

Academic Year 2026

Kobe University

Graduate School of Intercultural Studies  
Doctoral Program

# Application Handbook for Selection by Special Recommendation

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Online applications only. Please refer to the “Online Application Procedure” to make your application.</li><li>- If any changes are made to the content of this Application Handbook, information will be published on the Graduate School’s website. Please check the website regularly. In particular, it is recommended that applicants review the website immediately prior to submitting their application, and immediately prior to the examination date.</li></ul> |
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Kobe University

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## Introduction

The type of student sought by the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies

The Graduate School of Intercultural Studies aims to cultivate individuals who have a deep understanding of other cultures and the ability to communicate in a flexible manner, as well as being equipped with substantial academic knowledge and creative research capabilities.

Based on the aforementioned educational and research objectives, the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies seeks students who have the following characteristics.

### Master's Program

- A keen interest in understanding culture as a complex entity and pursuing multifaceted studies that convey the richness of intercultural relations, as well as the core capacities required to achieve these goals.  
(Desired qualities: knowledge and skill; critical thinking, judgment, and the ability to communicate effectively; autonomy and cooperation; interest and motivation)
- A keen interest in understanding the dynamics of language and information communication, and addressing the various problems that confront contemporary global society, as well as the core capacities required to achieve these goals.  
(Desired qualities: knowledge and skill; critical thinking, judgment, and the ability to communicate effectively; autonomy and cooperation; interest and motivation)
- A keen interest in carrying out interdisciplinary research with high standards of expertise, as well as the core capacities required to achieve this goal.  
(Desired qualities: knowledge and skill; critical thinking, judgment, and the ability to communicate effectively; autonomy and cooperation; interest and motivation)

### Doctoral Program

- A keen interest in investigating the complexity and dynamic, interactive nature of cultures, and taking the lead in pioneering cutting-edge cultural research, as well as the core capacities required to achieve these goals.  
(Desired qualities: knowledge and skill; critical thinking, judgment, and the ability to communicate effectively; autonomy and cooperation; interest and motivation)
- A keen interest in pursuing various language and information communication issues and conducting multifaceted research focused on the increasingly globalized modern society, as well as the core capacities required to achieve these goals.  
(Desired qualities: knowledge and skill; critical thinking, judgment, and the ability to communicate effectively; autonomy and cooperation; interest and motivation)
- A keen interest in carrying out cross-disciplinary research driven by an advanced level of expertise, as well as the core capacities required to achieve this goal.  
(Desired qualities: knowledge and skill; critical thinking, judgment, and the ability to communicate effectively; autonomy and cooperation; interest and motivation)

The Graduate School will hold an entrance examination, based on the characteristics set out above.

## 1. Admission quota

Department	Division	Course	Admission quota
Cultural Interaction	Area Studies	Japanology Asia-Pacific Culture Studies European and American Culture Studies	A small number
	Intercultural Communication	Cultural Anthropology Transcultural Studies International Relations and Comparative Politics	
Culture and Globalization	Contemporary Culture and Society	Modernity Studies Contemporary Social Issues Art, Culture, and Society Studies	A small number
	Human Communication and Information Science	Linguistics and Communication Studies Human Communication Computers and Communication	
	Second Language Education	Systems of Second Language Education Contents in Second Language Education	
	Joint Research Group	Advanced Communication	

## 2. Eligibility requirements

A person is eligible if they meet any of the following conditions and work full-time as a professor, associate professor, assistant professor, lecturer, or similar position at a university, college of technology, or junior college specified under the School Education Act. (For applicants outside Japan: A person is eligible if they work full-time at an institution of higher education in their home country and are recognized by this Graduate School as holding a position equivalent to a professor, associate professor, assistant professor, lecturer, or similar position.)

- (1) The person has received a master's degree or professional degree (the term “professional degree [専門職学位]” is used here, and throughout the rest of this document, with the meaning stipulated in Article 5-2 of the Degree Regulations (Order of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture No. 9 of 1953), as provided for by Article 104, paragraph (1) of the School Education Act) in Japan.
- (2) The person has received a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree in a foreign country.
- (3) The person has received a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree as a result of completing, while themselves based in Japan, a correspondence course offered by a foreign educational institution.
- (4) The person has received a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree as a result of completing a course of study in Japan at an educational institution that is recognized as having a graduate program under the education system of a foreign country, and is designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- (5) The person has received a degree equivalent to a master's degree as a result of completing a course of study at the United Nations University, established by a decision of the United Nations General Assembly on December 11, 1972, and as provided for by Article 1, paragraph (2) of the Act on Special Measures Incidental to Enforcement of the “Agreement between the United Nations and Japan regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations University” (Act No. 72 of 1976).

## 3. Application period

**Please ensure that your application is received between January 5 (Mon) and January 9 (Fri), 2026 (no later than 5:00 p.m.).**

\* Please complete the online application and payment of the application fee within the designated application period.

#### 4. How to apply

Please follow the application procedures on the Online Application Website. Please convert the documents required for the application into PDF files (except for the digital photo of the applicant, which should be in JPG, PNG, BMP, or HEIC format) and upload them to the website.

**Only ONE PDF file can be uploaded per item. If you are requested to upload two or more PDF files for a single item, please combine them into ONE PDF file before uploading.**

Online Application Website: <https://e-apply.jp/ds/kobe-u/>



If you experience a problem when using the Online Application Website, please contact the Graduate School's Academic Affairs Section.

If any documents are written in a language other than Japanese or English, please also **attach a translation into Japanese or English**. If the applicant's name has changed, due to marriage or any other reason, such that it is no longer identical to the form written on a certificate, please include a certificate from a public institution as evidence of the change of name.

	Documents for submission [Upload section on the Online Application Website]	Summary
(1)	Digital photo	<p>Please follow the instructions on the Online Application Website to upload your digital photo. (Your photo must show the upper half of your body without a head covering (unless for religious or medical reasons). You must be facing forward and looking straight at the camera. The photo must be taken against a plain light-colored background, must be clear and in focus and contain no other people, and must have been taken no more than three months before the application. The digital photo must be in JPG, PNG, BMP, or HEIC format.)</p> <p>The digital photo will be used on your Examination Admission Ticket, which will be used to verify your identity at the time of the entrance examination. It is therefore not permitted to alter the digital photo using computer software. If the digital photo has been altered, making it difficult to verify that the examinee is the same person as shown in the digital photo, it may not be possible to continue the examination.</p>
(2)	Academic Transcript [Upload your academic transcript]	<p>Document issued by a graduate school certifying the applicant's eligibility to apply.</p> <p>Convert all relevant documents to ONE PDF file and upload it to the "Upload your academic transcript" on the Online Application Website.</p> <p>* If you only have a paper transcript(s), please scan the transcript(s) to ONE PDF file for uploading. Do not make a PDF file from a digital photo of your transcript(s), as that will not be sufficiently clear.</p>

(3)	<p>Certificate of Completion (or Expected Completion) [Upload your Certificate of Completion (or Expected Completion)]</p>	<p>Document issued by a graduate school certifying the applicant's eligibility to apply.</p> <p>For those who have not completed a course of study at a graduate school, or who have graduated from a foreign university, these will be an academic transcript and a certificate of completion from the last educational institution attended by the applicant.</p> <p>Convert the relevant document to ONE PDF file and upload it to the "Upload your Certificate of Completion (or Expected Completion)" on the Online Application Website.</p> <p>Note 1: For those who graduated from a foreign graduate school, and whose transcript and certificate are in a language other than Japanese or English, a translation (A4) into Japanese must also be attached. The following must also be written clearly on the translation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"翻訳の内容は、原本と相違ないことを証明する。"(This means: "I certify that the content of the translation does not differ from the original.")</li> <li>The name of the translator (where the translation has not been issued by the graduate school at which the applicant completed their studies, this should be the applicant's name).</li> <li>The translator's signature or seal.</li> </ol> <p>Note 2: If the applicant's name has changed after completion of their course and no longer matches that written on their transcript or certificate, due to marriage or any other reason, please include a certificate from a public institution as evidence of the change of name. Such documents will be returned after verification of the change of name.</p>
(4)	<p>CHSI Certificate [File Upload 1]</p>	<p>Those who have obtained a master's degree from a graduate school in China are required to submit the documents described below, as appropriate. Please convert the documents to ONE PDF file and upload it to the "File Upload 1" on the Online Application Website.</p> <p>[Applicants who have completed their master's degree]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate (English);</li> <li>• Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate (English).</li> </ul> <p>[Applicants who are currently enrolled in a course of study, and expect to obtain a master's degree prior to enrollment at the Graduate School]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online Verification Report of Student Record (English)</li> </ul> <p>All documents must be verified by the China Higher Education Student Information (CHSI). Please register on the CHSI website (<a href="https://www.chsi.com.cn/xlcx/bgys.jsp">https://www.chsi.com.cn/xlcx/bgys.jsp</a>) to obtain the relevant documents in PDF format. Upload other certificates together with this one. The validity of the online certification must extend for a period of not less than one month from the time of application. If the Graduate School is unable to perform online verification due to the expiration of the validity period, or for any similar reason, the application will be treated as incomplete.</p>

(5)	Academic papers [File Upload 2, 3, and 4]	Up to three academic papers published within the last five years. Convert each document to ONE PDF file and upload it to “File Upload 2,” “File Upload 3,” and “File Upload 4” on the Online Application Website.  Note: If any of the academic papers submitted are written in a language other than Japanese or English, translations into Japanese or English may be requested after your application.
(6)	Research Proposal for your time at the Graduate School [File Upload 5]	Please download the Research Proposal template from the Graduate School’s website and complete the document using a personal computer, etc., in either Japanese or English. (Four-page Research Proposal, on A4 paper.)  Please convert the Research Proposal to ONE PDF file and upload it to the “File Upload 5” on the Online Application Website. * Note: The Research Proposal template can be downloaded from the following URL: <a href="http://web.cla.kobe-u.ac.jp/prospective-g">http://web.cla.kobe-u.ac.jp/prospective-g</a> .
(7)	Recommendation [File Upload 6]	Prepared, with seal affixed or signed by the expected accepting professor of this Graduate School (Free format)  Convert it to ONE PDF file and upload it to the “File Upload 6” on the Online Application Website.
(8)	Certificate of Employment [File Upload 7]	A Certificate of Employment issued by the university to which the applicant is affiliated as a full-time employee. (Free format. Please ensure that the title of the position is included in the certificate.)  Convert it to ONE PDF file and upload it to the “File Upload 7” on the Online Application Website.
(9)	Application fee (JPY30,000)	<Payment method> Complete the payment procedure on the Online Application Website. (The examinee must bear any handling charges incurred with respect to the payment of the application fee.)  * The application fee need not be paid by applicants who, at the time of application, are Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students and who continue to be eligible to apply for an extension from April 1, 2026, following the expiration of their current scholarship period.

The following should be submitted only by certain applicants, as set out below.

	Documents for submission [Upload section on the Online Application Website]	Summary
(10)	Copy of the Resident Record (住民票の写し) [File Upload 8]	<b><u>Foreign nationals residing in Japan only</u></b> The document must have been prepared no more than 30 days prior to the date of submission. Applicants are to submit a Copy of the Residence Record (住民票の写し) without omission of any information relating to nationality or region, status of residence, or period of stay.  Applicants residing overseas at the time of application should submit this document at the time of enrollment.  Please convert the Residence Record to ONE PDF file and upload it to the “File Upload 8” on the Online Application Website.

(11)	Letter of Approval of Admission [File Upload 9]	A letter of approval from the head of the university or college to which the applicant is affiliated approving admission while the applicant is still affiliated with the university. (Free format. If the applicant is affiliated with a Japanese university, the letter must be prepared by the head of the teacher organization to which the applicant is affiliated.)  Convert it to ONE PDF file and upload it to the “File Upload 9” on the Online Application Website.
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\* The documents necessary for your application are to be submitted via the Online Application Website by the designated deadline date for applications. It is not necessary to post documents to this university. However, if there is some unavoidable reason why you are unable to upload your documents, please contact the Graduate School’s Academic Affairs Section.

The original copies of the documents uploaded at the time of application must be submitted immediately **after receiving the admission notification**. Successful applicants will be notified of the details.

Enrollment is, in principle, not permitted if the original copies of your documents are not submitted.

## 5. Selection procedure

The application form, academic transcripts and completion certificates, academic papers, research proposals, and letters of recommendation, etc., will be reviewed, and the selection will be conducted based on the expectation that the applicant is capable of authoring a high-quality doctoral thesis at this graduate school.

## 6. Admission notice

**10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 26, 2026 (provisional)**

Kobe University Graduate School of Intercultural Studies website.

The letter of acceptance will be sent to successful applicants by mail on the same day.

Please note that we are not able to respond to inquiries by phone or other means.

## 7. Enrollment process

### (1) Enrollment process

Documents relating to the enrollment process will be sent to successful applicants following the admission notice. Details concerning enrollment process dates, documents to be submitted, and the enrollment process itself will be provided when the enrollment documents are sent to successful applicants.

Successful applicants should return their Examination Admission Ticket and enrollment documents, and pay the following fees.

### (2) Fees

Fee Category	Amount	Summary
Admission Fee	JPY282,000	1. The amounts set out here are from the 2025 academic year. 2. The fees for students enrolling in the 2026 academic year will be provided separately, once they have been determined. 3. The admission fee is non-refundable.
Tuition Fee	First semester: JPY267,900 Annual tuition fee: JPY535,800	

Note: If the tuition fee is revised while a student is enrolled, the revised fee will apply from the time of revision.

Information for reference: Admission fee exemption or deferral, and tuition fee exemption



Details concerning the admission fee exemption or deferral, and tuition fee exemption, as well as the corresponding processes, will be published on the website of Kobe University once they have been determined (Campus life → Tuition and Fees; URL: <https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/campus-life/tuition/>).

Should you have any questions concerning the information published on the website, please refer to the following contact information.

For inquiries concerning the admission fee exemption or deferral, and tuition fee exemption:  
Scholarship Support Group, Student Support Division, Academic Affairs Department, Kobe University  
Phone: 078-803-5431 E-mail: stdnt-shogakushien@office.kobe-u.ac.jp

## 8. How we handle your personal information

- (1) Personal information held by the University will be handled with the utmost care, in strict compliance with the Act on the Protection of Personal Information and other relevant laws and regulations, and in accordance with the Guidelines on Management of Personal Information Held by Kobe University.
- (2) Personal information such as examination scores and the like will be used for the purposes of the selection of applicants (the processing of applications and the entrance examination), announcing successful applicants, enrollment processes, and surveys and research to improve future examination processes and university education. The information will be processed such that individuals are not identifiable when such surveys and research, or their results, are published.
- (3) Personal information about an applicant provided at the time of an application will be used solely for purposes of post-enrollment student support (including health management, the tuition fee exemption, or scholarship applications), academic affairs (including student registration and academic counseling), or other such matters of an educational objective or concerning fees, or other related services.
- (4) Some services may be outsourced to a contractor by the University. In such instances, personal information will be provided to the contractor only to the extent required to perform the services in question, and the contractor will be instructed to maintain strict confidentiality with respect to such personal information.

## 9. Important information

- (1) Once an application has been processed, we are unable to accept any changes to the information recorded in the application documents.
- (2) We are not able to return application documents once received, nor are we able to refund the application fee.
- (3) An enrollment may be cancelled if false information has been provided in the application, even after the enrollment has been processed.
- (4) Any person staying in Japan with a status of residence when they enroll must have a status of residence that does not impede enrollment at a graduate school under the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (Cabinet Order No. 319 of 1951).  
\*If your status of residence is not “Student,” you will not be treated as an international student under Japanese law. Please note that this may cause difficulties in applications for various scholarships, or various services such as subsidies for medical expenses, intended for international students.
- (5) We are not able to respond to any inquiries regarding the arrival of application documents.
- (6) Enrollment at this university is, in principle, not permitted if you do not submit the original copies of your application documents.

## 10. Reference

### Applicant numbers, etc.

The numbers of applicants, etc., for the Kobe University Graduate School of Intercultural Studies Doctoral Program for the 2025 academic year were as follows.

Department	Spaces available	Applicants	Successful applicants	Students enrolled
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Cultural Interaction	6	7 (◎1 ※0)	7 (◎1 ※0)	6 (◎1 ※0)
Culture and Globalization	9	18 (◎6 ※2)	11 (◎4 ※0)	11 (◎4 ※0)
Total	15	25 (◎7 ※2)	18 (◎5 ※0)	17 (◎6 ※0)

Note: The figures in parentheses refer to the number of applicants undergoing special selection for international students (marked by the symbol ◎) and the number of applicants undergoing special-recommendation-based selection (marked by the symbol ※).

## Measures to prevent the spread of measles and rubella

### Submission of documents relating to vaccination (immunization) or antibody testing with respect to measles and rubella

Kobe University has implemented the Measles and Rubella Registration Policy, and all newly enrolled students must submit one of the items listed below (①, ②, or ③) in order to prevent an outbreak of these diseases on campus after their arrival.

- ① A document certifying that you have been vaccinated against both measles and rubella (twice for each disease, after the age of one) (recommended).
  - ② A document certifying that you have been vaccinated against both measles and rubella within the last five years (not earlier than April 2021).
  - ③ A document certifying that you have sufficient antibody titer in your blood (refer to the table on the next page) to prevent the development of measles and rubella, based on the results of an antibody test performed within the last five years (not earlier than April 2021).
- \* The vaccines referred to with respect to items ① and ② may be combined measles and rubella vaccines (e.g., an MR vaccine).
  - \* The documents corresponding to items ① and ② must state the type(s) of vaccine and the date(s) of inoculation.
  - \* Vaccination records such as **maternal and child health handbooks**, or **vaccination certificates** may also be used as documents corresponding to items ① or ②, provided that the type(s) of vaccine and date(s) of inoculation are recorded.
  - \* If you have contracted one or both of these diseases in the past, please submit a document corresponding to item ③. Alternatively, if you may also receive the relevant vaccination(s) and submit a document corresponding to item ① or ②, as appropriate.
  - \* For ③, the certificate must specify the measuring method (from among those listed in the table on the following page) and the measured values of antibody titer, and these values must satisfy the judging standards listed in that table. The blood test report sheet itself may be submitted. If your antibody titer level is insufficient, please receive the relevant vaccination(s) and submit a document corresponding to item ① or ②, as appropriate.
  - \* You may submit a combination of documents corresponding to items ①, ②, and ③. For example, you may submit a document corresponding to item ① with respect to measles, and a document corresponding to item ③ with respect to rubella.
  - \* If you are unable to receive the relevant vaccine(s) due to unavoidable circumstances such as illness or other health condition(s), despite having insufficient antibody titer level(s) for measles and/or rubella, please submit a document (such as a certificate issued by a doctor) to that effect.
  - \* None of the documents listed above will have any impact on the determination of your success or failure in the entrance examinations.

Submission deadline: Students enrolling in April are to submit the relevant document(s) at the time of the medical checkup for new students; Students enrolling in October are to submit the relevant document(s) at the time of the medical checkup for students enrolling in October.

Submission location: The measles and rubella registration point, at the medical checkup site.

## Measuring Methods and Judging Standards for Protective Antibody Titer Levels

Category	Measuring method	Judging standard	Remarks
Measles	IgG-EIA method PA method NT method	Positive if $\geq 8.0$ Positive if $\geq 256\times$ Positive if $\geq 4\times$	A positive result is required from any of the three methods.
Rubella	HI method IgG-EIA method	Positive if $\geq 32\times$ Positive if $\geq 8.0$	A positive result is required from one of the two methods (the HI method is recommended).

- \* Antibody testing is not required if your vaccination history meets the requirements, or if additional vaccinations are received.
- \* Please ensure one of the methods listed in the table is used for your antibody test.
- \* The antibody titer level deemed sufficient to be protective against disease varies according to the testing method adopted. Please also note that **the levels required are higher than those used to indicate simply the presence of antibodies.**
- \* We advise that you check in advance whether a medical institution is able to provide the required vaccination(s) and/or antibody test(s) before making an appointment with that institution. You may also present this Application Handbook to your doctor when asking them to issue the required certificate(s), as appropriate.

For inquiries concerning these disease control measures

Medical Center for Student Health, Kobe University      Phone: 078-803-5245

Student Support Division, Student Affairs Department, Kobe University      Phone: 078-803-5219