

May 1, 2026

To: Prospective Applicants and Heads of Relevant Institutions

Takamasa Ueno, Ph.D.
Director, Joint Research Center for Human Retrovirus Infection,
Kumamoto University and Kagoshima University

Open Faculty Position: Professor
Joint Research Center for Human Retrovirus Infection, Kumamoto University

The Joint Research Center for Human Retrovirus Infection at Kumamoto University Campus invites applications from highly motivated researchers for a Professor position to lead cutting-edge research in the field of human viral infections.

The Joint Research Center for Human Retrovirus Infection was established on April 1, 2019, through the reorganization and integration of the Center for AIDS Research at Kumamoto University and the Center for Chronic Viral Diseases at Kagoshima University. This was the first nationwide initiative to establish a joint research center that transcends the framework of national universities in Japan. By leveraging the combined human resources and infrastructure of both institutions, this Research Center promotes frontier research and capacity-building in the field of human virology through technical aspects of related fields, including but not limited to genomics, molecular biology, cellular biology, immunology, pathology, animal models, mathematical models, and artificial intelligence/machine learning.

At the Kumamoto University campus, the Center conducts advanced interdisciplinary research on human viral infections and is committed to fostering the next generation of researchers. In line with this mission, the successful candidate will be expected to conduct interdisciplinary and internationally competitive research on human viral infections, contribute to the advancement of the field by introducing novel technical aspects, and take a leadership role in capacity-building and mentoring graduate students.

For more information about the Center, please visit our website at <https://kumamoto-u-jrchri.jp/en/>.

DETAILS

1. Position Title and Area of Specialization Title: Professor (One (1) position)
Area of Specialization: Research on human viral infections
2. Affiliation Joint Research Center for Human Retrovirus Infection, Kumamoto University Campus
3. Expected Start Date December 1, 2026, or as soon as possible thereafter (negotiable)
4. Application Requirements (1) Academic Qualifications: Applicants must hold a **Ph.D. degree**.
(2) Research Achievements: Applicants must have demonstrated excellence in research and possess a strong record of scholarly achievements in the areas of expertise described in Section 1.
5. Application Deadline Application documents must be received no later than **Tuesday, June 30, 2026**.
*Please refer to the information below for details on application materials and the submission process.

6. Working Conditions
- (1) Duties:
(Initial assignment) The successful candidate will engage in duties as a Professor.
(Scope of potential changes) Duties may be subject to change within the scope defined by Kumamoto University.
 - (2) Working Hours: The position is subject to a Discretionary Work System for Professional Work, based on the employee's consent.
**Working hours are left to the discretion of the employee, and the working hours are deemed to be seven (7) hours and forty-five (45) minutes per day, regardless of actual hours worked.*
 - (3) Probationary Period: A probationary period of six (6) months will apply.
 - (4) Term of Appointment: Permanent (tenured) appointment
 - (5) Work Location:
 Initial Assignment: Honjo Central Campus, Kumamoto University
 Location may change within the scope defined by Kumamoto University
 - (6) Overtime: Overtime, including late-night and holiday work, may be required.
 - (7) Salary: Salary will be determined in accordance with the Kumamoto University Regulations on Salary for Employees Subject to the Annual Salary System (Category II).
 - (8) Social Insurance: MEXT Mutual Aid Association (Employees' Health Insurance, Employees' Pension Insurance), Employment Insurance, Worker's Accident Insurance
 - (9) Employer: Kumamoto University (National University Corporation)
7. Conditions and Support System after Appointment
- The successful candidate will be expected to establish and lead a research laboratory in a new academic field within the Center. Additionally, they will be appointed as a faculty member in the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, with responsibilities including the research and educational supervision of graduate students.
 - One faculty member may be appointed either as a full-time faculty member under regular employment or as a specially appointed faculty member under fixed-term employment, at the rank of Associate Professor, Lecturer, or Assistant Professor. In the case of a full-time faculty appointment, the selection will be conducted through an open recruitment process based on the University's faculty allocation plan, and the academic rank will be determined based on the applicant's qualifications and achievements.
 - A startup research fund of 5 million yen will be provided upon appointment.
 - The Center is equipped with shared research facilities, including BSL3, BSLA3, and BSL2 laboratories, which will be available for use after the appointment.
8. Application Documents [Form 1]
- (1) Curriculum Vitae (CV)
**Regardless of gender, if you wish such periods to be taken into consideration, please indicate any periods of leave taken for childbirth, childcare, or nursing care.*
 - (2) Achievements
**Separately, please attach reprints (photocopies are acceptable) of no more than five (5) major papers, primarily original papers, from the past five (5) years.*
 - (3) Summary of Research and Educational Achievements
 - (4) Aspirations in Research and Education
 - (5) References (Names and contact information of two (2) individuals who can respond to inquiries about the applicant's qualifications and abilities)
 - (6) Letter of Declaration

*The application form [Form 1] can be downloaded from the University's website "Recruitment Information" at <https://www.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/daigakujouhou/saiyou/index>

9. Submission Address
- (a) Access the following URL to upload your application documents:
 - (b) <https://prsf.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/public/Q8Z3QSyHeFLQMbMHnFINVyTb9OH6-OaG2f8h-hSLM3EC>
 - (c) Password: KU@HuRetro#2026
 - (d) Submit all materials listed in “7. Application Documents” in PDF format.
 - (e) Place all required documents into a single folder, compress the folder into a ZIP file (or similar format), and upload it.
 - (f) Add your name at the end of each file name.
 - (g) After uploading your materials, notify to the administrative office by email. A confirmation email will be sent once your documents have been received. If you do not receive confirmation within three business days, contact the office again by email or by phone using the number provided below.
 - (h) Kazumi Tsuruhara (Ms.)
General Affairs Team, Administrative Division of Research Centers for Life Sciences
Kumamoto University
2-2-1 Honjo, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto, 860-0811 JAPAN
TEL: +81-96-373-6647
E-mail: iys-senter-2@jimu.kumamoto-u.ac.jp
10. Screening Process
- First Round: Evaluation of application materials
Second Round: Presentation at a seminar, followed by a Q&A session
- *The second round will primarily be conducted in person; however, it may be held online depending on circumstances. Travel expenses for the second-round screening will be covered by Kumamoto University in accordance with university regulations. Please contact us for further details.
11. Contact
- Please direct all inquiries to:
Takamasa Ueno, Ph.D.
Director, Joint Research Center for Human Retrovirus Infection
Kumamoto University
Email: uenotaka@kumamoto-u.ac.jp
Note: Inquiries will only be accepted via email.
12. Notes
- (1) Personal information provided in the application documents will be used solely for the purpose of selection and recruitment, in accordance with Kumamoto University regulations, and will not be used for any other purpose.
 - (2) Kumamoto University is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion. For information about our initiatives related to gender equality and support for parenting, please visit the website of the Kumamoto University Diversity Promotion Office:
<https://diversity.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/activities>
 - (3) In accordance with Article 8 of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act (Special Provisions for Measures Concerning Female Workers), when candidates are judged to have equivalent qualifications based on a fair evaluation, women will be given preference in order to improve the representation of female faculty members.
 - (4) Periods of childcare leave, family care leave, and maternity/paternity leave

(collectively referred to as “family-related leave”) will be taken into account in the evaluation of academic performance. If multiple periods of leave have been taken, their durations will be aggregated.

- When assessing achievements over a recent period (e.g., the past five years), the duration of family-related leave taken during the evaluation period will be compensated by extending the evaluation timeframe accordingly.
 - Alternatively, the number of achievements per year may be calculated by excluding the duration of family-related leave from the evaluation period.
- (5) Kumamoto University offers a system that enables principal investigators to allocate a portion of direct expenses from competitive research grants or privately funded joint research toward salary supplements (up to 10 million yen per year for Professors). Alternatively, these funds may be used as discretionary research expenses or to support the employment of early-career researchers.

For details, please refer to the following website:

https://www.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/kenkyuu_sangakurenkei/kenkyuu/kenkyu/jwalct

Note: This website is available in Japanese only.

- (6) This English translation is provided for informational purposes only. In the event of any inconsistency or discrepancy between the English and Japanese versions, the Japanese version shall take precedence.