

The University of Tokyo Institute of Industrial Science Faculty Position (Professor) – Application Guidelines

1. Position and Number of Openings

Professor: One (1) position

2. Employment Status

Full-time (permanent position; no fixed term)

3. Affiliation

Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo
Design-Led X Platform

4. Work Location

4-6-1 Komaba, Meguro-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Scope of possible change:

The employee may be assigned to locations designated by the University. In principle, reassignment or secondment against the employee's will not occur. Details are in Article 4 of the Employment Regulations for Faculty Members of the University of Tokyo.

5. Job Description

Research and education related to design.

Serving as a member of the Design-Led X Platform and in a strategic and operational leadership role in DLX Design Lab and DLX Design Academy.

Scope of possible change:

The employee may be subject to reassignment, concurrent assignments, or secondment. In principle, such changes will not be imposed against the employee's will. Details are in Article 4 of the Employment Regulations for Faculty Members of the University of Tokyo.

6. Eligibility Requirements

Professional experience as a product designer or related designer, and an academic career background.

Doctoral degree (PhD) or equivalent professional/academic achievement in design or related discipline.

Proficiency in English and Japanese language desirable but not required.

(For further details of the duties and eligibility requirements, please refer to the

supplementary document attached separately.)

7. Starting Date

On or after December 1, 2026, as early as possible.

A six-month probationary period applies.

8. Salary

A monthly salary ranging from approximately JPY 950,000 to JPY 1,600,000 will be offered under an annual salary system, inclusive of performance- and achievement-related allowances, will be offered.

Allowances: In addition to a commuting allowance (in principle up to JPY 55,000 per month), other allowances may be provided in accordance with the University's regulations.

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9. Work Days

Five days per week (Monday to Friday).

Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, and the New Year holidays (December 29–January 3) are days off.

10. Working Hours

Under the Discretionary Labor System for Professional Work, the employee is deemed to have worked

7 hours 45 minutes per day and 38 hours 45 minutes per week.

11. Leave

Paid annual leave and special leave, etc.

12. Social Insurance

Enrollment in mutual aid association, employment insurance, and workers' accident insurance in accordance with applicable laws.

13. Application Materials

Curriculum vitae with photograph. Please use the prescribed form downloaded from the URL below.

<https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/about/jobs.html>

List of publications and professional achievements ((including academic journal papers, presentations at international conferences, presentations at domestic conferences,

invited lectures, review articles and commentaries, books, creative works, patents and other intellectual property rights, awards, records of obtaining competitive research funding, etc.)

Summary of past research (up to two A4 pages)

Letter of recommendation or names and contact information of two references

Declaration Form concerning any previous criminal penalties, administrative sanctions, or disciplinary actions arising from sexual harassment, sexual violence, or related misconduct towards students (please download the form from the URL below):

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WyZtFYThRkP1_7XWqOvf23_eHWn-YtVx?usp=sharing

14. Application Deadline

July 9, 2026 (Thursday) (Japan Standard Time)— applications must be submitted by this date.

15. Selection Process

After an initial screening based on application documents, shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews.

Travel and accommodation expenses for interviews must be borne by the applicant.

16. Submission of Documents:

Please convert each application document into PDF format, place them in a single folder, compress it into a ZIP file, and upload it via the URL below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSef5r8s2GInSTn9PsWZ4BDKetTXF1eq_yWTqj2HBqIOlaX-gw/viewform?usp=publish-editor

17. Name of Employing Organization

The University of Tokyo (National University Corporation)

18. Other Information

Applications will be handled confidentially and used solely for selection purposes.

Submitted materials will not be returned.

The University of Tokyo promotes gender equality; when candidates are evaluated as equivalent, women will be given priority (positive action).

Smoking is prohibited on campus (designated outdoor smoking areas are provided).

Under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, certain restrictions on technology sharing may apply if an applicant has contracts with or receives significant benefits from foreign governments or corporations.

19. Enquiries regarding this appointment

Toshiki NIINO Prof. PhD, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo

E-mail: niino@iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp

IIS Professor - Supplementary Call Information

The Design-Led X (DLX) Platform at the Institute of Industrial Science, part of the University of Tokyo, invites applications for a leadership role. The appointee will be responsible for advancing design-led research, delivering innovative educational programmes, and strengthening DLX's position as a vibrant, international, and interdisciplinary environment with access to world-class researchers and facilities.

(A) Key Responsibilities

It is understood that candidates may not possess all of the characteristics outlined herein. The attributes described are intended to illustrate the capacities that support effective performance in this position. Applicants who identify with most aspects of this profile, or for whom many elements resonate, are encouraged to express their interest

Leadership & Strategy

- Direct the activities of DLX's annual programme of research, education, and public engagement (in particular DLX Design Lab and DLX Design Academy), setting a clear vision and strategy.
- Build strong collaborations with research labs across IIS and the University of Tokyo
- Create a strong network with external partners in industry, government, and academia.
- Contribute to international positioning of DLX as a centre for design-led innovation.

Research & Innovation

- Oversee the DLX Design Lab team in developing and delivering design-led research projects that connect design with research across IIS, the University of Tokyo, and external partners.
- Foster an environment that encourages interdisciplinary experimentation and creativity.
- Ensure DLX outputs achieve impact through publications, exhibitions, events, patents, incubators, community engagement, international forums, and other channels.
- Secure competitive internal and external funding, and strengthen partnerships with industry and institutions

Education and Teaching

- Lead the DLX Design Academy team, developing impactful educational programmes, workshops, seminars and other activities.
- Deliver lectures, seminars, and workshops for undergraduate and / or graduate students.
- Supervise graduate or doctoral students.
- Support the growth of early-career researchers, students, and practitioners.
- Promote an inclusive and international culture of learning and creativity.

Management and Administration

- Oversee DLX's operations, finances, and staffing, supported by the Administrative Team.
- Report regularly, or as required, to the DLX Executive Directors, the DLX Management Team, and relevant university committees.
- Ensure full compliance with university governance, security, ethics, and related policies.

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(B) Background Information

The University of Tokyo www.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Founded in 1877, the University of Tokyo (UTokyo) is Japan's leading university and a global centre of excellence in education and research. With world-class faculty and a strong international outlook, UTokyo fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation to address society's most pressing challenges. Please see the website for more information.

Institute of Industrial Science (IIS) www.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp

The Institute of Industrial Science (IIS), established in 1949, is one of UTokyo's largest research institutes. Based at the Komaba and Kashiwa Research Campuses, IIS brings together over 120 laboratories across diverse fields of engineering, technology, and science, working closely with industry and government to deliver cutting-edge solutions with global impact. Please see the website for more information.

About Design-Led X Platform (DLX) www.designledx.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp (Japanese only)

DLX is the University of Tokyo's international platform for design-led innovation. Through its **DLX Design Lab**, and **DLX Design Academy**, and a range of projects and public-facing activities, DLX connects design with science, engineering, business, governance, and society. Its mission is to generate transformative ideas, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and educate the next generation of creative leaders.

DLX Design Lab <https://www.designlab.ac/>

Read about DLX Design Lab's project creation process Treasure Hunting [HERE](#)

The mission of Design Lab is creating value through design. It works directly in collaboration with research labs in UTokyo and external partners to create design led innovation projects. Currently the lab has the following active members, 4 administrators, 8 full-time designers / researchers, 8 regular sub-contractors / designers (freelancers) assisting on projects, 8 students (Masters, or Research), 4-6 visiting academics (faculty members from international institutes or student interns). There are two design lab studios, one in Komaba II Research campus and one in Kashiwa II campus. Please see the website for more information.

DLX Design Academy www.dlxdesignacademy.com

DLX Design Academy was established to educate people in creativity, design, innovation, and related fields beyond the university campus. It offers both short and long-term programmes for high school students, professionals, career changers, and individuals interested in developing new skills. In collaboration with the DLX Design Lab, the Academy also runs Curiosity, a professional networking association that hosts events bringing together design-focused professionals. In addition, the Academy organises a variety of other events and activities. Please see the website for more information.

(D) Qualifications & Experience

- Doctoral degree (PhD) or equivalent professional/academic achievement in design or related discipline.
- Proven track record in academic management or design leadership.
- Experience leading projects, teams, laboratories, or organisations in an interdisciplinary manner,
- Demonstrated excellence in teaching and student supervision.
- Evidence of successful collaboration across disciplines and with external partners.
- Excellent communication, leadership, and organisational skills.
- Strong international outlook and network.
- Commitment to advancing the mission and vision of the Design-Led X Platform.
- Proficiency in English; Japanese language ability desirable but not required.