2027 Academic Year

Application Guidelines

Global Program in Economics and Management (GPEM) Doctoral Program for Screening for Foreign Students Transferring from Another University (October Entrance)

Pre-application	December 1, 2026 - **February 15, 2027, 16:00(JST)**
Application Period	March 1, 2027 - **March 31, 2027, 16:00 (JST)**
Result Notification	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, Doctoral Program

While the course is not divided into categories, the GPEM doctoral program is offered. The screening categories below are available. In all categories, applicants having high English language proficiency, specialized knowledge of the relevant fields, and research aptitude will be selected. Research skills will be important criteria. Examination methods vary depending on the screening category. All categories require applicants to meet specified standards for admission according to the examination method.

General screening for transferred students

Examinations are conducted orally and are based on submitted documents.

Screening for working adults transferring from another university

Working adults who have research achievements are eligible to apply in this category. Examinations are conducted orally and are based on submitted documents.

Screening for foreign students transferring from another university

Only the GPEM doctoral program is available. Examinations are conducted based on submitted documents.

Continuation to the 3-year doctoral curriculum

Students in the master's program of the Graduate School of Economics and Management at Tohoku University, or a master's program or professional degree program at Tohoku University, are eligible to apply in this category. Examinations are conducted orally and are based on submitted documents.

Applicants are recommended to acquire specialized knowledge, skills for conducting research and demonstrating results, international perspectives, and the ability to act at the graduate level (for a master's degree) before admission.

Application Guidelines

GPEM, which is taught exclusively in English, was developed as part of the Future Global Leadership Program conducted by Tohoku University. GPEM offers high-quality learning and research opportunities for students who aspire to take on key international leadership roles in the areas of economics and management. GPEM widely welcomes applicants with such aspirations and excellent English ability, provided that they have completed or expect to complete a master's program. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Economics or Doctor of Philosophy in Management is conferred upon completion of the program.

I. Major and Enrollment Quota

Major	Quota[1]	Admission Category
Economics and Management	14	Global Program in Economics and Management (GPEM)

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

II. Application Qualification etc.

To be eligible, you must not be a Japanese citizen. In addition, you must have one of the qualifications listed in "A. Basic Qualifications" and fulfill the requirements described in "B. Requirements" below by September 30, 2027.

A. Basic Qualifications

The applicant is required to have done at least one of the following:

1. A person who has obtained a master's degree or professional degree
2. A person who has been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree or a professional degree at an educational institution outside of Japan
3. A person who has been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree or a professional degree by taking a correspondence education course subjects in Japan provided by a foreign school
4. 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 graduate school in the relevant foreign country, which has been separately designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan (hereinafter referred to as an 'educational facility offering foreign graduate school courses'), and who has been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree
5. A person who has completed a course at the United Nations University and has been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree
6. A person who has taken an educational course at a foreign school, an educational facility offering foreign graduate school courses, or the United Nations University, and who has passed an examination and evaluation equivalent to those prescribed in Article 16-2 of the Standards for the Establishment of Graduate Schools (Ordinance of the Ministry of Education No. 28 of 1974), and who is recognized as possessing academic ability equal to or greater than that of a person holding a master's degree
7. A person who has been designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

a) A person who graduated from a university and has engaged in research at a university or a research institute, etc. for at least two years and who is recognized by this graduate school as having the academic ability equivalent to a person with a master's degree or professional degree, based on the results of that research, etc.

b) A person who has completed a course of 16 years of school education in a foreign country, or who has completed a course of 16 years of school education by taking courses via correspondence education course subjects provided by a school in a foreign country while in Japan, who has subsequently engaged in research at a university or a research institute, etc. for at least two years, and who is recognized by this graduate school as having the academic ability equivalent to a person with a master's degree or professional degree, based on the results of that research, etc.

8. A person aged 24 or over who is recognized by the graduate school as possessing academic abilities either equal to or greater than those of a person who has obtained a master's degree or professional degree through an independent entrance examination

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

Note 2: If you wish to apply based on Item 7 or Item 8 of 'A. Basic Qualifications' above, please contact the GPEM Office at gpem@grp.tohoku.ac.jp in advance to confirm your eligibility.

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 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 “I. 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
March 1 (Mon.) 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 Procedure
a	Academic Transcript	O	-	O（Original）
b	Certificate of Completion (or Expected Completion)	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	Proof of Expected Scholarship Funding, etc.	△	-	-
g	Certificate of Residence	△	-	O（Original）
h	Pledge	O	-	O（Original）
i	Photo Data of the Applicant	O	-	-
j	Your Master’s Thesis or an Equivalent Paper	-	O	-

k	Abstract of Your Master's Thesis or Equivalent Paper	-	O	-
l	Application Fee	-	O	-

a. Academic Transcript

Submit an official academic transcript from the graduate school or other higher educational institution issued by the school. Submission is not necessary for (expected) graduates of this school.

b. Certificate of Completion (or Expected Completion)

If you are applying under item No.2 of "A. Basic Qualification" "II Application Qualifications", submit your master's or professional diploma (or certificate of expected completion). Not required for students who graduated from the Tohoku University Graduate School of Economics and Management.

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 (3,000 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.

TOEFL® and TOEFL iBT® are registered trademarks of ETS.

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

g. 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.

h. Pledge (official form)

i. 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**

j. Your Master's Thesis or an Equivalent Paper.
If this thesis or paper is written in a language other than English, please also provide a translation of it in English.

k. Abstract of your master's thesis or an equivalent paper (approx. 1,500 words in English)

l. 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 ® and IELTS tests taken online are accepted.

Note 2: All information and materials you submit in the preliminary screening 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 prepre-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 preliminary screening 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.

VI. Consent of the Prospective Advisor

You must obtain consent from a prospective advisor to serve as your academic advisor before beginning the pre-application process, in case you pass the entrance screening. Without prior consent, your pre-screening application will not be accepted. Please note that when you contact faculty members, they will be unable to respond to inquiries regarding the specific aspects of the screening process, such as the criteria for admission decisions. For information about the Faculty members, please refer to our website.

To request the contact information of a professor whom you would like to serve as your academic advisor, please contact the GPEM Office at gpem@grp.tohoku.ac.jp

VII. Screening

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

VIII. Notification of Admission Results

An official notification regarding admission is tentatively scheduled to be sent to successful applicants via TAO in mid-May, 2027. **Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified.**

IX. 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.

X. Enrollment and Tuition Fees

A. The enrollment fee is to be paid in September 2027: JPY 282,000 (subject to change)
B. The fall semester tuition is to be paid in October 2027 or thereafter: JPY 267,900, which is half of the annual tuition fee of JPY 535,800 (subject to change)

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 waivers and deferments of 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.

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 by February 1 (Mon.) 2027.
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

You must choose your academic advisor from the professors and associated professors listed below.

Professors

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

Associate Professors

Name	Area of Specialization
Takehito MASUDA	Microeconomics
Kazuho SAKAI	History of Japanese Economy
Yasunari TAKAURA	Management
Yuto YOSHINAGA	Financial Accounting
Yasuhiro MATSUDA	Management Accounting
Atsushi AKIIKE	Innovation Research
Koji ASANO	Monetary Economics
So KUBOTA	Monetary Policy
Yu BAI	Labor Economics
Yuta KURODA	Econometrics
Iat-Meng KO	Data Science in Business
Yinxing LI	Applied Data Science
Takuya ISHIHARA	Data Science in Economics
Eriko KAMEOKA	Auditing
Shinsuke KAMOTO	Financial Management
NGUYEN Chi Nghia	Management Strategy
Yanjun LI	Development Economics
Ayumu SUGAWARA	Global Business History

As of October 2026