

The 56th Kurata Grants (FY 2024) 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

- (1) Researchers who belong to universities and their affiliated research facilities, research institutions, and technical colleges in Japan (excluding researchers affiliated with corporations). Graduate students are eligible to apply.
- (2) A letter of recommendation from the head of the institution of affiliation (Chancellor, President, Dean of graduate school, Dean of faculty, Director, Research Institute Head, immediate superior, etc.) is required. There is no limitation on the number of recommendations.
- (3) There are no restrictions regarding nationality. However, grants are limited to researchers who reside in Japan and are expected to have a research base in Japan continuously until the end of the research period.

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. Main examples of such include the penetration of AI in society, environmental issues, the pros and cons of genetic medicine, contagious disease, and food security (e.g., alternative meat and edible insect), and etc.
- 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

4. Research periods and expiration dates

One-Year Research Period: March 3, 2025 - March 31, 2026

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 Grant Research Reports ".
- 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 be established to 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)

KAMISATO Tatsuhiro Professor, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chiba University
KISHIMOTO Atsuo Director, Research Center on Ethical, Legal and Social Issues /
Professor, Institute for Dataability Science, Osaka University
SUZUKI Jun Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology and Faculty of Letters,
The University of Tokyo

(Selection Process)

Grant recipients will be determined by consultation among 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

Application is public offering, and application can only be made online.

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)
- (2) Recommendation letter
- (3) Published articles by the applicant as a reference for the review process (maximum three)

[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=qcqq-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
1. Application form (mandatory)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items A to L must not exceed four pages in total. There is no limit on the number of pages for the publication list of Item M. If you wish to attach an existing list, please combine it into one file with the application form.	PDF or Word
2. Recommendation letter (mandatory)	Submit as data, signed and sealed.	PDF
3. Reference article 1 (optional)	A published article by the applicant that will serve as a reference for the review process	PDF
4. Reference article 2 (optional)	A published article by the applicant that will serve as a reference for the review process	PDF
5. Reference article 3 (optional)	A published article by the applicant that will serve as a reference for the review process	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.

*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. We are sorry for inconvenience, but in this case, please register again or contact our office.

10. Deadline

Midnight, September 16, 2024 (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 determination

January 2025

12. Presentation Ceremony

Date Monday, March 3, 2025

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

13. Transfer of Funds

In principle, the foundation will transfer the grant to your institution as a research grant.

14. 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

15. Applications from anti-social forces

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

16. 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

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