Application Guidelines for Joint Usage / Research 2027【Behavioral Economics】

Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), The University of Osaka

1. Outline:

Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) of The University of Osaka solicits applications for research grants in the field of behavioral economics. ISER is one of the Joint Usage/Research Centers designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and serves as the hub of the network of behavioral economics research in Japan. ISER collaborates with researchers from around Japan and the world and uses its research output to guide the design of social and economic systems and policy. Guidelines for application are as follows.

2. Eligibility

A research team consisting of a principal investigator (PI) and one or more co-investigators (CI) may apply. The principal investigator should have an affiliation with a university or a research institution in Japan or overseas.

3. Research Team

At least one member of the research team (either PI or CI) must be a faculty member of ISER at the assistant professor's rank or above. At least one member of the team must be from outside ISER. Graduate students can be included as CI's. Priority is given to research topics that contribute to the development of young researchers.

In principle, the joint research should be conducted at ISER. The grant funding can only be used for the research programs conducted among the research team members specified in the application form.

4. Categories

A proposed research topic should be selected from the following list of categories.

a. Experimental Economics:

Research to conduct economic experiments using the experimental facilities at ISER (including the mobile experimental systems).

The maximum amount of funding: 800,000 yen

b. Large-Scale Open Survey Data:

(i) Research to use ISER Open Survey Data.

(ii) Research to conduct a new large-scale survey.

The survey data must be made available through the ISER website afterward.

The maximum amount of funding: (i) 500,000 yen (ii) 1,000, 000 yen

c. General Areas:

Research related to Behavioral Economics and Public Policies such as "Theoretical Analysis of Long-Term Stagnation," "Mechanism Design for Matured Society," "Time Discounting," "Liquidity Preferences," "Happiness," and "Public Policy."

The maximum amount of funding: 500,000 yen

d. International Joint Research Topics:

The applicant invites an overseas researcher (CI) to ISER to conduct a joint research project. The duration of this visit should be between 5 days to 35 days.[1] The PI of this research team must be a faculty member of ISER.

The overseas CI will have his/her travel expenses covered according to the regulations of The University of Osaka. (Round-trip economy class (coach class) airfare between Osaka and the city of the CI's home institution, accommodation fee, and per diem.)

5. Research Period

The grant will fund researchers conducted between April 1, 2027, and March 31, 2028. (For those applications accepted after April 2027, the end date shall also be March 31, 2028.)

6. Execution of the Grant

Among the research team members, please designate one of ISER's faculty members as a budget execution manager. If the PI is a faculty of ISER, then this PI should be the budget execution manager. (In some cases, the project does not require funding but need to use facilities at ISER. If the requested amount of the joint Usage/Research grant is 0 yen for the research topics (A), (B), or (C), it is not necessary to specify a budget execution manager.) The grant will cover travel, accommodations, meeting, and printing expenses, as well as honoraria, according to the regulations of The University of Osaka.

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[1] The PI or CI can cover the additional travel expenses with other personal funding if the CI wishes to stay longer than the designated period.

7. Combination with Other Research Funding

The funding can be used in combination with other research funding (e.g., Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research) subject to relevant rules. Please provide the information on the other research grants in the "Research Plan and Expenditure Plan" section of the application form.

8. Submission of the Application

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to: syaken-syomu@office.osaka-u.ac.jp. The subject line should be "2027 共同利用・共同研究拠点公募研究応募". The application form is downloadable from the ISER webpage. (Follow the link to “Joint Usage/Research.”)

(1) In-time Application

The deadline for submission is February 4, 2027. Applicants will be notified of the decision by e-mail by the end of March 2027. The availability of funding and the review of each project will determine the funding amount for a successful application.

(2) Applications submitted after the regular deadline may be adopted after an additional review process, depending on the overall budget situation. A successful applicant will be notified of the decision by e-mail within two months.

Please note that, in principle, the experimental facilities at ISER are intended to be used by ISER faculty members or by researchers participating in this Joint Usage/Research project. Thus, if you plan to conduct economic experiments at ISER after the regular application deadline, please submit the application form even if funding from this grant program is not required.

9. Publication of the Research Outcomes

The PI should file a report on the outcome of the funded research within two months from the end of the funding period. The research team should make an effort to publish the research outcomes within one year. This effort includes conference presentation, ISER discussion paper, and submission to a refereed journal. Any publication from this funded research should acknowledge that the research has been funded by the Research Center for Behavioral Economics at the Institute of Social and Economic Research of The University of Osaka.

10. Misc.

The research team members can use accommodations of The University of Osaka subject to availability.

Failure to observe the regulations of The University of Osaka may result in the termination of funding.

Any inquiries should be directed to:
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Mihogaoka, Ibaraki, Osaka 567-0047, JAPAN.
e-mail: syaken-syomu@office.osaka-u.ac.jp