

Press Release

May 10, 2022

Sony Institute of Higher Education, Shohoku College Seeks for Two Ukrainian Researchers—Support for Ukrainian Citizens through Partnership, not in the Form of Charity—

Sony Institute of Higher Education, Shohoku College (Atsugi City, Kanagawa, President: Kazuaki Takanose) is looking for two researchers for the Center for General Research which was established on April 1. For this, we would like to give priority to Ukrainian researchers and Ukrainian graduate students who are forced to postpone their return to their home country.

As Ukraine is an advanced IT country and its competent researchers will be our valuable partners, we have decided to support Ukrainian citizens through partnership, not in the form of charity. The details of recruitment information will be posted in JREC-IN, the career support portal site for researchers, and we will also ask the Embassy of Ukraine in Japan to cooperate in publicizing the program to Ukrainian researchers and graduate students in Japan.

Comment from Kazuaki Takanose, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Sony Institute of Higher Education:

Sony was founded in 1946, soon after the end of World War II, with the aim of reviving Japan through industry and creating a peaceful society. The founder of Sony, Masaru Ibuka established Sony Institute of Higher Education based on the philosophy of “education to develop character to live in the world and to lead others.”

I am deeply saddened by the recent reports of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and many civilian casualties in Ukraine. Throughout our history, all wars have been fought in the name of self-defense. These unreasonable wars start when people see only one side of an argument and do not see that there are many different people and opinions in the world.

Last year, Shohoku College made “Sony Institute of Higher Education Diversity Declaration.” Along with the Diversity Declaration, we established the Diversity Promotion and Harassment Prevention Office, which has the function of preventing various types of harassments. Some people were uncomfortable with the idea of lumping diversity and harassment prevention together. However, the basic idea of diversity is to

care for others and to create a society where people with a variety of values live together as they are, whereas any type of harassment is an act of one-sided value that causes others to suffer. We believe that promotion of diversity and prevention of harassment as two wheels of a cart will help prevent all kinds of discriminations, prejudice, wars, and other conflicts.

Many Japanese universities have already announced that they will accept Ukrainian students. We respect their decisions as we believe that is one way of supporting Ukraine. However, at the same time, we have been asking ourselves if there is another way of supporting Ukraine other than in the form of charity.

Ukraine is also an advanced IT country. We believe that students who have gained advanced knowledge in Japan and researchers who are unable to continue their research in their home country will become strong partners who will support Japanese industry and its research.

Therefore, we will give priority to Ukrainian applicants for the open call for researchers. Although this is a small attempt (only two positions), we hope that Ukrainian graduate students and researchers will apply for these positions with a high sense of pride. While these are assistant professor positions, 20% of their working hours will be guaranteed for their free research activities.

About Sony Institute of Higher Education, Shohoku College

Sony Institute of Higher Education was established in 1964 in response to the desire of Sony's founder, Masaru Ibuka, to provide education to all people. Shohoku College was established in 1974 by the early members of the Sony Institute of Higher Education who shared the strong desire of Masaru Ibuka, to educate young people who would lead Japan into the next era of its history. The words of late Masaru Ibuka at the time of the school's founding have become the "founding spirit" of the college. Today, Shohoku College has become a comprehensive junior college with approximately 930 students in three departments: Business and Informatics, Creative Life-Style Management, Early Childhood Education and Care.

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