

The 57th Kurata Grants (FY 2025)

Application Guidelines

for the Natural Science and Engineering Research Fields

The Hitachi Global Foundation supports creative and pioneering research by young researchers, in the fields of natural sciences and engineering that contributes to solving social challenges from an international perspective.

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 be 45 years old or younger as of April 1, 2025.
- (5) The applicant must agree to the contents of Section 14: Important Notes.

2. Eligible Research Areas

The following three areas are eligible for support. Please refer to the field classification table on page six of these guidelines for specific research areas for each category.

I. Energy and the Environment II. Urban Development and Transportation III. Healthcare

3. Grant amounts and number of projects to be selected

- One-year research period: Maximum of 1,000,000 JPY per grant, approx. 30 grants
- Two-year research period: Maximum of 3,000,000 JPY per grant, approx. 5 grants
- ※The grant amount may be subject to reduction at the time of selection.

4. Research periods and expiration dates

Please select one of the following when applying

- One-Year Research: March 3, 2026 - March 31, 2027
- Two-Year Research: March 3, 2026 - March 31, 2028

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 Reports:**
 - 1-year research: Must be submitted at the end of the research period.
 - 2-year research: An interim report must be submitted at the end of the first year, and a final report must be submitted at the end of the research period.
- **Financial Reports:** Submitted after the end of the fiscal year, regardless of the research period.
- Research reports will be published as "The Kurata Grants Research Report".
- Research results may be presented at events held by The Hitachi Global Foundation, 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 eight members, will select the grant recipients.

Selection Committee Chair

HANAKI Keisuke	Emeritus Professor, The University of Tokyo/ Emeritus Professor, Toyo University
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Selection Committee Members (in alphabetical order)

HANAWA Takao	Emeritus Professor, Tokyo Medical and Dental University
ISHIDA Haruo	Professor Emeritus, University of Tsukuba
KAKIMI Kazuhiro	Professor, Department of Medicine, Kindai University
MATSUOKA Hideyuki	Senior Chief Researcher, Research & Development Group, Hitachi, Ltd.
MATSUMOTO Takeo	Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Nagoya University
OBARA Haruhiko	Senior Vice-President and CTO, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology
TSUMOTO Kouhei	Professor, The Graduate School of Engineering, 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) Social importance of the research theme
- b) Originality and innovativeness
- c) Academic significance
- d) Feasibility of the research plan

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=qcqg-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., N0123E_application) Page limit: Sections A–P: Maximum of 4 pages in total Section Q: 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. Grant transfer

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 if 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

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The Kurata Grants Application Guidelines: Classification of Scientific Fields

The table below describes the content of each field. It will help applicants to decide the field best suited to their research projects. Yet this table does not exhaustively describe the research fields The Kurata Grants are aimed at. If your research project does not fall exactly under a specific field in the table below, please choose a field from the table that is relatively close to the field in which you will do your project research.

Research area	Keyword	Example Research Topics
Energy and the Environment	Environmental Conservation	Ecosystem services and biodiversity, environmental impact assessment, risk management, etc.
		Bioplastic, Measures to microplastics
	Energy Production, Energy systems, Energy network	Solar batteries, artificial photosynthesis, fuel cells, thermoelectric conversion, electrical storage devices, power semiconductor devices, green catalysts, etc.
		Distributed power, renewable energy and fusion systems, energy network technology, etc.
		High efficiency energy services, supply and demand management systems that utilize consumer resources, etc.
	Information Technology, Data Science	Links between the energy, environment and ICT platforms (AI, Internet of Things, big data, robotics)
	Observation and measurement	Environmental monitoring on a global scale (remote monitoring surveys), etc.
Urban Development and Transportation	Social Infrastructure	National, urban and regional planning (land use, infrastructure development, etc.)
		Transportation engineering, urban engineering, civil engineering, hydroengineering, infrastructure, etc.
		Compact cities, area management, sustainable living, etc.
		Safe water supply systems, drainage and other water treatment systems, membranes, ingredients, etc.
		Service management, transportation supply management, etc.
	Crisis Management	Disaster prevention, disaster reduction (urbanization and damage minimization in large-scale disasters, disaster surveillance satellites, etc.)
	Next generation mobility technology	Next-generation urban transportation systems (autonomous cruising systems, mobility services, etc.)
		Security and safety, social impact and risk management
	Information Technology, Data Science	HMI (voice recognition, image recognition, etc.)
		Developing technologies for using GNSS and GIS for cities and transportation, etc.
Specific of data coordination (Ecosystems in data platforms, etc.)		
Healthcare	Next-Generation Healthcare	Research on social medicine and public health (advancement of medical care, health screening and management, community healthcare systems, and regulatory science, etc.)
	Next generation basic technology	Organism imaging, trans-omics (integrated omics analysis), microbiomes, regenerative medicine, etc.
	Nanotechnology, materials	Medical biomaterials, nanomedicine delivery systems, nano measuring, diagnostic devices, nano imaging, etc.
	Medical engineering	Research on the development of medical technologies through engineering approaches (medical equipment, medical imaging, medical robotics, assistive equipment, and regenerative medical materials, etc.)
	Information Technology, Data Science	Life, health, and medical informatics, and the application of information infrastructure technologies in healthcare (including AI, IoT, and big data)