



Kobe University (Hyogo)



Understanding Japanese culture and society through a high-level Japanese language program and research project

■ Kobe University

① Outline of Kobe University

1) History and Background

Kobe University has more than 110 years of history, having started as Kobe Commercial High School in 1902.

We are one of the few comprehensive universities in Japan, with cutting edge facilities for teaching and research. There are currently, there are 10 faculties, 15 research schools, 1 research office, and 1 research institute with several university wide centers, divided into four main areas of Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Life Sciences/Medicine.

We work in a spirit of integrity, freedom, and cooperation in keeping with ours open and cosmopolitan culture and environs, aiming to contribute to the global community, through the creation of knowledge founded on universal values and the fostering of rich understanding and strong leadership skills.

2) Staff and Students (May 2019)

- Staff: 1,549
- Admin: 2,027
- Students: Undergraduates 11,577
Postgraduates 4,649
Total 16,226

<International Students 1,399 (from 92 regions)>

② International Exchange (May 2019)

Kobe University has academic exchange agreements with 367 universities and research institutions in 64 countries worldwide.

③ Statistics on number of International Students and Nikkensei at Kobe University over the last 3 years

2019: International Students 1,399 Nikkensei 6
2018: International Students 1,303 Nikkensei 7
2017: International Students 1,201 Nikkensei 7



④ Kobe

Kobe University is located in the city of Kobe, which is a cosmopolitan port city surrounded by the sea and mountains. Kobe has developed into a major international trading center in Japan since opening the port in 1868.

Kobe is the major city in Hyogo prefecture and is the regional center of government, economy, culture and education in the region.

■ Course Outline

① Course Aims

(a) A course intended mainly to study about Japan and Japanese culture

② Features of the course

This course allows you to learn about Japan using various approaches for experiencing Japanese culture through participation in numerous cultural events, visits to cultural sites and study trips,

whilst learning Japanese language to a high level. Furthermore, you will be able to develop your intercultural communication skills by participating in many exchange activities with Japanese students.

③ Number of Students

10(5 Embassy applicants, 5 university applicants)

④ Conditions for Application

•Status and Field of Study

You must be registered at an overseas university and taking classes in Japanese language and culture as an undergraduate student (1st year students are excluded)

•Japanese language proficiency and grades

You must have completed a basic course in Japanese language and have competence in Japanese to take undergraduate classes offered in Japanese at Kobe University. (This is equivalent to attaining N2 level in the JLPT, and having excellent grades in other subjects at your university)

•Other

For students applying through their universities, we give preference to students applying from universities that have a formal exchange agreement with Kobe University.

⑤ Aims of the Course

The aim of this course is to provide an environment in which you can improve your competence in Japanese to a high level as well as deepening your understanding of Japanese culture, suitable for students aiming to be experts in Japanese studies going on to be researchers, teachers, translators, interpreters, etc.

⑥ Period of Study (Period of enrollment)

1st October 2020 thru 31st August 2021

⑦ Period of Scholarship payment

October 2020 thru August 2021

⑧ Course Schedule

End of September : Arrival in Japan (30th September 2019)

October :

- Orientation
- Advising on student life in Japan

November : Field trip: Pottery at Tamba Region etc.

December

- Kobe University International Student Symposium, exchange with Japanese students
- Mochitsuki Event (Local Nada Region)

February :Ski Trip (Optional)

June

- Study field trip to research Japanese culture

July

- Preparation of final research reports

August

- Completion of course, ceremony and farewell party

End of August : Return home

⑨ Requirements for completion of the course

The requirements for completing the course are that you study for more than 420 hours, which includes compulsory subject (120hrs.) and elective subjects (300hrs.) over the autumn and spring semesters, and present on your research topics.

Students completing the course will be given a certificate of completion. Completion is decided at an examiners meeting of the CIE staff at the end of the course.

We are unable to give credits, but we can give you an official transcript with subject names, description, and grades at the end of the course. Transcripts can also be issued if there is a request from your university.

⑩ Outline of classes within this course

1) Characteristics of course subjects

The course consists of the 'Research Project' where you carry out research on Japanese language and culture to

write a final report, Japanese language classes for increasing your language proficiency, and content classes in Japanese studies where you study with Japanese students. The Research Project and upperintermediate/advanced writing classes are compulsory. Other subjects are elective classes for you to concentrate on improving your knowledge of Japanese studies and language.

Kobe University has a 2 semester/quarter system. The Research Project and some other classes are semester based, whilst others are offered quarterly.

Class Periods (Scheduled) :

3rd Quarter : 1st October 2020~27th November 2020

4th Quarter : 1st December 2020~5th February 2021

1st Quarter : 1st April 2021~4th June 2021

2nd Quarter : 7th June 2021~5th August 2021

The 3rd/4th quarters are equivalent to the Autumn Semester and 1st and 2nd quarters the Spring Semester.

2) Course subjects

I) Compulsory Subjects (120hrs)

- **Research Project** (30hrs in each semester)

Whilst studying about set topics under the supervision of your advisor, you will give presentations and write reports on the research you carry out. You will acquire basic skills in academic Japanese through this study, and write a final research report at the end of the course. The topics for each semester are as follows.

Autumn Semester Topic : Gender Issues
Spring Semester Topic : Regional Studies

- **Japanese Language Classes** (30hrs in each semester)

You must chose writing classes in each semester, from Japanese I A/B, Japanese V A/B and Japanese Writing Upper Intermediate A/B.

II) Elective classes (Minimum of 300 hours)

- **Japanese Language Classes**

These classes are offered every quarter for different level and skills. You can register for classes

that suit your level from Intermediate to Advanced levels.

The levels for the Japanese language classes are given below. Students should aim to take advanced classes in the spring semester.

Intermediate and Upper Intermediate levels

You will study about Japanese culture together with skill-based language classes on grammar, speaking, reading, writing, Kanji and vocabulary.

Advanced level

These classes consist of writing, grammar, speaking, listening and reading classes to improve each language skill, to a level where you can carry out research on academic topics in Japanese. Also, they are designed for you to study and research about a wide range of specialized subjects such as Japanese society, culture and history etc.

Japanese Language Classes

Class Name	Level	Autumn Sem (3rd, 4thQ)	Spring Sem (1st, 2ndQ)
Japanese I A~VIII B	Advanced	15 Hrs	15 Hrs
Japanese Studies I A~ II B	Advanced		
Japanese Speaking A/B	Advanced		
Japanese Listening & Speaking A/B	Intermediate ~Upper Intermediate		
Japanese Reading A/B	Intermediate ~Upper Intermediate		
Japanese Writing A/B	Intermediate ~Upper Intermediate		
Japanese Kanji and Vocabulary A/B	Intermediate ~Upper Intermediate		
Japanese for Specific Purposes I A/B	Upper Intermediate		
Japanese for Specific Purposes II A/B	Intermediate		
Japanese for Specific Purposes III A/B	Intermediate		
Japanese for Specific Purposes IV A/B	Upper Intermediate		
Japanese for Specific Purposes V A/B	Advanced		
Japanese Culture I A/B	Upper beginners		
Intercultural Communication A/B	Advanced		

• Specialized classes on Japanese studies

You can register for classes offered by the faculties of Letters, and Global Human Sciences to pursue studies on your interests in Japan. As well as deepening your knowledge of Japanese culture, you will aim to create a foundation to go on to be able to carry out research in Japanese language and culture, by acquiring skills and methods necessary for carrying out research on topics related to Japan.

3) Classes for taking part in study tours and community exchanges.

We do not have these kind of classes, however we offer various events, symposium, study tours which we ask you to participate in.

4) Opportunity to study with Japanese students

We provide a course called 'Introductory Seminar for Promoting Global Leadership' that aims to give you the skills to become a global citizen, through bilingual groupwork to plan and organize the Kobe University International Student Symposium which is held in December every year.

⑩ Supervision

- Prof. Richard Harrison is in overall charge of the program.

a. Study

Supervision is provided for the Research Project throughout the duration of the course.

b. Living in Japan

CIE has two advisors to provide counseling on living in Japan.

- * advisors to provide counseling
 - Prof. Naruo Kawai
 - Assoc.Prof. Chiharu Kuroda



Nikkensei Graduation Ceremony

■ Accommodation

Kobe University can only provide limited accommodation in university dormitories due to a sharp increase in the number of international students.

If dormitory accommodation is not available you will be offered public housing.

- Length of occupancy is 11 months
- Rent is ¥4,700~21,000 per month (2019year)
 - * A common service charge may be required
- Depending on the accommodation, there will be a desk, chair, bed, refrigerator, washing machine and so on.
- Commuting time is around 30~50 minutes
- Additional costs (heating and water costs are borne by the individual)

■ Follow-up support for ex-Nikkensei

Students who have completed this course are included in our Alumni database, which we use to send information to students about further study opportunities and career advice. It is also used for information exchange between alumni groups.

We also help students who have completed the course to go on to further postgraduate studies in Japan.

Since this program started here at Kobe University, of the total of 102 students who took this course, more than 10 students have gone on to conduct postgraduate research in Japan. Also, more than half of the total number have found employment with Japanese or Japan-related companies.

Facebook:

Kobe University International Alumni Association
<https://www.facebook.com/KobeUniversityInternationalAlumni>

■ Enquiries

Kobe University
International Exchange Division

Address

〒657-8501

1-1 Rokkodai, Nada-ku, Kobe, Hyogo

TEL +81-78-803-5263 (direct line)

FAX +81-78-803-5289

E-mail intl-suishin@office.kobe-u.ac.jp

Program Coordinator

Kobe University,

Center for International Education

(Unit of Japanese Language Education)

TEL +81-78-803-5275 (Direct)

Websites

Kobe University

<http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp>

Institute for Promoting International Partnerships,

<http://www.office.kobe-u.ac.jp/ipiep/edu/index.html>

Center for International Education

<http://www.kisc.kobe-u.ac.jp/english/>

Facebook:

Kobe University Center for international Education

<https://www.facebook.com/KobeUniversityInternationalStudentCenter/>