Fiscal 2027
Joint Usage / Research Center Programs
at the Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University
Project Research Program Application Guidelines

The Institute of Economic Research (IER), Hitotsubashi University, has been approved by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as a "Center for Empirical Analysis on Japanese and Global Economy." With a focus on providing an environment for using government micro data, we aim to form an international joint research center on the basis of the development of institutional and policy research, including synergistic research results combining theory and empirical evidence, along with broad collaboration among industry, government, academia, and international organizations. In these efforts, we are oriented toward positive research based on the consolidation and enhancement of data and archives and the development of statistical analytical methods.

To promote these goals, the IER is recruiting proposals for the Project Research Program as a part of the Joint Usage / Research Center Programs. Application guidelines are as follows:

1. Definition

The project research program is for research on specific topics in economics by researchers who are not members of the faculty of the IER, using the research resources of the IER.

2. Qualifications

An individual who falls under either of the descriptions (1) or (2) below may apply as a Principal Investigator.

(1) A researcher from a university or research institute, or other equivalent organization.

(2) A graduate student in a PhD program or other equivalent program (not on a leave of absence from school).

Please note that Principal Investigators who have been accepted into this program within the last two fiscal years may not apply as a Principal Investigator, except for the cases described in Article 6 below.

Co-Investigators may include graduate students in Master's programs or other equivalent programs, or on a leave of absence from school.

3. Number of projects to be selected

Approximately 10 to 30 proposals will be adopted.

4. Research grants

Research grants of up to 1 million yen per research project are available to assist with expenses necessary for research (such as goods, travel, personnel expenditure and remuneration, and others) based on Hitotsubashi University's accounting criteria and are implemented through the IER's budget. Please note that research grants are implemented and managed through the IER. Expenses to be covered may be increased or decreased from the requested amount upon review. We encourage applications that involve faculty members of this institute and proposals that plan research activities carried out at the institute's premises.

* Only if an IER faculty member participates as a Co-Investigator, you can purchase items that can easily be converted into cash (such as personal computers) and goods with an acquisition price of 100 thousand yen or more. In addition, the installation site of the purchased items must be placed in the IER building. The researchers who are not affiliated with Hitotsubashi University are not allowed to use the purchased items at their institutions. Please note that officials involved at Hitotsubashi University are authorized to decide whether or not to purchase items.

List of items that can easily be converted into cash

(1) Personal computers, liquid crystal displays and monitors;
(2) Tablet computers (including e-paper and e-book readers); (3) Digital cameras;
(4) Video cameras; (5) Televisions; (6) Video/Sound recording devices;
(7) Electronic dictionaries; (8) Cash vouchers

* Please note that personnel expenses may only be charged when used to pay salaries to Research Assistants (RAs) and equivalent personnel working at Hitotsubashi University. In such cases, a co-investigator affiliated with Hitotsubashi University must act as the supervisor. Additionally, please note that if you hire individuals who are not students enrolled at Hitotsubashi University, their employment period must be less than two months.

5. Research period

From April 1, 2027 to March 31, 2028. In principle, extensions are not permitted.

6. Continuing application

Since one of our main objectives is the effective utilization of government statistical data, notwithstanding Article 5 above you are allowed to apply continuously for up to two years using the same title, conducted by the same Principal Investigator. Please note that this is permitted only for research topics using the forms returned in a statistical survey in accordance with Article 33 of the

Statistics Act. In this case, you will need to attach the consent agreement forms when you apply. (If you have not obtained the copied consent agreement by the time you apply, please submit any related correspondence instead. Your application may be accepted on the condition that you submit the copied consent agreement by March 31, 2027.) Please note that research grants cannot be carried forward to the next fiscal year. The Principal Investigator must submit the second fiscal year's application as well as the research results report for each fiscal year.

*This center's accreditation period is six years, from fiscal year 2022 through fiscal year 2027. Please note that continuing applications will be accepted only if the center's accreditation is renewed for fiscal year 2028 and beyond.

7. Research topics

The IER expects the following five research areas as the research topics, however, we also welcome applications for research topics other than those listed below. (1) economic analysis using government statistical micro data;[*1] (2) economic research on business enterprises, household expenses, labor, population aging and declining birth rates, pension, and taxation, using micro data; (3) empirical research using price data; (4) construction of historical and industrial data sets for international comparison; and (5) theoretical studies and empirical research on normative economic analysis, microeconomics, macroeconomics, industrial organization, and econometrics.

*1 When using government micro data in a project, applicants must be aware of the eligibility requirements stipulated by the relevant authorities. Applicants can use an "onsite facility" (Joint Usage and Research Center Laboratory 1) as well when using government micro data. For details, please refer to the "Implementation Guidelines."

8. Research organizations

A research organization comprises a Principal Investigator and (a) Co-Investigator(s).

・The Principal Investigator is an individual who applies for project research to represent the research organization, assumes a leading role in conducting the research, and submits a report to the IER on the research organization's activities upon completion of the research period. Please note that those who belong to the faculty of the IER (full-time professors, associate professors, assistant professors, research associates and specially appointed faculty members) may not serve as Principal Investigators.

・A Co-Investigator is an individual who conducts project research with the Principal Investigator. To facilitate administrative procedures associated with the implementation of the project, applicants are encouraged to include at least one IER faculty member as a Co-Investigator. If an application that does not include any IER faculty members is selected, the IER will designate one of its faculty

members as an "internal contact person" for the project. Applicants should be aware of this arrangement in advance.

9. Research results

When the members of the research organization present or publish their results, they must clearly acknowledge within their publications that they received a research project grant from the IER. (For example: “This research was supported by the Joint Usage / Research Center, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University. (Grant ID: IERPK27**)”)

10. Research results report

The Principal Investigator **must submit, by email, a PDF file of the report of the research results, in a format designated by the IER, by the end of April 2028.** Portions of the research results report may be published on the website of the IER.

11. How to apply

The Principal Investigator must submit the application forms (Excel and Word files)—in the format specified by the IER—via email from their own email address to the address below. **Please note that starting with applications for fiscal year 2027, the application form has been divided into two separate files (Excel and Word), although the required information remains the same.**
Upon receipt of your application, a confirmation email will be sent. If you do not receive a confirmation email after submitting your application, please contact the Joint Use and Joint Research Center Project Office at the Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University (042-580-8388).
Email: ier-kyodo-riyou@ad.hit-u.ac.jp

12. Application deadline

The application must arrive by 9:00 a.m. on December 11, 2026, Japan Standard Time.
Please take any time difference into consideration when emailing the application.

13. Decision notification

Decisions on project selection will be made following deliberation in the Joint Usage / Research Committee and will be notified to the Principal Investigators by the end of March 2027. In the case of Article 2 Qualifications (2), we may give special consideration to the Ph.D. students in accordance with the purpose of this program. The Principal Investigators of the adopted research topics must sign and submit a “Written Pledge on the Use of the Joint Usage / Research Center Programs at the

Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University" before starting any research activity.