

Academic Year 2026

Kobe University

Graduate School of Intercultural Studies
Master's Program

Application Handbook

- Online applications only. Please refer to the “Online Application Procedure” to make your application.
- 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.

Kobe University

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Introduction

(1) 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.

(2) About the learning tracks available under the master's program

There are two options under the master's program: The Researcher Track and the Career Enhancement Track. Students select one of these pathways after enrollment.

Researcher Track

This track caters to students who intend to advance on to the Doctoral Program after completing the master's program. It offers a curriculum designed to develop researchers and specialists with a high level of expertise. To complete the track, students are required to earn the requisite number of credits, based around advanced expertise seminar courses, and to submit a master's thesis or master's folio.

Career Enhancement Track

This track caters to students who intend to enter the workforce after completing the master's program. It is designed to enhance students' future careers by equipping them with broad expertise and practical applied skills. Students are able to obtain their master's degree by earning the requisite number of credits, based around special lectures and academic skill seminars, and submitting a master's research report appropriate to their career design.

1. Admission quota

Department	Division	Course	Admission quota
Cultural Interaction	Area Studies	Japanology	18 students
		Asia-Pacific Culture Studies	
		European and American Culture Studies	
	Intercultural Communication	Cultural Anthropology	
		Transcultural Studies	
		International Relations and Comparative Politics	
Culture and Globalization	Contemporary Culture and Society	Modernity Studies	29 students
		Contemporary Social Issues	
		Art, Culture and Society Studies	
	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	

Note: The admission quota includes applicants undergoing special selection.

2. Eligibility requirements

A. General admission

For any applicant who meets one or more of the criteria numbered (1) to (11) in the box below.

B. Special selection for adult applicants

For any applicant who has not less than three years' professional experience at the time of enrollment, and who meets one or more of the criteria numbered (1) to (10) in the box below. International students, however, are excluded from this category.

C. Special selection for international students

For any applicant who has entered or intends to enter Japan after having obtained "Student" status of residence (for the avoidance of doubt, including those who expect to obtain "Student" status of residence prior to enrollment), and who has completed the entire curriculum that corresponds to a high school education in a foreign country, and who meets one or more of the criteria numbered (1) to (11) in the box below.

Those who have obtained other forms of status of residence—for example, as a Permanent Resident, Spouse or Child of Japanese National, or Long Term Resident—and who have completed the entire curriculum that corresponds to a high school education in a foreign country, and who meet one or more of the criteria numbered (1) to (11) in the box below may also apply.

Note: Applicants who are eligible for special selection for international students may apply for general admission. However, if the applicant selects a foreign language as the basic subject for written examination, that applicant may not, in principle, select their native language as the language for examination.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) The person has graduated from a Japanese university, or is expected to have done so by March 31, 2026.(2) The person has received a bachelor's degree, pursuant to Article 104, paragraph (7) of the School Education Act (Act No. 26 of 1947), or is expected to have received such a degree by March 31, 2026.(3) The person has completed a 16-year course of school education in a foreign country, or is expected to have completed such a course of education by March 31, 2026.(4) The person has completed a 16-year course of school education of a foreign country as a result of having undertaken, while themselves based in Japan, a correspondence course offered by a foreign educational institution, or is expected to have completed such a course of education by March 31, 2026.(5) The person has completed a course of study in Japan at an educational institution that is recognized as having a university course under the education system of a foreign country (provided that graduates are deemed to have completed a 16-year course of study under the education system of that country), and is designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, or is expected to have done so by March 31, 2026.(6) The person has received a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree as a result of having completed a course of study of not less than three years at a university or other educational institution (provided that the institution has undergone a comprehensive review of the state of its research, educational activities, etc., by an entity accredited by the government or competent authority of the foreign country, or has been designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as equivalent to a university) in a foreign country, or is expected to have received such a degree by March 31, 2026. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes the completion of such a course of study by a person in Japan as a result of undertaking a correspondence course offered by such a foreign educational institution, and completing the course of study at an educational institution positioned within the education system of a foreign country and designated separately as set out above. |
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- (7) The person has completed a post-secondary course at a special training college designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (such course having a duration of not less than four years, and meeting those other criteria as set by said Minister), after the date of such designation by the Minister, or is expected to do so by March 31, 2026.
- (8) The person has been designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Public Notice of the Ministry of Education No. 5 of 1953).
- (9) The person has been enrolled to a graduate school pursuant to the provisions of Article 102, paragraph (2) of the School Education Act, and recognized by this Graduate School as having a level of academic ability suitable for receiving education at the graduate level.
- (10) The person has been approved by this Graduate School as having a level of academic ability equivalent to or superior to that of a university graduate, on the basis of a preliminary review of the person's eligibility to apply, and will be at least 22 years of age by March 31, 2026.
- (11) As of March 2025, the person has been enrolled at a Japanese university for a period of not less than three years*, and has been recognized by this Graduate School as having acquired the prescribed credits with excellent grades†.

*Excluding periods of absence, the period of study must be at least three years, but less than four years.

†At the time of application, the person must have earned no fewer than the 90 credits required for graduation. Of those credits, no fewer than 60 must have been earned with honors (80 marks) or higher.

Note 1: Any person who wishes to apply on the basis of meeting criterion (6) should consult with the Graduate School's Academic Affairs department in advance, aiming to do so by the end of September 2025.

Note 2: Any person who wishes to apply on the basis of meeting criterion (10) is required to undergo a preliminary review of their eligibility by the Graduate School, as set out below.

Note 3: Any person who applies on the basis of meeting criterion (11) and enrolls in the graduate school will be withdrawn from their undergraduate program prior to completion. Please note that a bachelor's degree is a prerequisite for certain national examinations. It may be possible to apply for conferral of a bachelor's degree on the basis of having satisfied the requirements stipulated by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education; applicants are advised to investigate these matters.

Note: Preliminary review of eligibility

- Any person who wishes to apply on the basis of meeting criterion (10), above, is required to undergo a preliminary review of their eligibility by the Graduate School. Any applicant who meets one or more of criteria (1) to (9), and/or (11), is not required to undergo a preliminary review of their eligibility.
- Those applicants intending to undergo a preliminary review of their eligibility are advised to firstly contact the Graduate School's Academic Affairs department and request a form for the preliminary review of eligibility. The applicant should then send the following documents (by registered express mail) so that they arrive within the period in which such a request may be made. **Submissions delivered in person will not be considered.**

Period in which a request may be made: Monday, August 18 to Friday, August 22, 2025

- Preliminary Review of Eligibility Request Form (please complete the form provided by the Graduate School's Academic Affairs department).
- Curriculum Vitae (please complete the form provided by the Graduate School's Academic Affairs department).
- Transcripts of academic records and graduation certificate prepared by the last educational institution attended.
- A document (of any size and format) demonstrating that the applicant has a level of academic ability equal or superior to that of a university graduate, as well as any documents able to substantiate that claim (including, for example, certificates of employment and/or study [photocopies are not acceptable], examination certificates relating to particular qualifications, books and/or academic papers written by the applicant, patents and/or utility models belonging to the applicant, or magazine articles [photocopies are acceptable]).

v. Research Proposal for your time at the Graduate School (please download the template from the Graduate School's website).

vi. An envelope for the purposes of notifying the prospective candidate of the results of the review (a standard-size envelope, with **postage stamps amounting to 410 yen for express mail** already affixed).

- The Graduate School is not able to return documents submitted for the purposes of this review process.
- The Graduate School will undertake a review of the prospective applicant's eligibility on the basis of the documents submitted, taking a comprehensive view that considers specific detail described in those documents, such as the individual's academic and professional history, experience of international activity, as well as the research proposal. Please do not send your application documents or pay the application fee prior to receipt of the results of the review.
- The prospective applicant will be notified of the results of the review by Friday, September 19, 2025.

Address for submission of your review request

Academic Affairs, Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University

1-2-1, Tsurukabuto, Nada-ku, Kobe, JAPAN 657-8501

Please write the following, in red ink, on the front of the envelope: **Kobe University, Graduate School of Intercultural Studies Master's Program—Preliminary Review Documents Enclosed.**

3. Application period

Please ensure that your application is received between October 2 (Thu) and October 8 (Wed), 2025 (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 make PDF files of the documents required for the application (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 for each item to be uploaded. If it is necessary to upload two or more PDF files for the same item, please combine the PDF files into one PDF file for 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 department.

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	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 university from which the applicant has graduated or other relevant institution (hereafter referred to as the applicant’s “Qualifying University”) certifying the applicants’ eligibility to apply.</p> <p>Upload all relevant documents (as shown below), converted to ONE PDF file, via the “Upload your academic transcript” on the Online Application Website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Undergraduate (including general education courses) academic transcript.If you transferred from one university to another during your degree course, please ensure that you also include the academic transcript from the previous university. <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> <p>* Any applicant intending to apply on the basis of eligibility criterion (2) should submit all certificates for credits acquired to meet the requirement for the conferment of their degree or academic transcripts (issued by each relevant institution).</p> <p>* Any applicant applying under eligibility criterion (11) should submit a version that is up-to-date as of the time of their application.</p>		
(3)	Certificate of Completion (or Expected Completion) [Upload your Certificate of Completion (or Expected Completion)]	<p>Please submit the certificate issued by your Qualifying University.</p> <p>Upload the relevant document, converted to ONE PDF file, via the “Upload your Certificate of Completion (or Expected Completion)” on the Online Application Website.</p> <p>* Any applicant applying on the basis of eligibility criterion (11) is not required to submit this document.</p> <table><tr><td>Notes</td><td><p>If the period of study at the Qualifying University is of a shorter duration than the standard period, please submit a separate document providing evidence with respect to the rest of the period of study. For example, an applicant who transferred to their Qualifying University for their third year of study should provide a certificate of enrollment from the university attended prior to the transfer.</p><p>Any applicant intending to apply on the basis of eligibility criterion (2) should provide a degree conferment certificate (or of the acceptance of their application) issued by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education, as a substitute for the Certificate of Completion (or Expected Completion).</p></td></tr></table>	Notes	<p>If the period of study at the Qualifying University is of a shorter duration than the standard period, please submit a separate document providing evidence with respect to the rest of the period of study. For example, an applicant who transferred to their Qualifying University for their third year of study should provide a certificate of enrollment from the university attended prior to the transfer.</p> <p>Any applicant intending to apply on the basis of eligibility criterion (2) should provide a degree conferment certificate (or of the acceptance of their application) issued by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education, as a substitute for the Certificate of Completion (or Expected Completion).</p>
Notes	<p>If the period of study at the Qualifying University is of a shorter duration than the standard period, please submit a separate document providing evidence with respect to the rest of the period of study. For example, an applicant who transferred to their Qualifying University for their third year of study should provide a certificate of enrollment from the university attended prior to the transfer.</p> <p>Any applicant intending to apply on the basis of eligibility criterion (2) should provide a degree conferment certificate (or of the acceptance of their application) issued by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education, as a substitute for the Certificate of Completion (or Expected Completion).</p>			

		<p>[Graduates of foreign universities] Any applicant intending to apply on the basis of eligibility criterion (3) should submit a certificate of graduation (or expected graduation) that records the degree obtained. If the relevant certificate of graduation (or expected graduation) does not record the degree obtained, the applicant should additionally submit a document certifying that they have obtained (or are expected to obtain) a bachelor's degree.</p>
(4)	CHSI Certificate [File upload 1]	<p>[Graduates of Chinese Universities] Any applicant intending to apply on the basis of eligibility criterion (3), and who is coming from a Chinese university, should submit the following documents. Please upload the certificate, converted to ONE PDF file, via the "File Upload 1" on the Online Application Website.</p> <p>[Applicants who have graduated]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate (English); • Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate (English). <p>[Applicants who are currently enrolled at the university and expecting to graduate]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Verification Report of Student Record (English). <p>All documents must be verified by China Higher Education Student Information (CHSI). Please register on the CHSI website (https://www.chsi.com.cn/xlzx/bgys.jsp) 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 any similar reason, the application will be treated as incomplete.</p>
(5)	Research Proposal for your time at the Graduate School [File upload 2]	<p>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. (One page of the cover sheet, and a two-page Research Proposal, on A4 paper.)</p> <p>Please upload the Research Proposal, converted to ONE PDF file, via the "File Upload 2" on the Online Application Website.</p> <p>* Note: The Research Proposal template can be downloaded from the following URL: http://web.cla.kobe-u.ac.jp/prospective-g</p>
(6)	Application fee (JPY30,000)	<p><Payment method></p> <p>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.)</p> <p>* 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.</p>
The following should be submitted only by certain applicants, as set out below.		

(7)	Copy of the Resident Record (住民票の写し) [File upload 3]	<p><u>To be submitted by foreign nationals residing in Japan only</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Applicants residing overseas at the time of application should submit this document at the time of enrollment. Please upload the Residence Record, converted to ONE PDF file, via the “File Upload 3” on the Online Application Website.</p>
(8)	Certificate of MEXT Scholarship Student and a letter by the applicant stating their intention to apply for an extension of the MEXT Scholarship [Certificate of MEXT Scholarship Student]	<p><u>To be submitted by Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship students only</u></p> <p>A certificate issued by the university at which the applicant is enrolled stating that the applicant is a MEXT Scholarship Student AND a letter (free format) by the applicant stating their intention to apply for an extension of the MEXT Scholarship Student’s scholarship.</p> <p>Please upload the two documents mentioned above, converted to ONE PDF file, via the [Certificate of MEXT Scholarship Student] on the Online Application Website.</p>
(9)	Certificate of length of study at previous university attended [File upload 4]	<p><u>To be submitted by persons applying under eligibility criterion (11) only</u></p> <p>A document certifying that the person’s period of enrollment was equal to or longer than three years, but less than four years, excluding periods of absence. Please upload the document, converted to ONE PDF file, via the “File Upload 4” on the Online Application Website.</p>
(10)	Excerpts from student handbooks, syllabi, etc., in which are recorded the number of credits required for graduation [File upload 5]	<p><u>To be submitted by persons applying under eligibility criterion (11) only</u></p> <p>Please upload the excerpt, etc., converted to ONE PDF file, via the “File Upload 5” on the Online Application Website.</p>

* The documents necessary for your application must be submitted via the Online Application Website by the designated deadline date for applications. It is not necessary to post documents to the university. However, if there is some unavoidable reason why you are unable to upload your documents, please contact the Graduate School’s Academic Affairs Department.

As you will be asked to submit the original copies of your application documents immediately after you are notified that your application has been successful, please ensure that you keep your documents safely. Details will be sent to successful applicants.

Please bear in mind that permission for enrollment at this university may not be granted if you do not submit the original documents.

5. Entrance examination procedure, dates, and location

(1) Selection is based on written and oral examinations.

(2) Examination dates:

Saturday, November 15 and Sunday, November 16, 2025.

There is, however, a possibility that all the examinations will take place on a single day (Saturday, November 15), depending on the number of applicants. If it is decided that the examinations are to be compressed into a single day, applicants will be notified of any relevant details when they receive their Examination Admission Ticket.

Please refer to Section 12 for more information on the written examination subjects and the oral examination.

(3) Examination location

Kobe University Graduate School of Intercultural Studies

1-2-1, Tsurukabuto, Nada-ku, Kobe, JAPAN

(accessible by Kobe City Bus No. 16 or No. 106, getting off at Shindai Kokusai Bunkagaku Kenkyuka-mae.)

6. Advance consultation for those requiring special accommodations with respect to examination and study

Request deadline: Monday, August 25, 2025

Applicants with disabilities or other special needs who may require special accommodations with respect to the entrance examination or during their time studying at the Graduate School should, in principle, contact and consult with Academic Affairs, Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, by the request deadline.

7. Admission notice

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 25, 2025 (provisional)

Kobe University Graduate School of Intercultural Studies website.

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

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

*Website of the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University: <http://web.cla.kobe-u.ac.jp/>

8. Enrollment process

(1) Enrollment process

Documents relating to the enrollment process will be sent to successful applicants in early February 2026. 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. Once paid, the admission fee cannot be refunded for any reason.
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:

Kobe University Academic Affairs Department, Student Support, Scholarship Support Group (Exemptions)

Phone: 078-803-5431 E-mail: stdnt-shogakushien@office.kobe-u.ac.jp

9. 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.

10. Framework for extending the period of study

Document submission deadline: Friday, February 6, 2026

This framework allows students who would have difficulties earning the credits required for completion of the course in a period of two years, due to reasons such as professional commitments, to apply at the time of enrollment to obtain the necessary credits and complete the course over a period exceeding two years, in a manner planned from the outset. If Kobe University approves the application, the student may remain enrolled for a period exceeding two years, while paying tuition fees equivalent to that of a normal two-year period of study.

The annual tuition fee will be calculated by dividing the total tuition fee for a normal two-year period of study by the number of years approved for the student's extended period of study. However, if the tuition fee is revised while a student is enrolled, the revised fee will apply from the time of revision.

To be considered for an extension under this framework, the student must satisfy one or more of the following criteria, making it difficult to complete the course of study within the normal period of time:

- (1) The person has a profession and is employed (including those who are self employed or temporarily employed [but excluding casual part-time work]).
- (2) The person has household, childcare, or nursing care responsibilities, or responsibilities of a similar nature.
- (3) The person is recognized by the Dean of the Graduate School as eligible for consideration under this framework for other reasons.

Even if the student is employed, etc., the framework is subject to certain conditions. Applicants who intend to take advantage of this framework will be instructed as to the documents they will be required to submit, and are therefore advised to contact Academic Affairs, Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, by email promptly after notice of their successful application.

11. 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).

(5) We are not able to respond to any inquiries regarding the arrival of application documents.

(6) Enrollment at this university may not be permitted if you do not submit the original copies of your application documents.

12. The written and oral examinations, examination durations, etc.

(1) Written examinations

Written examinations of basic and major subjects will be conducted in the following manner.

i. Basic subject

- The examinee must select one of the following basic subjects: a foreign language (English), Japanese, or computer science. The subject that an examinee is able to select depends on the course they have applied to, so please refer to the table below for more information.
- The basic subject examination questions are set at the level deemed necessary for research in the respective fields.

(A) General Admission and Special Selection for Adult Applicants

- Applicants through the General Admission or Special Selection for Adult Applicants frameworks are not able to select Japanese as their basic subject.

(B) Special Selection for International Students

- Applicants through the Special Selection for International Students framework are required to select Japanese as their basic subject.

ii. Major subject

- The major subject examinations will pose questions intended to evaluate the examinee's ability to think logically and develop an argument in the research area of their respective course.
- Please refer to the table below for more information on the languages that an examinee may use to answer questions in their major subject examination.

◆Table of written examination subjects

Department of Cultural Interaction

Division	Course	Major Subjects *Scope of questions set out in upper column, <u>language(s) in which answers may be provided</u> in lower column.	Basic Subjects *The applicant selects one subject from the list when applying. (Please note that some courses have conditions regarding this selection.)
Area Studies	Japanology	Questions of a specialized nature, relating to Japanese culture and society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Japanese (Special Selection for International Students)
		Japanese or English	
	Asia-Pacific Culture Studies	Questions of a specialized nature, relating to the societies, cultures, ethnicities, and histories of the Asia-Pacific region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Japanese (Special Selection for International Students)
		Japanese or English	
	European and American Culture Studies	Questions of a specialized nature, relating to the societies, cultures, and histories of Europe and America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Japanese (Special Selection for International Students)
		Japanese or English	
Intercultural Communication	Cultural Anthropology	Questions testing specialized knowledge and reasoning ability in the field of cultural anthropology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Japanese (Special Selection for International Students)
		Japanese or English	
	Transcultural Studies	Specialized questions relating to transcultural studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Japanese (Special Selection for International Students)
		Japanese or English	
	International Relations and Comparative Politics	Specialized questions relating to international relations and comparative politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Japanese (Special Selection for International Students)
		Japanese or English	

Department of Culture and Globalization

Division	Course	Major Subjects *Scope of questions set out in upper column, <u>language(s) in which answers may be provided</u> in lower column.	Basic Subjects *The applicant selects one subject from the list when applying. (Please note that some courses have conditions regarding this selection.)
Contemporary Culture and Society	Modernity Studies	Questions of a general nature relating to modern society, thought, and culture as a whole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Japanese (Special Selection for International Students)
		Japanese or English	
	Contemporary Social Issues	Essay questions relating to one or more of the following areas: contemporary social theory, gender theory, global justice, international sociology, and media and cultural studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Japanese (Special Selection for International Students)
		Japanese or English	
	Art, Culture and Society Studies	Specialized questions relating to art, culture, and society studies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Japanese (Special Selection for International Students)
		Japanese or English	
Human Communication and Information Science	Linguistics and Communication Studies	Questions from the fields of Japanese language education, Japanese language studies, second language acquisition, cognitive linguistics, contrastive linguistics, rhetoric, narratology, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Japanese (Special Selection for International Students)
		Japanese or English	
	Human Communication	Questions from fields relating to human communication, such as communication theory, experimental psychology, cognitive psychology, cognitive neuroscience, linguistics, phonetics, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Japanese (Special Selection for International Students)
		Japanese or English	
	Computers and Communication	Essay questions and questions testing specialized knowledge relating to the use of computers in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Computer science

		areas such as cultural information, social sciences, and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japanese (Special Selection for International Students)
		Japanese or English	
Second Language Education	Systems of Second Language Education	Questions relating to second language education and language and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Japanese (Special Selection for International Students) Please select one of the languages listed above, which is not your native language, and which will constitute your principal area of research after enrollment.
		Questions that do not require a response in Japanese may be answered in English	
	Contents in Second Language Education	Questions relating to second language education, applied linguistics, and related fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Japanese (Special Selection for International Students)
		Questions that do not require a response in Japanese may be answered in English	

(2) Oral examinations

The oral examinations will be based on the individual examinee's research proposal, centered on the research that the examinee will undertake after enrollment in their desired course.

(3) Examination times, etc.

- Meeting times for the oral examinations will be posted on the day of the written examinations.
- Depending on the course, the oral examinations may be held on the same day as the written examinations, after completion of the written examinations. In such cases, information will be provided when the examination admission tickets are sent.

Date	Examination Category	Examination Time
November 15, 2025 (Sat)	Written examination (basic subject)	10:00–11:30
	Written examination (major subject)	13:00–15:00
November 16, 2025 (Sun)	Oral examination	Provided on the day of the written examinations

13. Bringing dictionaries to the written foreign language and Japanese examinations

Applicants are permitted to bring one dictionary for use during either the foreign language or Japanese language examinations. However, neither electronic dictionaries nor electronic translators are permitted.

14. Allocation of marks for the 2026 academic year entrance examinations

Examination Category	General Admission	Special Selection for Adult Applicants Special Selection for International Students
Major Subject	150	150
Basic Subject	150	100
Oral Examination	100	150
Total	400	400

15. Reference

(1) Applicant numbers, etc.

The numbers of applicants, etc. for the Kobe University Graduate School of Intercultural Studies' Cultural Interaction and Culture and Globalization programs for the 2025 academic year were as follows.

The 2025 academic year

Department	Spaces available	Applicants	Successful applicants	Students enrolled
Cultural Interaction	18	53 (※3 ◎28 □4)	28 (※2 ◎9 □3)	19 (※2 ◎4 □3)
Culture and Globalization	29	80 (※1 ◎50 □7)	29 (※1 ◎11 □4)	27 (※0 ◎11 □4)
Total	47	133 (※4 ◎78 □11)	57 (※3 ◎20 □7)	46 (※2 ◎15 □7)

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

(2) Reference to past examination questions

- Applicants from outside Kobe University are able to view past examination papers at the Graduate School's Academic Affairs department. For more information, please refer to the website of the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies.
- Kobe University students are able to view past examination papers in the General Library / Library for Intercultural Studies. Furthermore, materials that have been edited to reflect copyright considerations are also available through our website: <http://web.cla.kobe-u.ac.jp/prospective-g>

[Inquiries]

Academic Affairs, Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University
1-2-1, Tsurukabuto, Nada-ku, Kobe, JAPAN 657-8501

Phone: 078-803-7530

Email: gicls-kyomugakusei@office.kobe-u.ac.jp

Website: <http://web.cla.kobe-u.ac.jp/>

Website QR Code:



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 ≥ 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 ≥ 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 the 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) in advance of 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