

Fiscal 2020
Joint Usage and 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 “high-level empirical analysis of the Japanese and global economies.” 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 between 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 and 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 (1) or (2) can apply as a Principal Investigator.

- (1) A researcher from universities or research institutes, or other equivalent organizations.
- (2) A graduate student in a PhD program or other equivalent programs (not on a leave of absence from school).

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

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

3. Number of adoption

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 the 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.

* "Cashable goods" (such as personal computers) and goods with an acquisition price of 100 thousand yen or more must be registered as equipment at Hitotsubashi University. If a researcher who belongs to a research institution other than Hitotsubashi University wants to use such goods purchased by the project research budget at his/her research institution, it is necessary to carry the procedures for lending the goods to his/her research institution. Also, lent goods must be returned promptly after the research period.

"Cashable goods" list

- (1) Personal computer, liquid crystal display and monitor;
- (2) Tablet computer;
- (3) Digital camera; (4) Video camera; (5) Television; (6) Video/Sound recording device;
- (7) Electronic dictionary; (8) Cash vouchers

5. Research period

From April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. In principle, extensions are not permitted.

6. Continuing application

As one of our main objectives is the effective utilization of resampling data, in spite of Article 5 above, you are allowed to apply continuously for a up to two years using the same title conducted by the same Principal Investigator. Please note that it is permitted only for research topics using the forms returned to the statistical survey in accordance with Article 33 of the Statistics Act. In this case, you need to attach the scanned file of the consent agreement forms when you apply. The Principal Investigator must submit the second fiscal year's application as well as the research result report for each fiscal year. The research period of this "Joint Usage and Research Center Programs" project is six years between the fiscal years 2016 and 2021. Please make note of this period when you apply.

7. Research topics

The IER encourages joint research in five basic fields of research toward achieving the specific goals of the Joint Usage and Research Center : (1) economic analysis using government statistical micro data;^{*1} (2) economic research on business enterprises, prices, household expenses, labor, education, population aging and declining birth rates, or pension and taxation using micro data; (3) empirical research using high-frequency data on asset prices; (4) construction of historical and industrial data sets for international comparison; and (5) basic research on normative economic analysis. Project research topics consistent with research topics receiving particular emphasis by the IER are preferable.^{*2}

*1 When using government micro data in the project, applicants must be aware of the eligibility requirements stipulated by the relevant authorities. Applicants can use an “onsite facility” as well when using government micro data. For details, please refer to the “Implementation Guidelines.”

*2 For further details, please refer to the IER’s webpage for largescale research projects (<http://www.ier.hit-u.ac.jp/English/project/index.html>)

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 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 work in the faculty of the IER (full-time professors, associate professors, assistant professors, research associates and adjunct faculties) cannot serve as Principal Investigators. A Co-Investigator is an individual who conducts project research with the Principal Investigator; therefore, it is preferable to include those from the faculty of the IER.

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 and Research Center, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University. ”)

10. Research results report

The Principal Investigator must submit a PDF file as well as the Word file, before converting into PDF, of the report of the research results in a format designated by the IER by the end of April 2021. Portions of the research results report may be published on the website of the IER.

11. How to apply

After completing the required items of the application form designated by the IER, the Principal Investigator must submit an electronic version of the application (PDF file as well as the Word file, before converting into PDF) to the email address provided below from the Principal Investigator's email address. After receiving your application, we will contact you. In case you do not receive a response to your submission, you can make a phone call to the Joint Usage and Research Center Programs Section, IER Administration Office (+81-42-580-8382).

Email address for application: kyodo-riyou@ier.hit-u.ac.jp

12. Application deadline

The application must arrive by 9:00 a.m. on December 16, 2019, Japan Standard Time.

Please take the time difference into consideration when emailing the application.

13. Decision notification

Decisions about adoption will be made following deliberation in the Joint Usage and Research Committee and will be notified to the Principal Investigators by the end of March 2020. In the case of Article 2-(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 and Research Center Programs at the Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University" before starting any research activity.