

# The 58th Kurata Grants (FY 2026)

## Application Guidelines

### for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Category

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 or its 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 also 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, 2026.
- (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 / Number of Grants

- ✓ One-year research period: Maximum of 1,000,000 JPY per grant
- ✓ Two-year research period: Maximum of 3,000,000 JPY per grant
- \*Number of Grants: Approximately 35 grants (including around 6–7 for two-year research).
- \*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 1, 2027 - March 31, 2028
- ✓ Two-Year Research: March 1, 2027 - March 31, 2029

## 5. Expenses Covered by Grant

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

- ✓ Indirect costs required to maintain the general research environment of the affiliated institution
- ✓ Personnel costs such as the wages of principal and collaborating investigators

## 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:
  - To be 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.

## 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

Selection Committee Members (in alphabetical order)

KISHIDA Akio      Emeritus Professor, Institute of Science Tokyo

KAKIMI Kazuhiro      Professor, Department of Medicine, Kindai University

MATSUOKA Hideyuki      Senior Chief Researcher, Research & Development Group, Hitachi, Ltd.

MATSUMOTO Takeo      Visiting professor, Innovative Research Center for Preventive Medical  
Engineering Institutes of Innovation for Future Society,  
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

YAI Tetsuo      President for Research, Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute

Emeritus Professor, Institute of Science 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 Proposal) \* Required
- (2) Letter of Recommendation \* Required
- (3) Reference Papers (up to 3) \* Optional

[Application process]

See the attached "Application Method" for details.

## 10. Deadline

**Midnight, September 10, 2026 (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 2027

## 12. Presentation Ceremony

Date Monday, March 1, 2027

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

### 14.1 Notes on Application Submission

- ✓ If approval by an ethics committee or other relevant review body is required for

the implementation of the research plan, applicants must prepare the research schedule with due consideration for the timeline for submitting the ethics review application and obtaining the necessary approvals.

#### **14.2 After the Funding Decision**

- ✓ If there is any change in the principal researcher's affiliated institution between the time of grant selection and the submission/publication of the final research report after the research period, the principal researcher 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 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 Global 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 acceptable.)
- (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, 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](mailto: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 and risk management
		Bioplastics and Microplastic Pollution Mitigation
	Energy Production, Energy Systems, and Energy Networks	Solar Cells, Artificial Photosynthesis, Fuel Cells, Thermoelectric Conversion, and Green Catalysis
		Energy Storage Devices
		Power Semiconductor Devices
		Systems for Integrating Distributed Energy Resources and Renewable Energy, and Energy Network Technologies
Energy-Efficient Services and Energy Demand-Supply Management Systems Utilizing Demand-Side Resources		
Information Technology and Data Science	Integration of Energy and Environmental Systems with Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) (AI, Internet of Things, Big Data, Robotics)	
	Observation and Measurement	Global-Scale Environmental Monitoring (Remote Sensing and In Situ Measurements)
Urban Development and Transportation	Social Infrastructure and Urban Planning	National, Urban, and Regional Planning (Land Use and Infrastructure Development, etc.)
		Urban Engineering, Civil Engineering, Hydraulic Engineering, and Architectural and Building Services Engineering
		Compact Cities, Area Management, and Sustainable Human Settlements
		Water Supply and Sewerage Systems, Drainage and Water Treatment Systems, and Membrane Technologies
		Infrastructure Maintenance and Management, Aging Infrastructure Countermeasures, Asset Management, and Infrastructure Materials
		Urban Decarbonization and Greening
	Safety, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Crisis Management	Disaster Risk Reduction and National Resilience (Disaster Prediction and Impact Mitigation, Flood Control, River Management, and Watershed Management)
		Disaster Monitoring Satellites and Remote Sensing
		Securing Transportation and Logistics during Disasters
		Safety Management and Risk Management of Social Infrastructure
		Urban Heat Environment Analysis and Mitigation
	Transportation and Mobility Systems	Next-Generation Transportation Systems (Autonomous Driving, Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), Mobility Services)
		Operations Management and Travel Demand Management
		Logistics, Freight Transport, and Supply Chain Management
		Aviation and Airport Technologies
		Transportation Safety and Security, Social Impacts, and Risk Management
		Regional Public Transportation and Active Modes (Cycling and Walking)
	Information Technology, Data Science	Human-Machine Interfaces (HMI) (Speech Recognition, Image Recognition)
		Geospatial Information Technologies (GNSS, GIS)
Data Analysis and Simulation in Urban and Transportation Systems		
Data Integration, Data Platforms, Data Governance, and Ecosystem Development		

Research area	Keyword	Example Research Topics
Healthcare	Next-Generation Healthcare	Advanced Medical Care, Health Screening and Management, and Community-Based Healthcare Systems
		Regulatory Science
		Social Medicine and Public Health Research
	Next-Generation Platform Technologies	Bioimaging Technologies
		Trans-Omics (Integrated Omics Analysis) and the Microbiome
		Regenerative Medicine Technologies
	Nanotechnology and Materials	Biomaterials
		Nanoscale Drug Delivery Systems
		Nanoscale Measurement and Diagnostic Devices, and Nanoimaging
	Biomedical Engineering	Medical Devices, Medical Imaging Technologies, and Medical Robotics
		Assistive and Welfare Devices
		Regenerative Medicine Materials
		Development of Medical Technologies through Engineering Approaches
	Information Technology and Data Science	Bioinformatics, Health Informatics, and Medical Informatics
		Application of Information Infrastructure Technologies in Healthcare (AI, IoT, and Big Data)