

Tenured Full Professor Position in Astrobiology

The Institute for Planetary Materials (IPM), Okayama University, Misasa, Japan, invites applications for a Tenured Full Professor position in the area of Astrobiology.

IPM is a world-class institute with the aim of advancing research and education on the origin, evolution and dynamics of the Earth and planets. The Institute provides leadership in the fields of analytical planetary chemistry and experimental geophysics, hosting comprehensive, state-of-the-art analytical systems (including multiple element/isotope analysis and multiple dating techniques at various scales) and a range of high-pressure and high-temperature apparatus and spectroscopic facilities.

As a designated Joint-Use/Research Center in Earth and planetary materials science, IPM is supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) in Japan. Joint-use and collaborative research on Earth and planetary materials is promoted by providing access to the analytical and experimental facilities, and associated expertise, for researchers and students both in Japan and worldwide. Graduate education is also offered via an independent five-year doctoral program in Earth and planetary materials science within the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Okayama University.

IPM was reorganized on April 1, 2016 from the “Institute for Study of the Earth’s Interior (ISEI)” with the aim of expanding its research and education capacity in Earth and planetary materials science and related fields. In particular, a new Division of Astrobiology was established to strengthen research on mineral-water-organic interactions, analytical and experimental studies of the origin of life, as well as the search for signs of primitive life in the solar system.

Further information about the faculty, research and facilities of the Institute can be found at the IPM website (<http://www.misasa.okayama-u.ac.jp>).

IPM wishes to recruit in the research field of astrobiology. We seek a candidate who will lead a research program in areas defined above in the new Division for Astrobiology, and help the institute grow to be a world leading research center in the field. The candidate is expected to develop a novel and independent research program, and also to work within a collaborative environment with other staff to pursue joint researches on planetary materials.

The candidate is expected to demonstrate excellent ability and research experience in analytical or experimental studies within the areas described above. As a senior faculty member, he/she will have broad knowledge and vision in further advancing research programs at IPM. The Institute is planning to be responsible for comprehensive analysis of samples collected by “Hayabusa 2”, which will return to the Earth in 2020. Moreover, we hope to participate in other materials science analysis from global sample return projects. The candidate is expected to take a leading role in sample analysis for these global joint missions.

The successful candidate is expected to take part in the education of graduate students. He/she will also take on an active role in the management and future vision of the Institute. The Institute is expecting to receive recovery funding after the earthquake in Central Tottori in October, 2016 to both replace and expand instrumentation, and the candidate is

expected to play an active, collaborative role in the design and implementation of the recovery program.

IPM is a Joint Use/Research Center, and the faculty member will contribute to the promotion of this program by supporting the needs of collaborative research performed by external visitors from within Japan and worldwide.

- 1) Affiliation: Division for Astrobiology
- 2) Job title: Tenured Full Professor, 1 post
- 3) Appointment date: As soon as possible
- 4) Qualifications:
The candidates must have a doctoral degree. Any nationality is welcome
- 5) Educational duty
The successful candidate will be required to teach courses in our 5-year Ph.D. program in the Division of Earth and Planetary Materials Science.
- 6) Documents required with application (the documents should be prepared in English, and will not be returned):
 - Curriculum vitae
 - List of publications (original article (refereed or non-refereed must be distinguished), review, book and others)
 - Reprints (or pdf) of five representative publications
 - Summary of past research
 - Plan for activities in research and teaching at IPM
 - Statement on the management of the Institute
 - Contact information for two references
- 7) Closing Date: Review of Applications will begin on February 23rd 2018, and will continue until the position is filled.
- 8) For further information, please contact:
The Selection Committee for the Faculty in the Division for Astrobiology,
Institute for Planetary Materials, Okayama University
827 Yamada, Misasa, Tottori, 682-0193, Japan

Phone: +81-858-43-1215

E-mail: wakusei-jinji@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp

Application documents should be sent by mail or email to the above committee.

- 9) Selection:
The candidates will be examined by the Selection Committee for the Faculty in the Division for Astrobiology
- 10) Salary:
The successful candidate will be employed under the annual salary system in accordance with established guidelines at Okayama University. The details are as follows (only in Japanese).
http://www.gnst.okayama-u.ac.jp/up_load_files/koubo/nenpo.pdf

*Okayama University is committed to gender equality and provides support for female faculty members. Applications from female candidates are encouraged.