



AJBS

THE ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE BUSINESS STUDIES

CALL FOR PAPERS

2026 AJBS Conference

June 28, 2026 – Manchester, UK

Submission Deadline [Extended to February 2, 2026](#)

The Conference

AJBS will hold its **38th Annual Meeting** in cooperation with the Academy of International Business (AIB) in **Manchester, England**. The combined conference will run from June 29 – July 3, 2026. The **AJBS Conference is June 28, 2026**, and the AIB conference is June 29–July 3, 2026.

As AJBS will be held on the day before the AIB conference officially begins, participants can attend all AIB sessions and events without any scheduling conflicts.

The **Program Chair** for this year's conference is **Akitsu Oe** from Tokyo University of Science, Japan.

Why should you participate in both (AJBS and AIB) conferences? With one trip, you can attend both the most prestigious professional meeting in international business and an intimate conference that focuses specifically on Japanese business issues. The AJBS conference provides additional opportunities for journal publication and best paper awards, as detailed below.

About AJBS

From its genesis as an informal network in 1982, AJBS was officially organized and held its first conference at the Wharton Business School in January 1987. AJBS holds annual meetings at venues worldwide, providing an opportunity to discuss current developments and research on a range of business, public policy, and teaching issues related to Japan. Papers for the AJBS conference presentation are double-blind peer-reviewed. Accepted papers are considered for publication in the journal, *Asian Business & Management (ABM)*. AJBS welcomes scholars, students, and practitioners from all disciplinary backgrounds interested in Japanese business issues.

Submission Types

AJBS welcomes two types of submissions: **research papers** and **panel proposals**.

Research Paper

Earlier stage papers may be submitted for inclusion in **interactive sessions**. Later stage, fully developed papers should be submitted for **competitive sessions**. Please note that the final assignment to interactive or competitive sessions depends on reviewer inputs (blind-review process) and other considerations.

Authors may submit papers to either or both conferences. AJBS will consider submissions that have already been presented elsewhere but not published in a journal or book. Authors are encouraged to



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consider submitting a paper tailored to the specialized audience at the AJBS conference as well as a modified version appropriate for a wider audience at AIB. As done in past years, we also plan to have one session run by AJBS at the AIB conference.

Panel proposal

Panels should focus on topics relevant to Japanese business. In addition, we welcome issues related to what the rest of the world can learn from Japanese business. The panelists must have appropriate expertise or background to inform the proposed topic. Panel submissions are not blind-review.

*Corresponding authors will be automatically signed up as reviewers.

Formatting Instructions

Please note that **ALL SUBMISSIONS**:

- Must be written in **English**.
- Must follow the [JIBS Style Guide](#).
- We kindly ask you to upload your paper in **MS-Word format** (if MS-Word format is not available, please use a basic text format that can be easily converted to MS-Word. Please **do not submit papers in PDF** format).
- Submissions must be on letter paper (8.5" x 11" or 216mm x 279mm), with double-spaced text, a font type 11 or 12-point Times New Roman, and be left-aligned.

Research Paper

- Papers must have **no author-identifying information**: None of the pages (not even the first page) should list any author information. Also, the File Properties for the documents should be cleaned to remove identifying information.
- All paper submissions must be fewer than **12,000 words**, inclusive of all materials, including tables, figures, appendices, and references. Papers exceeding these limits will be returned to the authors.
- Should include the **paper's title** and an **abstract, between 150-200 words**.
- Conference paper applies to the submission types: **competitive** and **interactive**. Note that a paper submitted as competitive or interactive may end up in a different session because of the reviewer inputs and other considerations, such as a lack of space on the program or lack of fit with existing sessions.

Panel Proposals

- Panel proposals should be **no more than 6,000 words**, including all materials, and must be submitted by the panel chair. In addition, each proposal must include the following:
 - A **Cover Page** that includes the panel's title, name/affiliation/contact information for all participants, and their roles in the panel (please identify the chair, discussants (if any), and the panelists).
 - An **Abstract (150-200 words)** summarizing the panel (for Conference Proceedings).
 - Description of the **purpose of the panel**



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- A detailed overview of the main issues/topics addressed or arguments to be made in the panel.
- Please also note that only panelists who plan to **appear in person at the conference** should be listed in the panel proposal.

Important Dates

- **Submission Deadline: January 19, 2026**

Please submit your paper or panel proposal via the [AJBS online submission system](#).

Target Communication of Decisions: March 17, 2026

Conference Registration

Registration for the conference is handled through AIB, and registration for AIB and AJBS can be done at one time. **Membership is required in both AIB and AJBS**, but AJBS membership includes a one-year subscription to Asian Business & Management.

Academic Journal & Best Paper Award

Asian Business & Management: In 2003, AJBS established a partnership with the journal Asian Business & Management (ABM), published by Palgrave Macmillan in the U.K. As in recent years, the editor of ABM and the AJBS conference committee will select several papers from this year's conference program to be considered for publication in ABM.

Palgrave Macmillan – AJBS Best Paper Award: Palgrave Macmillan has sponsored a 'Best Paper' award at the annual AJBS meetings. The Best Paper Committee will review the finalist papers and select the winning paper.

Further Information & Questions

Information on

- AJBS, Membership, AJBS Conference is available at <https://ajbs.org/>
- Manchester, the meeting venue and 2026 AIB conference is available at <https://www.aib.world/events/2026/>

For questions

- Conference papers and submissions, please contact the Program Chair, Akitsu Oe (ajbsconf@aib.msu.edu or oeakitsu@rs.tus.ac.jp)
- AJBS or conference registration, please contact AJBS.org@gmail.com or the AJBS President,
- Derek Lehmberg (derek.lehmberg@ndsu.edu)

AJBS Conference Leadership

- Program Chair: **Akitsu Oe**, Tokyo University of Science, Japan
- President: **Derek Lehmberg**, North Dakota State University, USA
- Vice-President: **Naoki Ando**, Hosei University, Japan
- Treasurer: **H. Richard Nakamura**, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- Secretary: **K. Skylar Powell**, Western Washington University, USA



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- Public Relations: **Ting Liu**, *Kyoto University, Japan*
- Executive Director of the Secretariat: **Diane Bird**, *Forest Grove, USA*