2027 Academic Year

Application Guidelines

Global Program in Economics and Management (GPEM)

2-year Master's Program

for Foreign Student Screening

(October Entrance)

	1st period	2nd period	3rd period
Pre-application	December 1, 2026 - **February 15, 2027, 16:00 (JST)**		
Application Period	January 15, 2027 – **January 29, 2027, 16:00 (JST)**	February 12, 2027 – **February 26, 2027, 16:00 (JST)**	March 17, 2027 – **March 31, 2027, 16:00 (JST)**
Result Notification	Mid March, 2027	Mid April, 2027	Mid May, 2027
Enrollment Date	October 1, 2027		

Graduate School of Economics and Management

Tohoku University

Admission Policy

The Graduate School of Economics and Management at Tohoku University offers two majors. The Department of Economics and Management seeks students who are strongly interested in economy or business management, have basic academic skills in those areas, and aspire to work as researchers or highly specialized professionals in such fields in the future. Students are educated with the aim of providing them broad perspectives and profound knowledge, the ability to conduct original research at an international level, and the ability to contribute to social and academic development. The Department of Accountancy (Accounting School) seeks students who have the basic academic skills for accounting and who aspire to be accounting professionals working in international settings. Students are educated with the aim of providing them academic and practical knowledge of accounting, international perspectives, communication skills, and the ability to contribute to social development with strong professional ethics. The Graduate School of Economics and Management also actively accepts working adults aspiring to learn economics or business administration based on new problem awareness or to improve their skills as accounting professionals while using their real-world experience.

Department of Economics and Management, Master's Program

This department offers two courses: the Economics and Management Research Course, and the Global Program in Economics and Management (GPEM). Each course has the screening categories below. Non-Japanese applicants for the Economics and Management Research Course must have adequate Japanese language proficiency. Applicants for GPEM must have the ability to work in international settings. Examination methods differ depending on the screening category. All categories require applicants to meet specified standards for admission according to the examination method.

General screening

Applicants having adequate English language proficiency and specialized knowledge of economics or business administration will be selected. Examinations are conducted in writing, orally, and based on the submitted documents. The applicants' specialized knowledge is an important criterion.

Screening for working adults

Working adults having vocational capabilities and knowledge of specialized fields will be selected. Examinations are conducted orally and are based on submitted documents. The applicants' specialized knowledge and research aptitudes are important criteria.

Screening for undergraduate students in the Faculty of Economics at Tohoku University

Graduate candidates in the Faculty of Economics at Tohoku University who demonstrate high academic performance and who have a clear purpose for studying at the graduate school will be selected. Examinations are conducted orally and are based on submitted documents. The applicants' specialized knowledge and the propriety of their research plans are important criteria.

Foreign student screening

Only non-Japanese applicants are accepted for GPEM. Applicants having high English language proficiency and high basic academic skills at the undergraduate level will be selected. Examinations are conducted based on submitted documents. The applicants' basic academic skills are important criteria.

Double degree program student screening for the University of Paderborn

Applicants are accepted only for GPEM. Students in the master's program in the Faculty of Business Administration at the University of Paderborn will be selected. Examinations are conducted based on submitted documents. The applicants' specialized knowledge is an important criterion.

Applicants are recommended to acquire specialized knowledge, research skills, and international perspectives at the undergraduate level before admission.

Application Guidelines

GPEM was established to foster skilled professionals who possess deep knowledge of economics and management, the ability to discover and solve problems, and an international perspective, so that they will be able to work in societies with differing languages, cultures, and values. Foreign students are eligible to apply under Foreign Student Screening. This screening allows admitted foreign students to complete the program by taking classes taught entirely in English.

I. Major and Enrollment Quota

Major	Quota[1]	Admission Category
Economics and Management	26	Global Program in Economics and Management Foreign Student Screening

[1] The quota includes those admitted through other entrance examination categories.

II. Application Qualifications etc.

To be eligible, the applicant must not be a Japanese citizen. In addition, by September 30, 2027, the applicant must have satisfied at least one of the qualifications listed in “A. Basic Qualifications” and must have fulfilled the requirements described in “B. Requirements” below.

A. Basic Qualifications

1. A person who has graduated from a Japanese University
2. A person who has been awarded a bachelor's degree by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education
3. A person who has completed a 16-year school education course outside of Japan
4. A person who has completed a 16-year school education course by taking courses via correspondence education course subjects provided by a school in a foreign country while in Japan
5. A person who has completed the relevant courses at an educational facility located in Japan that is recognized as an educational facility offering the courses of a university in the relevant foreign country (limited to those who have completed a course of 16-year school education in the relevant foreign country), which has been separately designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan
6. A person who has been granted a degree equivalent to a bachelor’s degree by completing a course (including the completion of relevant courses by taking courses via correspondence education course subjects provided by a school in a foreign country while in Japan, as well as the completion of courses in educational facilities recognized within the education system in the relevant foreign country and which have been designated in the preceding item) with a length of 3 or more years at a university or other school in a foreign country (limited to those that have received an evaluation regarding the comprehensive state of their education and research activities by the government of the relevant foreign country or by a related organization of the relevant country, or those separately designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as or being equivalent.)
7. A person who has completed a post-secondary course in a specialized training college

(limited to those which have a course term or 4 years or more and those which meet the standards prescribed by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), separately designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, on and after the day prescribed by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

8. A person who has been designated by MEXT (Public Notice of the Ministry of Education No.5 of 1953)
9. A person who has enrolled in the graduate school of another university in accordance with the School Education Act, Article 102, Item 2, and is recognized as possessing sufficient academic abilities to receive an education at a Tohoku University graduate school
10. A person aged 22 or over who has been admitted by the graduate school as possessing academic abilities either equal to or greater than those of a person who has graduated from a university through an independent entrance examination

Note 1: If you wish to apply based on Items 6, 8, 9, or 10 of 'A. Basic Qualifications' above, please contact us in advance at gpem@grp.tohoku.ac.jp to confirm your eligibility.

Note 2: Applications from students who have completed their undergraduate studies at Japanese universities within 3 years will not be considered.

B. Requirements

A TOEFL iBT® Test Date score of 79 or higher (TOEFL iBT® Home Edition and Paper Edition are acceptable.) or an IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 or higher is required.

III. Pre-application procedure

The applicant should apply by accessing the GPEM Pre-application system on the website of Graduate School of Economics and Management.

Please check the following first:

A. Applicants should register the required information of two referees by accessing to the Recommendation letter system of the GPEM pre-application system. Our system will automatically request your referees to upload a recommendation letter. Be sure to ask for and obtain consent from your referees before registering their information.

B. When both recommendation letters are uploaded, you will receive an email, informing you of the URL to the GPEM Pre-application system. You are required to fill in your information and upload some documents (in the specified format). Important requirements are on the "V. List of Required Documents".

C. Once we confirm all of your required documents have been uploaded to our system and confirm you are qualified to apply, you will be notified of the next steps by email from us.

D. Pre-application period

December 1 (Tue.), 2026 to February 15 (Mon.), 2027 16:00 (JST)

IV. Online Application Procedure

A. After you pass our pre-application procedure, you will be invited to complete the application process via the online application system called 'The Admissions Office' (hereinafter referred to as 'TAO'). Please complete the required procedures within the application period. The general application process is as follows.

1. Confirm Application Guidelines
   Please carefully read through these application guidelines.
2. Pay the application fee
   Please see “k. Application Fee” of “V. List of Required Documents” for more information.
3. Submit application via TAO
   Please visit TAO’s website (https://admissions-office.net/en/portal), create an account on TAO, enter the required information, and upload the necessary documents.
   Please note that after you have submitted your application, you will not be able to make any changes to it. Therefore, when inputting your information and uploading documents, please do so carefully and make sure that there are no errors. There is a temporary save function available, so please use it and carefully check your information.

Please note that the application procedure is completed only after both the application fee has been paid and all necessary application information has been submitted via TAO. Your application is not complete when you have only paid the application fee or have only submitted an application via TAO.

B. Application Period

Application periods are as follows. Be advised that we accept the applications only from the applicants who have completed the pre-application.

1st Application Period: January 15 (Fri.) to January 29 (Fri.), 2027 16:00 (JST)
2nd Application Period: February 12 (Fri.) to February 26 (Fri.), 2027 16:00 (JST)
3rd Application Period: March 17 (Wed.) to March 31 (Wed.), 2027 16:00 (JST)

V. List of Required Documents

Documents marked as ‘O’ are required. Those marked as ‘△’ are only required in specific cases. Documents marked as ‘–’ are not required. Please take note of and prepare original copies of the appropriate documents for the final admission procedures.

	Required Documents	Pre Application	Online Application	Enrollment Procedures
a	Academic Transcript	O	-	O (Original)
b	Certificate of Graduation (or Expected Graduation)	O	-	O (Original)
c	Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate or Online Verification Report of Student Record	△	-	-
d	Research Plan	O	-	-
e	TOEFL iBT® Test or IELTS (Academic) Score	O	-	-
f	General Test score for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE®) or Official Score Report for the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT®)	O	-	-

g	Proof of Expected Scholarship Funding, etc.	△	-	-
h	Certificate of Residence	△	-	O (Original)
i	Pledge	O	-	O (Original)
j	Photo Data of the Applicant	O	-	-
k	Application Fee	-	O	-

a. Academic Transcript

Submit a transcript from your university or the university from which you most recently graduated. Not required for students who graduated from the Tohoku University Faculty of Economics.

b. Certificate of Graduation (or Expected Graduation)

If you are applying under item No.2 of “A. Basic Qualifications” of “II Application Qualifications”, submit your bachelor's diploma (or certificate of expected graduation). Not required for students who graduated from the Tohoku University Faculty of Economics.

c. Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate or Online Verification Report of Student Record

Only those who graduated or expected to graduate from a university in People's Republic of China.

d. Research Plan (1,000 words in English)

Research plan should include a concise and informative title, and your name.

e. TOEFL iBT® Test or IELTS (Academic) Score

If submitting a TOEFL iBT® Test score, please request that ETS send us your test score, which must have been taken on or after March 1, 2025. Our Institution Code is 0232. We only accept TOEFL iBT® scores from a single test date, not MyBest™ scores.

If submitting an IELTS score, your test must have been taken on or after March 1, 2025. Please request that your test score be sent to us through the IELTS booking portal. We don’t accept IELTS One Skill Retake scores.

Neither of these tests is required if you graduated from a university in a country where English is an official language, such as the UK, the USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. In such cases, please contact us at gpem@grp.tohoku.ac.jp in advance for instructions.

If you provide multiple English skill scores, we will calculate and use the highest score.

f. General Test score for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE®) or Official Score Report –Test Taker Copy for the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT®)

If submitting a GRE® Test score, please request that ETS send us your test score, which must have been taken on or after March 1, 2022. Our DI Code is 4137.

If submitting a GMAT® score, your test must have been taken on or after March 1, 2022. Please request that your GMAT® Official Score Report be sent to us from your official GMAT account.

* TOEFL®, TOEFL iBT® and GRE® are registered trademarks of ETS.

g. Proof of expected scholarship funding, etc. (if applicable)

h. Certificate of Residence

This must be submitted only if you are a non-Japanese citizen currently residing in Japan whose period of residence is more than 90 days. The certificate must not contain your Individual Number (also referred to as your 'My Number'), and it must clearly indicate your residence status.

i. Pledge (official form)

j. Photo Data of the Applicant

- The photo must be colored and be taken within 3 months prior to the application.
- With the upper half of the body, without a headband, facing front.
- No backgrounds or patterns.
- Available data must be in jpeg or jpg format and between 100 KB and 5 MB in size.
- The ratio of 4:3 (length: width)
- **The photo will be used to verify your identity, so please do not edit or add filters to the photo data.**

k. Application Fee: JPY 30,000

We will send the payment instructions to the applicants who pass the pre-application. Please follow the instructions and upload a copy of your receipt to TAO.

Note 1: Scores from TOEFL iBT®, IELTS, GRE® and GMAT® tests taken online are accepted.

Note 2: All information and materials you submit in the pre-application procedure and application process must be provided in English or Japanese.

Note 3: All documents you upload should be in a PDF format except "j. Photo Data of the Applicant".

Note 4: In the event that not all of the necessary materials are submitted to complete the pre-application procedure, we may require that you resend or resubmit documents. However, if the documents are not submitted by the deadline, we will not be able to process or consider your application.

Note 5: After the pre-application procedure has been completed, the inputted information and uploaded documents you submitted cannot be changed or withdrawn.

Note 6: **At the time of enrollment, you will be required to submit original copies of some of the documents uploaded for the pre-application procedure.** If the original copies cannot be verified during the enrollment process, admission may be withdrawn.

Note 7: After submitting your application materials (which hereinafter also refers to the information you register on TAO), they cannot be changed or withdrawn. In addition, we cannot refund the application fee.

Note 8: Applications with incomplete materials will not be considered.

Note 9: If we discover any false statements in your application materials, your admission may be revoked, even after enrollment.

Note 10: You are allowed to contact prospective advisor(s) before applying. However, this will not affect the decision-making process regarding admission. Please note that faculty will be unable to respond to inquiries regarding specific aspects of the screening process, such as

the criteria for admission decisions.

VI. Screening

Decisions regarding admission will be based on an evaluation of the application materials submitted.

VII. Notification of Admission Results

Successful applicants will be informed of the results of their application via TAO. The timing of this notification depends on the application period during which you applied.

1st Application Period: Notified by mid-March 2027
2nd Application Period: Notified by mid-April 2027
3rd Application Period: Notified by mid-May 2027

The announcements for the first and second application periods will include successful applicants along with wait-listed applicants. The announcement for the third application period will include only successful applicants. Wait-listed applicants who have been formally accepted may be announced during the announcements for the second and third application periods. **Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified.**

VIII. Enrollment Procedures

After the notification of admission results, successful applicants will be provided with detailed information related to the enrollment procedures.

Follow the instructions and complete all the necessary procedures by the deadline. The enrollment procedures are completed by post, not online.

Mailing Address:
Instruction Section
Graduate School of Economics and Management, Tohoku University
27-1 Kawauchi, Aoba-Ku, Sendai, Miyagi 980-8576 JAPAN

Send all the documents by registered mail, or EMS, DHL, FedEx, etc. and they must arrive no later than the designated date. **Materials submitted to complete enrollment procedures will not be returned.**

Please note that if you do not complete the enrollment procedures by the deadline, we will understand that as your decision to not enroll.

IX. Enrollment and Tuition Fees

A. The enrollment fee is to be paid in September 2027: JPY 282,000 (subject to change)
Japanese Students: JPY 267,900 for 1st Term (JPY 535,800 per year) (Estimated)
International Students*: JPY 450,000 for 1st Term (JPY 900,000 per year) (Estimated)
*Refers to individuals residing in Japan under the "Student" residence status as per Appended Table I of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act.

Note 1: If tuition fees, etc. are revised during your term of enrollment, the new tuition fee and/or other charges will apply from the time of revision.

Note 2: Information related to enrollment and tuition fees will be provided in the materials on

enrollment procedures that sent after the announcement of admission results.

Note 3: Once paid, the enrollment fee will not be refunded under any circumstances.

X. University-funded Scholarships for Graduate Students

Scholarships equivalent to either the full amount of tuition or one-half of the tuition shall be awarded to approximately the top one-third of students selected based on entrance examination results, academic performance, and other relevant factors.

XI. Period of Enrollment

Enrollment will begin in October 2027.

XII. Consultation with applicants who need special accommodations for study

Those with disabilities or other conditions who need special accommodations related to their studies should submit a request that describes the following items (*the format is not specified). In addition, making a request for special accommodations related to the entrance examination of this graduate school creates no disadvantage in the decision-making process regarding admission.

A. Timing of consultation: As a general rule, please consult with us no later than one month prior to the start date of each application period.

B. Contents to be included in your request

1. Your name, address, and e-mail address
2. University and other academic institutions which you have graduated from or attended
3. Study-related matters for which you would like special accommodations
4. Types of accommodations that you have received before
5. Status of daily life
6. Other reference materials (*If you are currently undergoing treatment, please attach a medical certificate from a doctor. The certificate can be written in English or Japanese.)

Note 1: Depending on the type of accommodation(s) you request, it may take some time for the graduate school to consider and decide on a response.

Note 2: If you are unable to apply before the consultation deadline for unavoidable reasons, the graduate school may not be able to consider and prepare for your accommodations in time.

Note 3: You can request a consultation regarding accommodations even if you have not yet decided whether to apply. Making a request for a consultation does not mean you are required to apply.

XIII. Points of Notes

A. If you have questions regarding the application procedures, please contact us at gpem@grp.tohoku.ac.jp

B. After enrolling in the graduate school, you must enroll in Comprehensive Insurance for Students Lives Coupled with PAS for International Students (referred to as ‘Inbound futai-gakuso’). Additionally, if you intend to live in and rent private housing, you must enroll in an insurance/mutual aid plan such as ’Sumuraku Plan’ for International Students Studying in Japan.

C. We will not be able to respond to any questions you may have regarding the results of the selection process.

XIV. Privacy Policy on the Treatment of Personal Information

A. All personal information gathered by Tohoku University shall be treated with due care in compliance with the relevant university regulations, such as the Act on the Protection of Personal Information (2003, Act No. 57), and the National University Corporation Tohoku University Policy on the Protection of Personal Information, and security measures will be taken to protect it.

B. Personal information, such as examination scores, used to screen applicants will be used exclusively for educational purposes, such as selecting applicants, enrollment procedures, pre-enrollment instruction, follow-up surveys, post-enrollment student support (scholarships, tuition waivers and health management etc.) and academic advising, or in connection with tuition collection etc., or surveys/research (surveys/analysis related to entrance examination improvements and reasons for applying; including analysis using the enrollees' personal information after enrollment).

C. Tasks related to entrance examinations and academic affairs may be outsourced by Tohoku University to third-party contractors (hereafter, "contractors"). If personal information is provided in whole or in part to contractors, necessary measures will be taken to ensure it is handled appropriately in accordance with the relevant university regulations, such as the National University Corporation Tohoku University Policy on the Protection of Personal Information.

XV. Educational Data Usage

Data, including personal information, that Tohoku University collects through its education/learning activities and stores on its information systems (hereafter, Educational Data) is analyzed with the latest analytical and A.I. technology and is considered vital to our implementation of evidence-based education.

Consequently, the university strives to use Educational Data effectively and appropriately in compliance with our "Statement on Educational Data Usage," "Policy on Educational Data Usage," and "Tohoku University's 8 Principles of Educational Data Acquisition."

After being admitted to the university, students' personal information, such as entrance exam scores etc., is merged with the university's Educational Data.

URL：https://www.tohoku.ac.jp/japanese/studentinfo/education/08/education0801/

These guidelines were updated in October 2026

Graduate School of Economics and Management, Tohoku University
27-1, Kawauchi, Aoba-Ku, Sendai, Miyagi 980-8576 JAPAN
https://www.econ.tohoku.ac.jp/en

Appendix

Graduate School of Economics and Management, Tohoku University

List of Faculty & Areas of Specialization

2027 Academic Year

Professors

Name	Area of Specialization
Akiomi KITAGAWA (E)	Theoretical Economics II (Macroeconomics)
Yutaka FURUYA (E)	History of Economic Thought
Yoh KAWANA (E)	Economic History of Western Europe
Naoki ODANAKA (E)	History of Social Thoughts
Shinji OHSETO (E)	Economic Planning
Shigemi IZUMIDA (E)	Industrial Organization
Kazuhiro KUROSE (E)	Economic Policy
Yasumasa MATSUDA (E)	Economic Statistics
Tsukasa ISHIGAKI (M)	Business Statistics
Ken-ichi SUZUKI (M)	Decision Making
Yoshifumi MUROI (M)	Investment and Security Analysis
Yuko NISHIDE (M)	Non-profit Organization
Midori WAKABAYASHI (E)	Welfare Economy
Hiroshi YOSHIDA (E)	Aging Economy
Michio YUDA (E)	Health Economics
Norio SASAKI (E)	Public Finance
Michi FUKUSHIMA (M)	Regional Enterprises
Shiro HIOKI (E)	Asian Economy
Nozomu KAWABATA (E)	Industrial Development
Jun NAGAYASU (E)	International Economics
Ayano FUJIWARA (M)	International Business

Associate Professors

Name	Area of Specialization
Takehito MASUDA (E)	Microeconomics
Kazuho SAKAI (E)	History of Japanese Economy
Yasunari TAKAURA (M)	Management
Atsushi AKIIKE (M)	Innovation Research
Koji ASANO (E)	Monetary Economics
So KUBOTA (E)	Monetary Policy
Yu BAI (E)	Labor Economics
Yuta KURODA (E)	Econometrics
Iat-Meng KO (M)	Data Science in Business
Yinxing LI (M)	Applied Data Science
Takuya ISHIHARA (E)	Data Science in Economics
NGUYEN Chi Nghia (M)	Management Strategy
Yanjun LI (E)	Development Economics
Ayumu SUGAWARA (M)	Global Business History

As of October 2026

* E and M stand for economics and management, respectively.