned to the Institute for Advanced Research (and the host department)
- (2) Working hours: 7 hours and 45 minutes shall be deemed to constitute the working hours for a workday (under the Discretionary Labor System for Professional Work)
- (3) Salary: Determined in accordance with the University Rules (under the Annual Salary System, generally, approximately 5,700,000 yen)
- (4) Commuting allowance: Provided in accordance with University Rules
- (5) Severance allowance: Not available
- (6) Holidays: Saturdays/Sundays, public holidays, and the New Year break (December 29 - January 3)
- (7) Leave: Annual paid leave, special leave (such as refreshment leave), sick leave
- (8) Social insurances: The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Mutual Aid Association health insurance, employees' pension insurance, employment insurance, and industrial accident compensation insurance
- (9) Other:
 - ① In alignment with the program's goals, hired faculty members are expected to be autonomous researchers and educators by the end of the program. Therefore, it is essential for the host department's faculty to honor this objective and enable the new faculty to prioritize research and educational activities.
 - ② The host department will provide the necessary research spaces, facilities, and associated funding to the YLC faculty members in their department.
 - ③ Childcare leave and related matters will be handled in accordance with the “Tokai National Higher Education and Research System Employee Working Hours and Leave Rules” and the “Tokai National Higher Education and Research System Employee Childcare Leave Rules”.
 - ④ If an employee takes childcare leave, the employment period may be extended in one-month increments matching the duration of leave taken. Similarly, for sick leave, the employment period may also be

extended in one-month increments, up to a maximum of 12 months. However, the total duration of employment, including any extensions, cannot exceed 10 years counting from the first day of employment at the University, regardless of their position as a YLC faculty member.

- ⑤ YLC faculty members interested in tenure may undergo a YLC tenure review process (*), which will be conducted in accordance with the separately prescribed “How to Conduct Tenure Screening for YLC Faculty Members Seeking Tenure.”

(* How to Conduct Tenure Screening for YLC Faculty Members Seeking Tenure (Outline)

1. Undergo a preliminary review conducted by the IAR in the third or fourth year of employment (may undergo twice).
2. YLC faculty members who pass the preliminary review will be listed on the tenure candidate roster and announced to the department.
3. Candidates who are offered and accept a position from the department will undergo tenure review in the fourth or fifth year of employment.
4. YLC faculty members who pass the tenure review will be assigned to the department starting April 1 in the academic year following the review.
5. YLC faculty members who do not pass the tenure review in their fourth academic year of employment may undergo tenure review in the following year, while those in their fifth academic year of employment are expected to leave upon completion of the five-year YLC faculty term.
6. The number of YLC faculty members who may acquire tenure is two persons per academic year.

5. Application Procedures

Please carefully review the “Nagoya University Young Leaders Cultivation (YLC) Program for Academic Year 2026—Application Guidelines” and “Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)” on the Nagoya-IAR website (<http://www.iar.nagoya-u.ac.jp/eng/>), as well as the notes and instructions on each form. After reviewing these materials, prepare the application documents (using the designated forms for that academic year) and submit them by email to the provided submission address during the application period. Given that experts from a variety of fields of research will conduct the screening, ensure that your application documents are written and presented in a manner that can be easily understood by researchers in other fields. Applicants are not permitted to make alterations to the forms or use additional pages, etc.

(1) Application preparation

【Applicant】

- ① Contact the faculty member at the University who you wish to host you, and ask if they will agree to host you.
- ② Consult with the host faculty member about obtaining a Recommendation Letter from a researcher in your field of specialization (other than the host faculty member). The applicant must themselves request the researcher to write a Recommendation Letter and to submit it to the host faculty member.

【Host faculty member】

- ① After coordinating with the applicant and the head of the host department, decide whether to accept the application.
- ② In consultation with the applicant, decide upon which researcher in the relevant field of specialization (excluding the host faculty member) to ask for a Recommendation Letter.

【Head of the host department or equivalent】

Upon receiving a proposal from the host faculty member, decide whether to accept the applicant.

(2) Application documents

① Application Form (Form 1) — Applicant

After carefully reading the notes and instructions for each item, fill out the form and submit it. We will

not respond to inquiries regarding the content to be written.

② Copy of diploma — Applicant

Submit only your doctoral degree certificate. (excluding doctoral degree candidates)

③ Three significant research achievements (papers and other achievements) — Applicant

This does not apply if you have fewer than three achievements.

④ Entry Sheet (Form 2) — Applicant

Ensure that all information matches that on the Application Form (Form 1), as this information will be registered as basic information for your application.

⑤ Letter of Acceptance (Form 3) — Host Faculty Member

The host faculty member must prepare and submit this document during the application period after obtaining approval from the head of the host department or equivalent. In principle, each host faculty member may accept only one applicant per year. If the host faculty member seeks to host multiple applicants, they must establish an order of priority for the applicants. This information should not be shared with the applicants.

⑥ Recommendation Letter (freeform, Japanese or English) — Applicants/host faculty members

-After the applicant requests a researcher in the field of specialization to write a Recommendation Letter, the host faculty member shall receive the Recommendation Letter and submit it during the application period. This letter should not be shared with the applicant.

-Roughly 1,000 characters in Japanese or 500 words in English.

⑦ Declaration of Applicable Specific Categories — Applicant

This applies to all applicants (Refer to **8. Other** (5) below.)

(3) How to submit application documents

	Applicant	Host Faculty Member
Documents to be submitted	① Application Form (Form 1) ② Copy of diploma ③ Three significant research achievements (papers and other achievements) ④ Entry Sheet (Form 2) ⑦ Declaration of Applicable Specific Categories	⑤ Letter of Acceptance (Form 3) ⑥ Recommendation Letter (freeform, Japanese or English)
File name	1_2026 YLC Application (applicant's full name) [PDF] Documents ① to ③ should be combined into a single file in the following order. - Application Form (Form 1) - Copy of diploma - Proof of acceptance documents (if applicable) - Three significant research achievements (papers and other achievements) 2_2026 YLC Entry Sheet (applicant's full name) [Excel] 3_2026 YLC Declaration of Applicable Specific Categories (applicant's full name) [PDF]	(Name of the host department) 2026 YLC Letter of Acceptance (applicant's full name) [PDF] 2026 YLC Recommendation Letter (applicant's full name) [PDF]
E-mail title	2026 YLC Application (applicant's full name)	2026 YLC Recommendation Letter (applicant's full name)
Address for submission	YLC Application Staff, Research Organization Support Division, Research Cooperation Department, Nagoya University (ylc@t.mail.nagoya-u.ac.jp)	

6. Application Period

From March 17, 2025 (Monday) to May 1, 2025 (Thursday) closing at 9 a.m. JST. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants are advised to submit well in advance of the deadline, as the submission deadline for Letters of Acceptance may vary by host department.

7. Screening Process and Announcement of Results

(1) Initial screening (document review)

Applications will be evaluated by document reviewers appointed by the IAR's YLC Screening Committee based on the screening categories selected by the applicants. Following this evaluation, the YLC Screening Committee will deliberate and decide whether the applicant passes the initial screening.

(2) Second screening (interview)

Those who pass the initial screening will undergo an interview conducted by interviewers appointed by the IAR's YLC Screening Committee. The final decision will be made after discussions at the IAR meeting. Interviews are scheduled for September 18, 2025 (Thursday) and will be held either in person or online. Applicants will receive more information about the second screening along with the results of the initial screening.

(3) Announcement of results

The initial screening results are expected to be announced in late August, and the second screening results are expected to be announced in mid-October. However, the schedule is subject to change.

8. Other

- (1) Application documents will only be used within the scope of the selection process and only to the extent necessary to carry out business operations.
- (2) Application documents will not be returned.
- (3) Applicants are responsible for covering their own travel and other expenses necessary to participate in the second screening.
- (4) We are unable to provide feedback about applications or application results.
- (5) Following the November 2021 clarification of the targets of control of "Deemed Exports" under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (FEFTA), the provision of some sensitive technologies to faculty and staff members at universities and research institutions is now regulated under FEFTA. Accordingly, you are required to submit a "Declaration of Applicable Specific Categories" based on the "Flowchart for Determining Applicable Specific Categories" when applying. Additionally, you will be required to submit a "Pledge" upon employment.
- (6) In principle, the period of overseas research shall be less than two years in total during the first three years of appointment and less than one year in total during the subsequent two years.

9. Contact Information

Inquiries about applying to this program should be directed to:

YLC Application Staff,

Research Organization Support Division, Research Cooperation Department, Nagoya University

E-mail: ylc@t.mail.nagoya-u.ac.jp

*Please refer to the "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)" before submitting an inquiry.