Academic Year 2027

Hokkaido University Graduate School of Economics and Business
Application Guidelines for the Doctoral Program:
<General Exam> for April 2027 Enrollment

Purpose of the Graduate School

By offering an advanced level of education and research in economics and business administration, this graduate school aims to train educators and researchers with a considerable depth and breadth of academic learning and a wealth of creativity and 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

The specialized course of the Division of Modern Economics and Management at the Hokkaido University Graduate School of Economics and Business aims to train 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 the 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) characters to conduct on-going 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 learned their major field in economics or management in the master's program. In addition, they should have a good command of English and other languages that are necessary for research in the doctoral course.

1. The number of admissions

Division of Modern Economics and Management: 8 people

2. Application Qualifications

Applicants must fulfill one of the following criteria:

(1) Individuals who have been awarded or expect to be awarded a master's degree or a professional degree prescribed in Article 5-2 of the Degree Regulations (Ordinance No. 9, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, 1953) based on Article 104, Clause 3, of the School Education Act by March 2027.

(2) Individuals designated by the Japanese minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology (Notice No. 118, Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, 1989)

1) Individuals who have 2 years or more of experiences involved in research in university, research institute or other organizations after graduation from university and are recognized by this graduate school as possessing equivalent or greater academic skill compared to those who have a master's degree based on these research results

2) Individuals who meet one of the following:

- Those who have completed 16 years of school education in a foreign country
- Those who have completed 16 years of school education of a foreign country by taking a correspondence course in Japan offered by a school of that foreign country

Furthermore, all individuals who apply to this graduate school as per the qualifications in this category must have 2 years or more of experience involved in research at a university, research institute or other organization after education is completed and are recognized by this graduate school as possessing equivalent or greater academic skill compared to those who have a master's degree based on these research results

(3) Individuals who have been awarded or expect to be awarded an equivalent degree of Master's or a professional equivalent degree in a foreign country by March 2027.

(4) Individuals who have been awarded or expect to be awarded an equivalent degree of Master's or a professional equivalent degree in a foreign country by taking a correspondence course in Japan offered by a school of that foreign country by March 2027.

(5) Individuals who have completed a coursework of a foreign university at an educational institution in Japan that is positioned within the school education system of that foreign country as an educational body with a university course (The educational institution is required to be designated by the Japanese minister of education, culture,

sports, science and technology.) and have been awarded or expect to be awarded an equivalent degree of Masters or a professional equivalent degree of that foreign university by March 2027.

(6) Individuals who have been awarded or expect to be awarded an equivalent degree of Masters by March 2027 through course completion at the United Nations University as prescribed in Article 1, Clause 2, of the Act on Special Measures incidental to Enforcement of the Agreement between the United Nations and Japan regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations University (Act No.72, 1976), which was established under the December 11, 1972 resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations

(7) Individuals who have completed an education course of a foreign school at an educational institution prescribed in qualification options (5) or of the United Nations University and passed an examination or a judgment designated by Article 16, Clause 2, of the Standards for Establishment of Universities.
Furthermore, all individuals who apply to this graduate school as per the qualifications in this category should also meet one of the following:
- Those who hold a master's degree
- Those who are recognized or expect to be recognized by this graduate school as possessing equivalent or greater academic skill compared to those who have a master's degree by March 2027

(8) Individuals who are recognized by this graduate school as possessing equivalent or greater academic skill compared to those who have a master's degree or a professional degree (based on an individualized admission qualification investigation) and who will be 24 years of age or older as of March 31, 2027

3. Preliminary Review of Application Qualifications

Those applying under qualification options (2), (4), (5), (7), or (8) 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 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

Before sending the application, if needed, applicants are encouraged to contact their prospective supervisor(s) and carefully discuss their possible research fields.

After completing the online application registration and paying the examination fee, applicants should send the documents listed below to the graduate school. (except for documents (8) and (9) if you are qualified to apply by above-mentioned (7) of 2. Application Qualifications.)

Notes:

※ 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.

※ 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).

※ 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.

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.
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.
(Not required of those who expect to graduate from the master's program or professional degree program of our graduate school.)

※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) Research plan: Download the form from the online application site, print it out on A4-sized paper, and complete it for submission.

5) Documents verifying English proficiency: Copy of Examinee Score Report of TOEFL, Official Score Certificate / Digital Official Score Certificate of TOEIC, Test Report Form of IELTS. Note that scores must be from a test taken within four years of conducted month of entrance exam.
* International students whose mother tongue is English should contact Academic Affairs Office of the Graduate School in advance of the application.

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. 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 handing charge).
(Not required of those who expect to graduate from the master's program or professional degree program of our graduate school.)

(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 ordinary bank transfer or in cash.

(c) You should print out the payment completion e-mail issued when the payment was made and 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 fee 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 Office, Graduate School of Economics and Business /School of Economics and Business (011-706-3163, ecokyomu@jimu.hokudai.ac.jp)

8) Master's thesis (or of equivalent thesis): 3 copies
Generally, applicants should submit a master's thesis or a thesis for applying for master's degree. A thesis which can be recognized as equivalent to a master's thesis is acceptable for special circumstances (Including a thesis written after the master's thesis). Our graduate school will only accept a thesis in English or Japanese.
For those who prospect to graduate in March 2027 and the master's thesis will not be completed within the application period, please contact to the student affairs office in advance and submit it by January 13 (Wed.), 2027.

9) Abstract of master's thesis (or of equivalent thesis): 3 copies
For those who prospect to graduate in March 2027 and the master's thesis will not be completed within the application period, please contact to the student affairs office in advance and submit it by January 13 (Wed.), 2027.

10) Other

(i) International applicants should also submit the documents listed below to the graduate school.

- Copy of foreign resident registration card or passport
- Certificate of government-sponsored international student issued by the university enrolled (Only required of government-sponsored international student)
- 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

(ii) 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.

6. Selection Process and Exam Subjects

Acceptance decisions shall be made based on a comprehensive review of the applicant's interview (oral exam), thesis submitted (except for those applying under qualification options (7) in section 2, "Application Qualifications"), Documents verifying English proficiency, transcript provided by the dean of their home university (or university department), and so on.

Interview (oral exam): Report the thesis submitted (those applying under qualification options (7) in section 2, "Application Qualifications" report research activities and results of activities). (approximately 20 minutes)

7. Selection Process for International Applicants

International applicants will take exams prescribed in section 6, "Selection Process and Exam Subjects".

8. Exam Schedules

Exam Date	Exam Subject	Exam Location
January 29 (Fri.), 2027	Interview (oral exam)	Graduate School of Economics and Business, Hokkaido University Kita 9, Nishi 7, Kita-ku, Sapporo

*Exam date/time of Interview (oral exam) will be announced after the number of applicants finalized.

9. 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 /School of Economics and Business. Applicants will be individually notified at the same time.
(No response to any inquiry over the phone.)

10. 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.

11. 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

(Not required of those who expect to graduate from the master's program or professional degree program of our graduate school.)

(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.)

12. 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
Phone: 011-706-3163
Website https://www.econ.hokudai.ac.jp/
Email ecokyomu@jimu.hokudai.ac.jp

Appendix

Preliminary Review of Application Qualifications

Those applying under qualification options (2), (4), (5), (7), or (8) 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 (2)
  - (i) Application form for the preliminary review of application qualifications: Use the prescribed forms.
  - (ii) Document indicating research activities in university, research institute or other organizations after graduation. (list of thesis, explanation of research, etc.)

- Those applying under application qualification option (4), (5) and (7)
  - (i) Application form for the preliminary review of application qualifications: Use the prescribed forms. Curriculum vitae: Use the prescribed forms.
  - (ii) Certificate of graduation (completion) or copy of diploma (or of equivalent document).
  - (iii) Those who are not Japanese nationals must also submit a copy of their foreign resident registration card or passport.

- Those applying under application qualification option (8)
  - (i) Application form for the preliminary review of application qualifications: Use the prescribed forms.

II. Submission Period for Application Materials for the Preliminary Review of Application Qualifications

Submit documents between November 5 (Thu.), 2026 and 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 date

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.