

The 57th Kurata Grants (FY 2025)

Application Guidelines for the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Fields

The Hitachi Global Foundation provides financial support for researchers who are pursuing in the humanities and social sciences, in anticipation of the advent of advanced technological societies and the advancement of related knowledge in the humanities.

1. Eligibility

Applicants (principal researcher) must meet the following criteria:

- (1) The applicant must be a researcher affiliated with a university, an affiliated research facility, a technical college, or a research institution in Japan that is eligible to apply for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI), excluding for-profit enterprises. Graduate students are eligible to apply. This is an open call for applications.
- (2) A Letter of Recommendation from the head of the institution of affiliation (President, Chancellor, Dean of the graduate school, Dean of faculty, Chairperson, Director of a research institute, immediate superior, etc.) is required. There is no limit to the number of recommendations.
- (3) There are no restrictions on nationality. However, applicants must be expected to maintain a continuous research base in Japan until the end of the research period.
- (4) The applicant must agree to the contents of Section 14: Important Notes.

2. Eligible Research Areas

The following types of research are eligible that analyzing societal transformations brought about by advances in science and technology and the background of the complex and interconnected issues from the perspective of humanities and social sciences (society, literature, history, philosophy, ethics, law, economy, psychology, culture/art, and etc.) and exploring the meaning and value of the development of science and technology.

(Research utilizing science and technology as a method is not eligible.)

- (1) Research that takes the human as the starting point in its investigation of desirable societies in the context of advances in science and technology and how such may become reality.
- (2) Research that captures the advancement of science and technology from a critical perspective and examines the impact on human society and quality of life.
- (3) Research on social systems that aim for inclusive society as the boundaries of language, culture, society, and geography are fading due to advances in science and technology, and further globalization is progressing.
- (4) Other research in the humanities or social sciences that the applicant might propose which relates to advanced technological societies.

(Examples)

- Studies which analyze social transformations due to the implementation and diffusion of science and

technology research from the perspective of a variety of academic fields (the field of expertise of the applicant), not simply from the perspective of utility. For example, changes in human thinking and behavior, comparisons with historical data, and considerations from literary, political, economic and ethical perspectives.

- Research into how to make use of the outcomes and information gained from science and technology research in society. Research into how to apply the necessary legal frameworks, risk countermeasures, communication, education for correct knowledge acquisition and improvement of living conditions without increasing the burden on human beings.
- Research that analyzes current debates around the effect of the advance of science and technology on human society, delineates the structure of the issues involved and considers the forms that society should take.
(e.g., ethical, legal, and social issues arising from advances in information technology and healthcare)
- Research into the role of the humanities and social sciences in the context of contemporary technological society which is experiencing a shift in values from physical to spiritual abundance.

3. Grant amounts and number of projects

Maximum of 1,000,000 JPY per grant, approx. 10 grants

※The grant amount may be subject to reduction at the time of selection.

4. Research periods and expiration dates

One-Year Research Period: March 3, 2026 - March 31, 2027

5. Expenses Covered by Grant

Direct expenses for achieving a research objective. However, the following expenses are excluded.

- Indirect expenses for maintaining the general research environment of the affiliated institution
- Personnel costs corresponding to the wages of the principal and collaborating researchers

6. Obligation to report

- Research Report: Submitted at the end of the research period.
- Accounting Report: Submitted at the end of the research period.
- Research report will be published as " The Kurata Grants Research Report ".
- Research results may be presented at events The Hitachi Global Foundation holds, etc.

7. Presentation of Research Outcomes

If a recipient publishes the outcomes of research carried out after receiving this grant, a note to the effect that this grant was received shall be added using the name below.

Japanese: 公益財団法人日立財団 倉田奨励金

English: The Kurata Grants by The Hitachi Global Foundation.

8. Selection Process

A selection committee consisting of the following four members, will select the grant recipients.

Selection Committee Chair

HANAKI Keisuke Emeritus Professor, The University of Tokyo
Emeritus Professor, Toyo University

Selection Committee Members (in alphabetical order)

HORIE Norichika Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology and Faculty of Letters,
The University of Tokyo

KISHIMOTO Atsuo Director, Research Center on Ethical, Legal and Social Issues /
Professor, D3 Center, Osaka University

YOKOYAMA Hiromi Professor, Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe,
The University of Tokyo

[Selection Process]

Grant recipients will be carefully determined through deliberation by the selection committee, based on individual evaluations of the following criteria.

[Evaluation Criteria]

- a) Consistency with the aims and eligible research areas of the grant
- b) Social importance of the research theme
- c) Originality and innovativeness
- d) Objectives that are rooted in the area of expertise of the applicant
- e) Suitability of expenses

9. How to apply

This call for applications is conducted online only. Postal applications will not be accepted.

The application forms can be downloaded from The Hitachi Global Foundation's website, and the applicant shall register and apply from the designated application registration page.

[Application documents]

- (1) Application form (research plan) ※mandatory
- (2) Recommendation letter ※mandatory
- (3) Published articles by the applicant as a reference for the review process
(maximum three) ※optional

[Application Process]

Step 1 Obtain the application documents (1) and (2)
(Download from The Kurata Grants application method page)
(Application method page)
<https://www.hitachi-zaidan.org/global/activities/kurata/application-method.html>



Step 2 Enter your name and e-mail address on the registration form and send it.
(Registration form) ※ There is an entry button on the application method page.
<https://reg34.smp.ne.jp/regist/is?SMPFORM=gccqg-maoala-fb24e0fe02f6a6791772949e03b42b99>
Receipt number and a login page for application are notified to the registerer by e-mail.



Step 3 Set a password on the login page for application provided in the e-mail.



Step 4 Preparation of the application documents

※Up to 10MB per file.

Document	Content	Format
Application form	File name: [Receipt Number] _application (e.g., S0123_application) Page limit: Sections A–L: Maximum of 4 pages in total Section M: No page limit for the list of research achievements (If you are attaching an existing list, please combine it with the application form into a single file.)	PDF
Recommendation letter	File name: [Receipt Number] _Recommendation Submit as data, signed and sealed.	PDF
Reference article 1	File name: [Receipt Number] _any file name A published article by the applicant that will serve as a reference for the review process	PDF
Reference article 2	same as above	PDF
Reference article 3	same as above	PDF



Step 5 Log in to My Page with your e-mail and password, fill out necessary information, attach application form, recommendation letter, and reference papers, and submit. If any corrections are necessary after submission, please log in again to make the required changes and resubmit the application.

*After completing the registration form and application form, you will be sent an automatic reply e-mail to the e-mail address you entered. If you do not receive an e-mail, please check your spam folder. If you do not receive an automatic reply e-mail after half a day, there may be an error in the address you entered. In this case, please register again or contact our office.

10. Deadline

Midnight, September 16, 2025 (the online application system's closing time)

The system may be congested close to the deadline, and you may not be able to complete the submission. Therefore, please send your application with time to spare.

11. Grant selection

January 2026

12. Presentation Ceremony

Date Monday, March 2, 2026

Venue Keidanren Kaikan (otemachi, chiyoda-ku, Tokyo)

13. Transfer of Funds

In principle, the grant will be transferred to the recipient's affiliated institution as a research grant. If the institution is unable to manage the funds, the grant may be transferred to a designated personal account.

14. Important Notes

Recipients of this grant are required to comply with the following conditions upon selection:

- If there is any change in the applicant's affiliated institution between the time of grant selection and the submission/publication of the final research report after the research period, the applicant must promptly report the change to the Hitachi Global Foundation.
- Any changes that may significantly affect the research outcomes must be promptly reported to the Hitachi Global Foundation.
- The principal researcher is solely responsible for submitting and publishing the research report after the end of the research period.
- In the event of unavoidable circumstances (e.g., childbirth/childcare, injury, illness, death, etc.) that cause changes, the Hitachi Global Foundation will review the situation and determine appropriate actions, such as an extension of the research period or refunding of the grant.
- Changes of the principal researcher are not permitted.
- If the principal researcher transfers to a different institution, they are responsible for coordinating the transfer of the grant to the new institution and must notify the Hitachi Foundation of the new affiliation and updated contact information.

15. Measures against violations

If any of the following applies or such fact is discovered, the decision to award the grant may be cancelled, discontinued, or The Foundation may demand the return of all or part of a grant already provided.

- (1) If a false application or report is submitted
- (2) If the continuation of subject research activities, etc., becomes impossible
(Exclusion from affiliation with a domestic research institution, etc. A transfer of affiliation in Japan is possible.)
- (3) If an accounting report is not submitted by the due date
- (4) If there is a balance of 10% or more of the grant remaining at the end of the research period
- (5) If the President otherwise recognizes that the grant is not suitable in light of the purpose of the grant

16. Applications from anti-social forces

We do not accept applications from anti-social forces, and individuals or groups related to anti-social forces.

17. Other

- We are unable to respond to inquiries regarding the process, content and results of selections.
- The affiliation, name, photograph, research theme and research summary of people determined to receive a grant will be published on the foundation's website, social media, public relations magazines, and etc.

* Handling of personal information

We use the personal information we receive from applicants only for the general procedures related to the Kurata Grants (selection, notification of results and presentation of grants). We never disclose personal information to third parties or use personal information for any other purpose without consent.

[Contact Regarding Applications]

Kurata Grants Office, The Hitachi Global Foundation **E-mail:** kurata@hdq.hitachi.co.jp