

The 58th Kurata Grants (FY 2026)

Application Guidelines

for the Humanities and Social Sciences Category

The Hitachi Global Foundation provides research grants to researchers in the humanities and social sciences to advance knowledge that underpins science and technology, in anticipation of an advanced science and technology-driven society.

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 agree to the contents of Section 14: *Important Notes*.

2. Eligible Research Areas

The following types of research are eligible: research that analyzes societal transformations driven by advances in science and technology and the complex, interrelated issues underlying them, from the perspectives of the humanities and social sciences (including sociology, literature, history, philosophy, ethics, law, economics, psychology, and culture and the arts), and that explores the meaning and value of scientific and technological development as well as the future of society.

(Research that uses science and technology solely as a research tool is not eligible.)

- (1) Research on human-centered approaches to shaping desirable societies in response to advances in science and technology, and pathways to their realization
- (2) Research on the critical examination of advances in science and technology and their impacts on human society and quality of life
- (3) Research on social systems that promote the coexistence of diverse people and resources in a globalizing world, where advances in science and technology are blurring linguistic, cultural, social, and geographical boundaries
- (4) Other research in the humanities and social sciences proposed by the applicant that

relates to and underpins science- and technology-driven societies

Examples include:

- ✓ Research on social transformations associated with the implementation and dissemination of scientific and technological developments, from diverse academic perspectives (including the applicant's field of expertise), such as changes in human cognition and behavior, historical comparisons, and analyses from literary, political, economic, and ethical viewpoints
- ✓ Research on the utilization and application of outcomes and knowledge generated by scientific and technological research in society, including legal frameworks, risk management, education and communication for promoting accurate understanding, and approaches to improving quality of life without increasing individual burdens
- ✓ Research on the impacts of advances in science and technology on human society, including the analysis of related discussions, clarification of underlying issue structures, and exploration of desirable societal models
(e.g., ethical, legal, and social issues arising from advances in information technology and healthcare)
- ✓ Research on the role of the humanities and social sciences in science- and technology-driven societies, focusing on value shifts from material wealth to spiritual and psychological well-being

3. Grant Amounts / Number of Grants

Maximum of 1,000,000 JPY per grant

*Number of Grants: Approximately 10-12 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 1, 2027 - March 31, 2028

5. Expenses Covered by Grant

Direct expenses for achieving a 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 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.

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

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