November 12, 2026

Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo
Recruitment Information for Project Researcher (Fixed-Term Project Staff)

Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo (ERI UTokyo) is seeking project researchers who promote the project entitled "Seismology Toward Research Innovation for Earthquake Evaluation with Exact Data" (STAR-E NEXT Project, Principal Investigator: Hiromichi Nagao, ERI UTokyo) promoted by Ministry of Education Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan.

1. Title and Hiring Numbers
   Project Researcher, 4 persons.

2. Term of Employment
   (1) From March 1 to 31, 2027. (For researchers employed on March 31, 2027)
   (2) From the start date of employment (after April 1, 2027) to March 31, 2028. (For researchers employed after April 1, 2027)

3. Renewal of Contract
   Your employment agreement may be renewed. In the event of renewal, your employment agreement will be renewed every 1 year. Renewal of your employment agreement will be determined by the following factors: All relevant factors, such as budget status, progress of the work assigned to you, the amount of the work at the end of the term, your performance, work record, and attitude, and/or your medical conditions. The number of renewals can be four times when 2.(1) is applied or three times when 2.(2) is applied. The period of employment is limited March 31, 2031.

4. Probation Period
   14 days from the date of employment.

5. Place of Work
   Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo (1-1-1, Yayoi, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo)
   Scope of Changes: Basically, limited to the same institute.

6. Affiliation
   Division or research center you belong to will be decided after the notification of hiring.

7. Research Area
   State-of-the-Art Information Seismology

8. Contents of Work Duties
   The STAR-E NEXT Project aims to leverage Japan's diverse and extensive collection of high-quality earthquake-related datasets to develop efficient and integrated analytical methods using cutting-edge information science, including artificial intelligence. Through these efforts, the project seeks to contribute to disaster risk reduction by enabling highly accurate and rapid assessments of earthquakes and predictions of earthquake damage, as well as the development of effective countermeasures. The project aims to improve the accuracy and speed of seismic activity and ground-motion assessments conducted by the Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion, while contributing to the achievement of the fundamental goals of national resilience: protecting human lives, minimizing damage in the event of a disaster, maintaining socioeconomic functions, and ensuring rapid recovery and reconstruction.

UTokyo serves as the lead institution, with nine participating institutions in Japan: the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED), Kyoto University, the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), the Institute of Statistical Mathematics (ISM), The University of Osaka, Hokkaido University, Hirosaki University, Institute of Science Tokyo, and Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC). The project commenced in April 2026 and is scheduled to run for five years.

The STAR-E NEXT Project currently comprises the following nine research topics:

① Advancement of technologies for compiling earthquake and slow earthquake event catalogs
② Advancement of short-, medium-, and long-term assessments of seismic activity and earthquake hazards, taking into account the effects of major earthquakes
③ Development of automated analytical methods for geodetic data to detect subtle crustal deformation
④ Development of advanced models for forecasting the evolution of fault slip and related phenomena
⑤ Development of earthquake ground-motion propagation prediction technologies for damage forecasting
⑥ Development of information science technologies for discovering past earthquake-related phenomena and knowledge from historical seismograms and documentary records
⑦ Development of next-generation scientific machine learning techniques
⑧ Development of information science technologies for discovering previously unknown earthquake-related phenomena
⑨ Strengthening international collaboration and fostering early-career researchers in the interdisciplinary fields of information science, seismology, and geodesy

The project researchers appointed through this recruitment are expected to engage primarily in research topics ①, ⑤, ⑥, ⑦, and ⑧, in which ERI UTokyo is substantially involved. In addition, contributions to the topic ⑨ are welcome, as is the pursuit of new research topics beyond the topics ①–⑧ that that contribute to the advancement of interdisciplinary research integrating information science and seismology.

Scope of Changes to Assigned Duties: The researchers might be assigned to different positions or duties through reassignment, concurrent appointments, or secondment.

9. Working Hours
Discretionary work system for professional work applies and working hours will be deemed as 7 hours and 45 minutes per day.

10. Days off
Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays, and the year-end and New Year holidays (December 29 to January 3).

11. Leave
Annual Paid Leave, Special Leave, etc.

12. Wages, etc.
Annual Salary System applies and monthly paid salary will be around JPY 400,000 to 500,000, including performance / achievement allowance. (The salary will be decided taking your qualifications, capacity, experience etc. into account.)
Commuting Allowance (basically up to JPY 55,000 per month).

13. Insurance
Enrollment in the Mutual Aid Association of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), employment insurance, and workers' accident compensation insurance, as required by applicable laws and regulations.

14. Qualification Requirements
(1) Applicants must hold a Ph.D. degree by the time of appointment (or be expected to obtain one by then), or possess equivalent research capabilities.
(2) Applicants must have a research track record in seismology, information science, statistical science, or applied mathematical sciences.
(3) Previous experience in seismic waveform data analysis is not required. However, applicants must have a strong interest in developing methods for seismic data analysis and/or physical simulations using information science technologies, including artificial intelligence.

15. Documents to be Submitted
(1) The University of Tokyo Standard Resume
Download the resume form from the website below.
https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/about/jobs.html
(2) Publication list
For each publication, indicate whether it has been peer-reviewed. Applicants should also provide details of any research funding they have obtained (e.g., Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI)), any previous appointments, such as a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Research Fellow, and any awards they have received, if applicable.
(3) PDF files of up to three major publications (one copy of each).
(4) Outline of your research so far (approx. 2 pages)
(5) Research plan and aspiration following appointment (approx. 2 pages)
Please specify which of the research topics listed in "8. Contents of Work Duties" your proposed research aligns with. Contributions to the topic ⑨, which is primarily operational in nature, are welcome; however, it is not possible to establish a research project focusing exclusively on ⑨. In addition to the topics ①–⑧, proposals for new research topics that contribute to the advancement of interdisciplinary research integrating information science and seismology are also welcome.
(6) Names and contact information of two individuals who can provide professional references for the applicant.
(7) Preferred date of appointment
The process from the start of the document screening to the actual appointment typically takes approximately three to four months.

16. Deadline of Application
December 18 (Friday), 2026, 5 p.m. (Japan Standard Time, UTC+9)
The recruitment will close once suitable candidates have been identified.

17. Selection Process
Applicants will be evaluated based on a review of their application documents and an interview. Details of the interview will be provided only to applicants who pass the document screening.

18. How to Submit Application Documents
Please attach all required application documents to an email with the subject line "Application for STAR-E NEXT Project Researcher Position" and send it to STAR-E NEXT Project Headquarters at the email address provided in "19. Submission of Application Documents and Inquiries."

19. Submission of Application Documents and Inquiries
    STAR-E NEXT Project Headquarters
    E-mail: star-e-next % g.ecc.u-tokyo.ac.jp (Replace % with @)

20. Name of Recruiter
    The University of Tokyo

21. Measures to Prevent Passive Smoking
    Smoking is prohibited throughout the premises (a designated outdoor smoking area is available).

22. Miscellaneous
    The acquired personal information will not be used for any purpose other than personal selection.
    Women's applications are highly welcome based on the "Declaration of Gender Equality Acceleration" at the University of Tokyo (March 3, 2009).
    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.

* References
Seismology Toward Research Innovation for Earthquake Evaluation with Exact Data
(STAR-E NEXT Project)
https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kaihatu/jishin/mext_03435.html
https://www.eri.u-tokyo.ac.jp/project/STAR-E-NEXT/