Hokkaido University Graduate School of Economics and Business
Application Guidelines for Second Application Period for the Master's Program: <General Exam> for April 2027 Enrollment

【Attention】

1. Starting with the entrance exams slated for AY 2024 (for enrollment in AY 2025), our school eliminated the Special Entrance Exam for International Students. This means that international students must take this exam (the General Entrance Exam or the Special Exam for Working Adults).

2. Advance consent from the supervisor
   Applicants who wish to apply to the master's program of Hokkaido university graduate school of Economics and Business (Enrollment for April 2027), need to obtain a consent from the prospective supervisor before filing an application.
   Application period of the advance consent: Sep.28 (Mon.) ～Oct. 21 (Wed.), 2026

   Although the specifications of the Pre-admission System do not impose any input restrictions, please be aware that applications submitted outside the designated period will not be reviewed.
   For details of application procedures, please check our graduate school website (https://www.econ.hokudai.ac.jp/e_exam/daigakuin/) .

Purpose of the Graduate School

By offering an advanced level of education and research in economics and business administration, this graduate school aims to cultivate educators and researchers with a considerable depth and breadth of academic learning and a wealth of creativity as well as professionals with advanced, specialized knowledge useful for the development of an economic society. It also aims to contribute to the development of the disciplines of economics and business administration.

Admissions Policy

Doctoral Course

The doctoral course of the Division of Modern Economics and Management at the Hokkaido University Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration aims to cultivate researchers and educators who have profound knowledge, a broad perspective, and a wealth of creative skills in the fields of economics and business administration. For this reason, through the entrance examination, the graduate school selects individuals who have, in addition to basic academic learning, (1) keen sensibilities with regard to economics and business administration; (2) knowledge in their preferred fields of research and research topics; (3) proficiency in basic research methods and analytical skills; (4) mental faculties that include a keen intellect, expressiveness, and communication skills; and (5) the character to conduct ongoing and developmental education and research. The school focuses on selecting candidates who can respond to the various needs of society in the fields of economics and business administration research.
Prospective students should have a strong background in their major field (Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Economic Thoughts, Economic History, Statistics, Operations Research, Management, or Accounting) and a good command of English.

Specialized Course

The specialized course of the Division of Modern Economics and Management at the Hokkaido University Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration aims to cultivate highly specialized professionals who have in-depth, advanced knowledge in the fields of economics and business administration and who are likely to contribute to the development of an economic society. For this reason, through the entrance examination, the graduate school selects individuals who have, in addition to basic academic learning, (1) keen sensibilities with regard to economics and business administration; (2) knowledge in their preferred fields of research and research topics; (3) interest and insight into advanced, specialized professions; (4) mental faculties that include a keen intellect, expressiveness, and communication skills; and (5) the character to conduct ongoing and developmental education and research. The school focuses on selecting candidates who can respond to the various needs of society for advanced professionals in the fields of economics and business administration.
Prospective students should have a strong background in their major field (Macroeconomics, Microeconomics,

Economic Thoughts, Economic History, Statistics, Operations Research, Management, or Accounting) and a good command of English.

1. Student Openings

Doctoral Course

Division of Modern Economics and Management…… ..... Several

Specialized Course

Division of Modern Economics and Management

Economic Policy Course ..... Several

Business Management Course (MBA)..... Several

The curriculum of the doctoral course in our master's program is structured to provide students with sufficient knowledge to pursue doctoral education.

The curriculum of the specialized courses (Economic Policy Course and Business Management Course) in our master's program is designed so that students can develop the professional skills necessary for career success. Both courses emphasize discussion, research, and writing skills, which contrasts with MBA programs in the United States or Europe that mainly focus on coursework and case studies.

2. Application Qualifications

Applicants must fulfill one of the following criteria:

(1) Individuals who have completed, or will complete undergraduate education in Japan by March 2027.
(2) Individuals with a bachelor degree by National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation in Japan.
(3) Individuals who have been designated by the minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology in Japan.
(4) Individuals who have been registered in third grade of an undergraduate program in Japan or have completed/ will complete 15 years of education in a foreign country by March 2027.
(5) Individuals who have completed, or will complete by March 2027, 16 years of education in a foreign country.
(6) Individuals who have completed, or will complete undergraduate education in foreign country through a correspondence course by March 2027.
(7) Individuals who have completed, or will complete a program at an educational institution in Japan which is positioned within the school educational system of a foreign country by March 2027.
(8) Individuals who have received or expect to receive a degree equivalent to a Bachelor degree from a university or a school that require more than 3 years coursework in a foreign country by March 2027.These institutions should be rated by certified persons from the foreign government or institutions concerned, or satisfy the conditions set by MEXT about general conditions of the educational research activities. This coursework includes correspondence courses in Japan offered by a school in a foreign country and courses taught at a foreign school's educational facility that is recognized by MEXT.
(9) Individuals who have completed, or will complete a specialized course at a professional training college by March 2027.
(10) Individuals who have passed the individual qualification screening.

3. Preliminary Review of Application Qualifications

Those applying under qualification options (4) or (10) in section 2, "Application Qualifications," must undergo a preliminary review of their application qualifications before submitting their admission application. These applicants should therefore submit the necessary documentation between November 5 (Thu.), 2026 and **4:00 p.m.** (Japanese Standard Time) on November 9 (Mon.), 2026 (materials sent in via postal mail must be received by the deadline indicated above).

4. Application Period

Online application registration: November 30 (Mon.) through 5:00 p.m. on December 4 (Fri.), 2026

Submission of application materials: December 8 (Tue.), 2026

(In-person) accepted between 8:30 a.m. and **4:00 p.m.** on the day

(Postal Mail) must be received by this date

5. Application Procedures

After completing the online application registration and paying the examination fee, applicants should send the documents

listed below to the graduate school. If you are sending your application by postal mail, please write "Graduate School Application Materials" in red letters on the envelope and send it by registered mail.
Notes:
※ Applications will be accepted only from applicants who have completed all of the following application procedures by December 8 (Tue.), 2026: (1) online application registration, (2) payment of the examination fee, and (3) submission of all required documents (in the case of mailing, the documents must be received by the date specified).
※ To complete the online application registration, visit the online application page on Hokkaido University's website (https://e-apply.jp/e/hokudai-eco/) and read the instructions and important notes before completing your application.

1) Admission application, resume, examination admission card, and examinee verification form: After entering the required information on the online application site, print out the admission application, resume, examination admission card, and examinee verification form generated by the site on A4-sized paper, affix your photos in the appropriate spots, and submit the materials.
2) Transcript: Issued by the dean of the university or university department in which you are currently enrolled or in which you were last enrolled. If you transferred to the university, please submit the transcript before you transferred.
3) Certificate of graduation/completion (or expected graduation/completion): Issued by the dean of the university or university department in which you are currently enrolled or in which you were last enrolled.

※Applicants who graduated/ are expected to graduate from Chinese University(except Taiwan, Hongkong, and Macau) need to submit the following documents.
◇Applicants who already graduated
a)Online Verification Report of Qualification Certificate（教育部学籍在线验证报告）
b)Copy of Certificate of Completion（毕业证书）and Copy of Degree Certificate（学位证书）
c) Certificate of graduation /completion
◇Applicants who are expected to graduate
a)Online Verification Report of Student Record（教育部学籍在线验证报告）
b)Certificate of (expected) graduation/completion
As for the above documents a), please get them from the website CHSI（中国高等教育学历证书查询 https://www.chsi.com.cn/xlcx/bgys.jsp）. There need to be at least 15 days left in the web authentication expiration dates at the time of submission.

4) Documents verifying Foreign Language proficiency: Copy of only one of the following ① ~ ③ (④ is also acceptable from international students) documents.

	Acceptable scores	
①	TOEFL-iBT (Examinee Score Report)	3 (or former 51) or above
②	TOEIC (Official Score Certificate / Digital Official Score Certificate)	550 or above
③	IELTS (Academic test) (Test Report Form)	5.5 or above
④	Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) (Certificate of Proficiency / Certificate of Result and Scores)	N1 or above

- English Scores (TOEFL/TOEIC/IELTS) must be from a test taken within four years of conducted month of entrance exam.
- Required foreign language proficiency: Successful applicants must fulfil one of the above scores.
- International students whose mother tongue is English should contact Academic Affairs Office of the Graduate School in advance of the application.

5) Research plan: Download and print the form from this graduate school's website on A4-sized paper, and then complete the form. In principle, please submit the same document you provided when obtaining advance consent from the prospective supervisor.
6) Self-addressed return envelopes: two pieces
(Self-addressed return envelopes will be used to mail your examination admission card and notify you of the exam result. Use the envelopes designated by our university (23.5cm*12.0cm). Write your name and address on both envelopes. Affix 410 JPY worth of postage stamps to each envelope.)
7) Examination fee: 30,500 JPY (including 500 JPY handling charge)
(a) The examination fee should be paid in accordance with the instructions provided on the payment screen shown after your online application has been registered.
(b) Please be aware that examination fee payments cannot be made via exchange bill payable or in cash.
(c) Print out the payment completion e-mail issued when the payment was made and cautiously keep it as your proof of payment.
For details, visit the online application page and carefully read the "Payment of Examination Fee" section on the "Introduction" page.
Note: Examination fees already paid will not be refunded for any reason except as follows:

- If an individual paid the examination fee but did not apply for admission (did not submit an application or submitted an application that was not accepted)
- If the examination fee was accidentally paid twice

Inquiries regarding refunds: Academic affairs coordinator, Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration/School of Economics and Business Administration (011-706-3163, ecokyomu@jimu.hokudai.ac.jp)

8) Other

(a) Individuals applying based on application qualification option (2) (under section 2, "Application Qualifications") must attach a certificate of diploma conferment.

(b) Applicants from overseas also need to submit following documents

- Copy of your Residence Card or passport (your visa status and period of stay must be clearly indicated)
- Certificate of financial responsibility: A document, such as a bank account balance statement or copy of a bankbook, verifying that you have the funds to pay for your school and living expenses
  *For details, please refer to the website below:
  https://www.econ.hokudai.ac.jp/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/zaisei2.pdf

(c) Certificates or other documents in any language other than Japanese or English must be accompanied by a translation in either of these two languages. If possible, a public institution—such as the Japanese government or an overseas diplomatic office of a foreign government—should verify the translation.

(d) Concerning Research Theme

Because an applicant's research theme is an important piece of data that is used in assessing the applicant's academic skills and research capabilities as well as in making admission decisions, students are generally not allowed to change their research themes after admission. Applicants should therefore select their research themes very carefully.

6. Selection Process and Exam Subjects

Acceptance decisions shall be made based on a comprehensive review of the applicant's academic exam, interview (oral exam), letters of recommendation, transcript provided by the dean of their home university (or university department), and so on.

There is a possibility that the applicants will pass as specialized course students even if they apply as doctoral course.

Academic exam shall be conducted as follows:

Both Doctoral and Specialized Course

Applicants will select one subject from the list of possible subjects shown in the attached table at the time of application,
and will take the test on that subject.

Interview (oral exam) shall be conducted as follows:

Doctoral Course

Appropriateness of research theme, research motivation, research purpose, etc. will be asked based on the submitted research plan. **Furthermore, the doctoral course aims to cultivate researchers, so researcher and educator aptitude will be tested.**

Specialized Course

Appropriateness of research theme, research motivation, research purpose, etc. will be asked based on the submitted research plan.

7. Exam Schedules

Exam Date	Time	Exam Subject	
Jan. 28 (Thu.), 2027	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Specialized Subject	Graduate School of Economics and Business, Hokkaido University Kita 9, Nishi 7, Kita-ku, Sapporo
Jan. 28 (Thu.)~ Jan. 29 (Fri.), 2027	(TBD)	Interview (oral exam)	

*Exam date of Interview (oral exam) will be announced upon the shipment of the exam admission tickets.

8. Announcement of Selection Results

4:00 p.m., February 15 (Mon.), 2027

Results will be posted on the website of the Graduate School of Economics and Business.

Applicants will be individually notified at the same time.
(No response to any inquiry over the phone.)

9. Privacy Policy

(1) All personal information collected by Hokkaido University will be completely protected in compliance with the Act on the Protection of Personal Information Held by Independent Administrative Agencies, etc., and other related acts and pursuant to the Hokkaido University Regulations on Personal Information Management.
(2) Names, addresses, and other personal information written on application documents will be used solely for (a) enrollee selection, (b) the announcement of exam results, (c) admission procedures, (d) surveys and research on enrollee selection methods, and (e) related processes.
(3) Some of these processes may be outsourced by the university to a contracted service provider (hereinafter referred to as "contractor"). All or some of the personal information written on application documents may be provided to the contractor only as needed to perform the tasks for which it has been contracted.
(4) Personal information written on application documents will be used only for those who are admitted for (a) school administration purposes (student registration, academic counseling, etc.), (b) student support services (health management, scholarship applications, etc.), and (c) tuition and other administrative purposes.
(5) Of the personal information described in item (4) above, only names and addresses will be used to facilitate communication with students from the Hokkaido University Frontier Foundation and organizations related to Hokkaido University, such as (a) the Hokkaido University Athletic Union, (b) the Alumni Association of the Hokkaido University Faculty of Economics and Business Administration.

10. Other

(1) This graduate school generally does not allow dual enrollment.
(2) Those who have illness, injury, disability, etc. and would like to request special accommodations to take exams and attend classes; applicants should apply to the Academic Affairs Office at the Graduate School of Economics and Business of their condition by November 20 (Fri.), 2026.
(Reference) information about reasonable accommodation (only in Japanese)
https://www.hokudai.ac.jp/admission/gouriteki-hairyo.html
(3) Enrollment fee: 282,000 JPY
(4) Annual tuition: 535,800 JPY
(If these figures are revised at the time of admission or during enrollment, the new amount will apply as of the time of revision.)
(5) Past exam questions:
Published on the homepage of the Graduate School of Economics and Business /School of Economics and Business.
(https://www.econ.hokudai.ac.jp/e_exam/e_guidance/pqc)
(6) About Training and Education Benefits System: Specialized Course for the Division of Modern Economics and Management is designated as lectures of the Training and Education Benefits System of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.
For details of the Training and Education Benefits System, refer to the following homepage:
(https://www.kyufu.mhlw.go.jp/kensaku/)

11. Notes to foreign applicants

(1) Visa and Residential Status

Studying at Hokkaido University as an international student requires you to obtain a 'Student' visa. Please note in advance that the 'Certificate of Eligibility (COE)' needed for a 'Student' visa application may take more than 3 months to be issued after its application. Please refer to our university website, too.

Japanese: https://intl-student-handbook.oia.hokudai.ac.jp/preparation/visa
English: https://intl-student-handbook.oia.hokudai.ac.jp/en/preparation-en/visa-en

(2) Security Export Control

Hokkaido University conducts strict screenings on exporting goods and providing skills (including incoming international students) by establishing 'Hokkaido University Security Export Control Regulations (北海道大学安全保障輸出管理規程)' based on 'Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (外国為替及び外国貿易法)'.

In case you are subject to our regulations, you may be restricted from learning or researching your desired fields of education.

For further details of regulations regarding Security Export Control, please refer to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry website below.

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) website: https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/

October 2026

Graduate School of Economics and Business

Kita 9, Nishi 7, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-0809
Academic Affairs Office
Faculty of Economics and Business
Tel: 011-706-3163
Website: https://www.econ.hokudai.ac.jp/
Email: ecokyomu@jimu.hokudai.ac.jp

Attached Table
List of Available Subjects (same for both the Doctoral Course and Specialized Course)

Subject
1. Macro- and microeconomics
2. Economic thought
3. Economic history
4. Statistics
5. Business administration
6. Accounting
7. Operations research

Appendix

Preliminary Review of Application Qualifications

Those applying under qualification options (4) or (10) in section 2, "Application Qualifications," in the application guideline, must undergo a preliminary review of their application qualifications. These applicants should therefore submit the necessary documentation as indicated below.
Please note that certificates or other documents in any language other than Japanese or English must be accompanied by a translation in either of these two languages. If possible, a public institution—such as the Japanese government or an overseas diplomatic office of a foreign government—should verify the translation.

I. Application Materials for the Preliminary Review of Application Qualifications
• Those applying under application qualification option (4)
a. Individuals who are in their third year of university studies in Japan
(i) Application form for the preliminary review of application qualifications: Download and print the form from this graduate school's website (see below) on A4-sized paper, and then complete the form.
(ii) Transcript: A document showing your grades at the university in which you are enrolled up to the end of your second year.
(iii) Document indicating the subjects, number of credits, or other items required for you to graduate from the undergraduate program in which you are enrolled: A copy of the course subject list (as might be found in a student handbook or course information booklet), etc.
(iv) Document indicating the courses completed (and planned to be completed) through the end of your third year of study: Copies of your course registration records, study plan, etc.

* Eligibility for Application (4) a. shall be determined based on the following conditions:
(1) Individuals who have completed three-year study of a university in Japan by the end of March 2027.
(2) Individuals who are expected to achieve at least 80% of the required number of credits for graduation from the university they are currently enrolled in by the second half of academic year 2026 (by the end of March 2027) with excellent academic performance.
Note: If an individual who has passed the entrance examination fails to meet the above requirements by the end of March 2027, their acceptance will be revoked.

b. Individuals who have completed a 15-year curriculum in school education abroad or have completed a curriculum at a foreign university (limited to those who have completed a 15-year curriculum in school education in that foreign country) by taking courses in Japan or through distance learning programs conducted by foreign schools, and who have been recognized by the educational institution in that foreign country that is designated separately by the MEXT.
Note that individuals with a specialized diploma from China as their highest academic qualification are not eligible for application.

(i) Preliminary Application for Eligibility: Download the application form from our school's website* and create it on A4-sized paper.
Resume: Download the format from our school's website* and create it on A4-sized paper.
(ii) Academic Transcript
(iii) Certificate of Completion or a copy of the Graduation Certificate/Degree Certificate, etc.
(iv) For individuals who do not hold Japanese nationality, a copy of the residence card or passport is required.

*Please refer to our school's website for the forms: https://www.econ.hokudai.ac.jp/e_exam/daigakuin/

• Those applying under application qualification option (10)
(i) Application form for the preliminary review of application qualifications: Download and print the form from this graduate school's website (see below) on A4-sized paper, and then complete the form.

※ Website of Graduate School of Economics and Business, Hokkaido University:
https://www.econ.hokudai.ac.jp/e_exam/daigakuin/

II. Submission Period for Application Materials for the Preliminary Review of Application Qualifications
Submission of application materials: November 5 (Thu.) – November 9 (Mon.), 2026
(In-person) accepted between 8:30 a.m. and **4:00 p.m.** on the day
(Postal Mail) must be received by this period

III. Preliminary Review Interview (Oral Exam)

This graduate school conducts interviews (oral exams) with candidates for whom an interview is deemed to be necessary as a supplement to the preliminary review documentation. Candidates who are to be interviewed will be notified separately.

IV. Notification of Results of the Preliminary Review of Application Qualifications

Applicants will be notified of the results on November 18 (Wed.), 2026.

Concerning Long-Term Study (information for first-year students)

"Long-term study students" refers to students who—in consideration of their employment situation or other factors—have been permitted to complete their academic coursework over a fixed period of time that is longer than the standard term of study (two years for master's programs, three years for doctoral programs). Unlike ordinary students, individuals authorized for long-term study from the time of their enrollment may pay the tuition due for the standard term of study divided by the actual number of years they are enrolled.
You may apply for long-term study either at the time you enroll or later, but be aware that students who receive permission for long-term study in their second or third year will pay a higher tuition amount. (Applications for long-term study will not be accepted in the final year of study.)

1. Eligibility

Those who are eligible for long-term study are applicants to or students currently enrolled in this graduate school's Division of Modern Economics and Management (excluding those in their final year of study under the standard term of study) who meet one of the following criteria:

(1) Individuals who are engaged in full-time employment, such as those currently employed by government agencies or companies (excluding those receiving salaries while being on sabbatical/temporarily relieved of their work duties), and self-employed individuals

(2) Individuals who are raising children, caring for family members, or facing similar burdens on par with that described in item (1) above, and deemed by the dean of the graduate school to be adversely affected by these circumstances, causing their graduate school studies to suffer

2. Application Procedures

Those who wish to apply for long-term study should submit the three documents listed below along with their admission application. The application form for long-term study can be obtained from the academic affairs coordinator office of Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration/School of Economics and Business Administration.

(1) Application for long-term study
(2) Study plan
(3) Materials verifying your reasons for needing long-term study approval (e.g., certificate of employment)

3. Application Results

After the application is reviewed, a decision will be made to approve or reject the application. Applicants will be notified of the results at the same time as the selection result.

4. Term of Study

Study periods for long-term study applicants are approved in one-year increments. A master's course applicant may be approved for a three- or four-year term of study. A doctoral course applicant may be approved for a four-, five-, or six-year term of study.

5. Annual Tuition Amount

The annual tuition amount for long-term study period is generally calculated by multiplying the annual tuition amount by the number of years in the standard term of study, and then dividing that figure by the actual number of years in the long-term study period. (The total tuition may end up higher than initially calculated due to tuition adjustments made over time, however.)

6. Shortening or Extending a Term of Study

If special circumstances arise, a long-term study student may request (only once) that his/her term of study be shortened or extended.

(1) Shortened term of study

The term of a long-term study student can be shortened upon approval to a minimum of two years for the master's program and three years for the doctoral program (i.e., the standard term of study).

A student who wants to shorten his/her long-term study by one year must submit and receive approval for a request to change a long-term study term up to one year and six months prior to the day his/her long-term study is scheduled to end. (A student who wants to shorten his/her long-term study by two years must complete this procedure up to two years and six months prior to the day his/her long-term study is scheduled to end, and a student who wants to shorten his/her long-term study by three years must complete this procedure up to three years and six months prior to the day his/her long-term study is scheduled to end.)

(2) Extended term of study

A long-term study student may extend his/her term of study. He/she must submit and receive approval for a request to change to a long-term study term up to one year prior to the day his/her long-term study is scheduled to end. The long-term study term may not exceed four years for master's program students and six years for doctoral program students.

7. Other

To apply for long-term study, contact your prospective academic advisor in advance.