

INVITATION TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF INTERCULTURAL STUDIES



About the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies

Dean's Message

The Graduate School of Intercultural Studies at Kobe University was established in 2007 from what was formerly the Graduate School of Cultural Studies and Human Science. Since the new graduate school shares its name with the Faculty of Intercultural Studies which was established in October 1992 and was succeeded by the Faculty of Global Human Sciences in April 2017, it allows students to learn and research systematically from the undergraduate to the graduate level.

People and culture have continued to blend together as a result of the spread of globalization, particularly following the collapse of divisions created during the Cold War. We ask ourselves how we should understand changes in a globally developing society and what we should make of the significance of those changes. We want to know about changes in phenomena but at the same time ask broad questions about the frameworks through which we view those changes. Above all, there is a pressing need to reconsider thought patterns and recognition based on the nation-state paradigm. Put another way, we should strive to redefine the paradigms of the humanities and social sciences.

The education and research in our graduate school adopts a cultural standpoint to explore transformations and continuities in the contemporary world. Intercultural Studies is not a single discipline. It is a new area of research that approaches the common theme of how various cultures exist and relate to each other across a number of different disciplines. The fifteen courses that make up our graduate school show that providing viewpoints from various disciplines subjectively promotes that very theme.

Ours was the first national university in Japan to have a graduate school specifically designed to advocate intercultural studies. It focuses on cultural standpoints while critically examining the effectiveness of such frameworks and strives to break through to leading-edge research fields and analytical methods.

The door is open for you to develop new frameworks for knowledge. We sincerely hope to work together in this endeavor with intelligent, inquisitive young researchers like you.



Professor Fumiko Fujinami
Dean, Graduate School
of Intercultural Studies

- (1) Pursuit of cultural research that understands culture as a complex entity and takes intercultural relations as its perspective.
- (2) Dynamic research into culture as a complex entity with attention to intercultural interaction in such forms as conflict, fusion, and interchange.
- (3) Multifaceted studies of cultural transformations amid the globalization of contemporary society.
- (4) Development of advanced communication research related to language and information.
- (5) Execution of a shift from monocular, single paradigms that apply over-simplistic dichotomies such as central / peripheral, civilized / uncivilized, and advanced / backward to pluralistic, multiplex paradigms, and the creation of research methodologies adapted to the cultural dynamics of contemporary society.

Admission Policy, Diploma Policy

	Admission Policy	Diploma Policy
Master's Program	<p>The objective of the Kobe University Graduate School of Intercultural Studies is to cultivate individuals who have a deep understanding of intercultural phenomena and flexible communication skills, as well as strong scholarship and creative research skills.</p> <p>In view of this educational goal, the Graduate School seeks students who have the following characteristics.</p>	<p>Degree: Master of Arts</p> <p>The Graduate School of Intercultural Studies awards degrees as follows, based on Kobe University Diploma Policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Students are enrolled in a master's program at the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies for a period of two years or more. They must obtain the prescribed credits required to complete the program, receive the required research guidance, and pass final examinations as well as a review of their master's thesis or the results of their specific research task. It may be possible for students with excellent results to complete their studies in a shorter period. •Prior to completing postgraduate study, students are expected to acquire the following skills in addition to the capabilities set out in Kobe University Diploma Policy.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Have a keen interest in understanding culture as a complex entity and pursuing multifaceted studies that convey the richness of intercultural relations. 	<p>Department of Cultural Interaction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability to research relationships between different cultures from multiple angles while understanding that cultures are diverse and mutually affect one another, resulting in cultural transformation. 2. The ability to carry out interdisciplinary research informed by a high degree of specialization.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Have a keen interest in understanding the dynamics of language and information communication and addressing the various problems that confront contemporary global society. 	<p>Department of Culture and Globalization</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability to tackle various issues that today's global society is facing, with a deep understanding of the dynamics of linguistic communication and information technology. 2. The ability to carry out interdisciplinary research informed by a high degree of specialization.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Have a keen interest in carrying out interdisciplinary research with high standards of expertise. 	
Doctoral Program	<p>The objective of the Kobe University Graduate School of Intercultural Studies is to cultivate individuals who have a deep understanding of intercultural phenomena and flexible communication skills, as well as strong scholarship and creative research skills.</p> <p>In view of this educational goal, the Graduate School seeks students who have the following characteristics.</p>	<p>Degree : Doctor of Philosophy</p> <p>The Graduate School of Intercultural Studies awards degrees as follows, based on Kobe University Diploma Policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Students are enrolled in a doctoral program at the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies for a period of three years or more. They must obtain the prescribed credits required to complete the course, receive the required research guidance, and pass final examinations as well as a review of their doctoral thesis. It may be possible for students with excellent research results to complete their studies in a shorter period. •Prior to completing postgraduate study, students are expected to acquire the following skills in addition to the capabilities set out in Kobe University Diploma Policy.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Have a keen interest in clarifying cultural phenomena, understanding the dynamics of culture as a complex entity, and exploring an advanced field of cultural research. 	<p>Department of Cultural Interaction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability to independently explore cutting-edge fields in cultural research, investigating the structure and dynamics of various cultures that are transformed as they mutually affect one another in diverse ways. 2. The ability to carry out cross-disciplinary research informed by a high degree of specialization.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Have a keen interest in pursuing various language and information communication issues and conducting multifaceted studies focused on the increasingly globalized modern society. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Have a keen interest in carrying out cross-disciplinary research with superior expertise. 	<p>Department of Culture and Globalization</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability to research the globalized modern world from multiple angles, addressing various issues in linguistic communication and information technology. 2. The ability to carry out cross-disciplinary research informed by a high degree of specialization.

Organization of the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies

15 specialized courses for interacting with society and living in the world

Departments and Divisions

When comparing the nature of cultures in modern society in order to address modern issues such as cultural confrontation and conflicts, it is essential to develop the ability to examine cultural trends in an increasingly globalized world. To do this, we have to examine both the cultures of different regions and cross-cultural interaction.

Accordingly, the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies has two departments – *Cultural Interaction*, for multifaceted commentary on the nature of intercultural interaction based on the results of cultural research in different regions, and *Culture and Globalization* to investigate the contemporary cultural phase generated by globalization.

Consisting of the Area Studies Division for interdisciplinary studies regarding region-specific cultural traits and cultural metamorphosis, and the Intercultural Communication Division for multifaceted research on the reality of cross-cultural contacts, conflicts and interactions, the Cultural-Interaction Department aims for (1) understanding of cultures of different regions, (2) understanding of cross-cultural relations and interactions, and (3)

development of cross-cultural communication abilities.

The Culture and Globalization Department consists of the Contemporary Culture and Society Division for comprehensive research into contemporary social and cultural circumstances amid the erosion of modern Western principles accompanying globalization, the Human Communication and Information Science Division for investigation of issues involving verbal and non-verbal communication and use of diverse information media, and the Second Language Education Division for advanced research concerning second language education and production of outstanding practitioners in this field. In addition, there is also a joint research group for Advanced Communication in the Doctoral Course in cooperation with the Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International (ATR). With these divisions and courses, we aim to (1) investigate acculturation brought about by globalization and the establishment of new public culture, (2) develop advanced global communication, and (3) research foreign language education for the global era.

Department	Division	Course
Cultural Interaction Multifaceted elucidation of the nature and attributes of intercultural interaction based on the results of cultural research in different regions	Area Studies Interdisciplinary studies regarding region-specific cultural traits and cultural metamorphosis	Japanology
		Asia-Pacific Culture Studies
	Intercultural Communication Diverse exploration of the actual status of intercultural contact, confrontation, and interchange	European and American Culture Studies
		Cultural Anthropology
Culture and Globalization Elucidation of the contemporary cultural phase generated by globalization	Contemporary Culture and Society Comprehensive research into contemporary social and cultural circumstances amid the erosion of modern Western principles accompanying globalization	Comparative Studies of Civilization and Culture
		International Relations and Comparative Politics
		Modernity Studies
		Contemporary Social Issues
	Human Communication and Information Science Investigation of issues involving verbal and non-verbal communication and use of diverse information media	Art, Culture and Society Studies
		Linguistics and Communication Studies
		Human Communication
	Second Language Education Advanced research concerning second language education and production of outstanding practitioners in this field	Computers and Communication
		Systems of Second Language Education
	Joint Research Group (Doctoral Program)	Contents in Second Language Education
		Advanced Communication

Master's Program – Two Learning Tracks to Meet Your Aspirations

Develops people who can work in an international society and new researchers who can lead the era

– Different styles for different goals from start to finish

	Career Enhancement Track	Researcher Track
Entrance Exam (General Admission, Special Selection for Adult Applicants, and Special Selection for Foreign Students)	1. Test of basic subjects You must choose one of the following subjects; a foreign language, classical Japanese literature, computer science, or (for non-Japanese applicants only) Japanese. However, the subjects you can choose from also depend on the course to which you are applying, so make sure to check the application guidebook for further details. 2. Test of major subject 3. Oral examination	
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars to develop high-level skills in foreign language, information handling and presentation • Students mainly take Special Lectures, which are given to a small group in an interactive manner rather than a one-way lecture. • Students who have earned the required credits and submitted a research report can obtain master's degree. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutors provide quality individual guidance (tutorial). • Students mainly take Advanced Expertise Seminars to build basic skills required for a researcher. • Students may take Special Seminars in the doctoral program. • Students shall submit a master's thesis or master's folio (a combination of achievements).
Future career	Students will obtain master's degree and work in international fields as specialists.	The Researcher Track is for students who intend to take the entrance exam to the doctoral program and proceed to the program. Students aim to become researchers or high-level specialists.

Two Educational Tracks

The program has a Career Enhancement Track and a Researcher Track. Applicants by General Admission and Special Selection for Adult Applicants should select one of these two tracks when applying for admission. Applicants by Special Selection for Foreign Students will have the opportunity to select one after enrollment.

Career Enhancement Track

This track caters to students who intend to enter the workforce after completing the master's program. By acquiring broad expertise and practical applied skills, students seek to develop their career to a higher level. Students can earn the master's degree by acquiring the requisite credits in courses centered on special lectures and by submitting a master's research report appropriate for their career design.

Researcher Track

This track caters to students who intend to continue on to enter the doctoral program. The track offers a curriculum designed to develop researchers and high-level specialists. To complete the track, students are required to take requisite credits in courses centered on advanced expertise seminars and to submit a master's thesis or a master's folio.

Academic Skill Seminars

The objective of the seminars is to effectively learn methods and techniques and acquire other academic skills required for research in various fields.

- Computer Skills Development
- Academic Communication (English)
- Academic Writing (English)
- Academic Writing (Japanese)
- Social Research Methods
- Ethnographic Fieldwork
- Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences

Master's Folio

The master's folio is comprised of multiple research products that are loosely tied to a single theme, and which can be submitted in place of a master's thesis. As a master's folio does not have to be in the form of a single thesis, many diverse research products that would previously not have been accepted as a master's thesis – compositions, research reports, – are accepted as part of a folio. This makes it easier to conduct applied research that is relevant to one's work or workplace, and because the work is divided up and presented on numerous occasions, it also allows for systematic writing and research.

Doctoral Program – Developing Independent Researchers

For deeper study in a research field

– flexible support to obtain a PhD in three years

	Coursework Program
Research theme	Theme suited for the research field of the course
Research style	Individual research
Research guidance	The entire teaching staff, especially the advisor, provides support.
Process to obtain PhD	<p><1st year> Present a concept in a joint seminar of the course, publish an academic article and submit a foundational thesis.</p> <p><2nd year> Publish an academic article, make a presentation at a conference and submit a preparatory doctoral thesis.</p> <p><3rd year> Submit part of a thesis draft to a joint seminar of the course once a month and receive guidance and support from the whole teaching staff. Submit a doctoral thesis.</p>
Expected achievements	Achievements of academic research where free thinking and creativity are required

Career and Professional Development

– Career Paths to the World

Master's Program

Cultural Interaction Department

- As a specialist

- Specialist at an international organization such as the United Nations or JICA
- Official of various public and private organizations that plan introductions to Japanese culture and exchanges
- Cultural planner at a museum
- Junior/senior high school teacher (English) with a high level of expertise
- Planner for the cultural exchange programs of a local government unit or company
- Person in charge of training in a foreign-affiliated company or joint venture
- Leader of a regional NPO taking the lead in cultural activities and cross-cultural understanding

- As business professional with the ability to take practical actions

- Employee at a foreign-affiliated company or joint venture
- Employee at a trading company or other type of company
- Personnel for overseas expansion of a Japanese company

Culture and Globalization Department

- As a specialist

- Cultural policy specialist or art manager with knowledge of music, fine arts and other types of arts
- Journalist or government employee who addresses the various issues of changing modern cultures such as gender and public nature
- Junior/senior high school teacher (English) with a high level of expertise
- Employee/teacher at a language education company
- Editor of language education materials
- Researcher/specialist/advisor at a foreign student center
- Japanese language teacher
- Interpreter/translator
- Employee of a language/IT corporate laboratory

- As a business professional with an ability to take practical actions

- Software engineer
- System engineer

Doctoral Program

Leading researchers who promote “international cultural studies” in the world

- Researcher at an international organization/research institute
- Researcher at a national/public/corporate laboratory
- Teacher at a college/junior college/specialized vocational high school

Degrees that can be obtained

- Master's Program
- Master's degree (Master of Arts)
- Doctoral Program
- Doctor's degree (PhD)

Qualifications that can be obtained (Master's Program)

- Junior High School Specialized Teacher's Certificate (English)
- Senior High School Specialized Teacher's Certificate (English)