

Kobe University (National) ***Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies***

◆ **Program name**

Special Course for Development Policy

◆ **Degrees:**

- a. Master of Economics
- b. Master of International Studies

◆ **Credit and years needed for graduation:**

Minimum 30 credits, 2 years

◆ **Address:**

2-1 Rokkodai, Nada-ku, Kobe, Hyogo
657-8501 Japan



Features of University <http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/>

Kobe University's inception can be traced back to March 1902 with the establishment of Kobe Higher Commercial School. In April 1929, the School was renamed Kobe University of Commerce, and in October 1944, it became Kobe University of Economics. In May 1949, Kobe University of Economics and other colleges and schools in Kobe were brought together to form Kobe University. Currently, Kobe University comprises ten faculties, 15 graduate schools, one research institute, and many research centers. It is known as a comprehensive university both at home and abroad for its frequent academic and research exchanges with overseas universities and research institutions. It also hosts over 1,400 international students from 90+ countries and regions. As a result, many of our global alumni are active in a vast array of fields in Japan and their own countries.

Kobe University has always been committed to creating knowledge in a broad range of fields, from Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences to Bio-Medical Sciences. The intellectual curiosity and the inquiring mind of each faculty member have continually advanced the research-level since the foundation. In education, faculty and administrative staff members have united their efforts to collaborate on ways to prepare a better learning environment from the student's viewpoint. In our quest for academic excellence, many of our research areas have gained considerable recognition worldwide as the "core research areas" of Kobe University, and the number is increasing on an ongoing basis. Most of them are on the path of becoming a "center of excellence." Kobe University extends an invitation to all students, researchers, public and private sectors, as well as to all persons and organizations interested in studying at or collaborating with the University.

Features of Graduate School <http://www.gsics.kobe-u.ac.jp/index.html>

The Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies (GSICS) was established in 1992 and offers four academic programs: International Studies, Development and Economics, International Law / Law and Development, and Politics and Area Studies, providing many courses taught in English. Currently, international students from over twenty-five countries account for nearly fifty percent of our students.

The faculty members of GSICS are experts in international cooperation, development economics, international law, political science, international relations, and education development from Japan and abroad. We offer a flexible curriculum in which students can acquire a wide range of skills and knowledge. In addition to our courses, we also offer joint courses with other graduate schools specializing in economics, law, business administration, education, health, medicine, engineering, and urban studies. Accordingly, our academic programs are genuinely multidisciplinary.

One of our aims is to train graduate students who are interested in pursuing international careers. Academic activities at GSICS, therefore, encourage our students to acquire expertise and multidisciplinary knowledge. As one of these activities, GSICS often convenes international conferences and symposia and invites leading specialists worldwide to deliver special lectures and seminars. We also encourage our students to participate in internships and placements in domestic and international organizations and recognize the importance of these activities by awarding credits for them, as well as partially subsidizing students' travel costs. Many students have taken part in

internships with international and bilateral organizations including OECD, UNICEF, World Bank, Asia Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, UNESCO, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). We welcome international students who wish to join our vibrant academic community.

Features of the Program http://www.gsics.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/programs/master_course.html

To make our unique multidisciplinary academic environment available to international students, particularly JDS Fellows, GSICS has developed a Master's program in English, namely the Special Course for Development Policy, in which all courses are taught in English.

While its curriculum is multidisciplinary, this program also emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach. It thus provides a series of interdisciplinary seminars encompassing economic development, political development, international law, international relations, and education development. GSICS expects the graduates of this program to become experts and professionals in their fields and contribute to the development of their countries.

In this program, JDS Fellows will receive the following benefits and services:

- English correction service provided by native English lecturers;
- Academic English writing classes;
- Assignment of a tutor who helps students settle into university life and study (including assistance to open a bank account, to register with local authorities);
- Compulsory medical checkup; and
- Field trip to some Japanese cities (e.g. Tokyo, Nagoya).

Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees

The standard duration of study is two years. Students are required to earn at least 30 credits, including a total of 8 credits from Special Seminars, complete a master's thesis in English, and pass a viva.

JDS Fellows from Bangladesh who successfully complete the requirements will be granted one of the following degrees: Master of Economics or Master of International Studies.

The following lectures are in English, and JDS Fellows will receive two credits for each lecture per semester.

- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics
- Monetary Theory
- Public Finance
- International Economics
- Mathematics for Social Sciences
- Statistics
- Econometrics
- Growth Theory
- Economic Development Studies
- Socio-Economic Development Theory
- Environmental Economics
- Development Management
- International Development Cooperation
- Human Capital Development
- Social Research Methods for Development

- Special Lecture on Development Economics
- Special Lecture on Development Policy
- Special Lecture on Development Planning
- Special Lecture on Development Management
- Introduction to International Cooperation Law
- Introduction to International Human Rights Law
- Introduction to Law of International Organizations
- Introduction to International Environmental Law
- International Criminal Law
- International Security and International Law
- International Polar Law II
- Law and State Building
- Law and Economic Development
- Law and Social Development
- International Labor Law
- Introduction to Political Analysis
- Japanese Politics
- Political Development
- Local Government
- Principles of Political Research
- International Relations
- Issues in Peace and Development I
- Issues in Peace and Development II
- Japanese ODA
- Disaster Risk Management
- Post-Disaster Recovery Planning
- Demography
- Medical Anthropology
- Environmental Health
- Special Lecture on International Cooperation Law
- Special Lecture on Transnational Relations
- Special Lecture on Political and Social Development
- Special Lecture on Institution Building
- Academic Writing
- Special Seminar
- Careers in International Organizations
- Law of the International Civil Service
- International Field Work
- Internship

List of faculty members capable of guiding JDS Fellows

An academic supervisor will be assigned to each JDS Fellow, and the assignment of supervisors will be determined by the academic staff committee in July. All JDS Fellows will be informed of their supervisors.

	Name	Position	Research Field
○	ALEXANDER Ronni	Professor	Peace Studies, with a focus on gender and safety, particularly in Pacific Island Countries
○	TOSA Hiroyuki	Professor	Critical Theory and Its Application in International Relations
○	NISHITANI Makiko	Associate Professor	Theories of International Relations, Global Governance, International Norms
○	BISRI Mizan Bustanul Fuady	Assistant Professor	Disaster Risk Management, Humanitarian Studies, Comparative Regionalism, with a Focus on Southeast Asia
○	OGAWA Keiichi	Professor	Economics of Education, Education Finance, Education Policy and Planning
○	SHIMAMURA Yasuharu	Professor	Development Economics, Applied Econometrics Social Research Methods for Development
○	YAMAZAKI Koji	Professor	Development Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics, Policy Evaluation
○	ITO Takahiro	Associate Professor	Development Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics, Policy Evaluation
○	CHEN Kuang-hui	Professor	Applied Econometrics, the Chinese Economy
○	UCHIDA Yuichiro	Professor	Development Economics, Economic Development in East Asia, Applied Economics/Econometrics
○	KODAMA Masahiro	Professor	Development Macroeconomics, Structural Transformation
○	KAWABATA Koji	Associate Professor	Applied Econometrics, Economic Development, Industrialization
○	INOUE Takeshi	Associate Professor	Economic Development, Finance-Poverty Nexus, Empirical Analysis of Indian Economy
○	SHIBATA Akiho	Professor	International Law
○	HAYASHI Mika	Professor	International Law
○	OKADA Yohei	Associate Professor	International Law
○	YOTSUMOTO Kenji	Professor	Asian Constitutional Law
○	KANEKO Yuka	Professor	Law and Development, Comparative Law in Asia, Economic Law

○	SAITO Yoshihisa	Associate Professor	Social Law in Asia and Transition Economies
○	MATSUNAMI Jun	Professor	Comparative Study of Deregulation, Privatization and Local Governments
○	KIMURA Kan	Professor	Korean Nationalism and Historical Disputes in Northeast Asia
*	YAMANOUCHI Kenshi	Professor	Educational Planning
*	CHIKADA Masahiro	Professor	Comparative Education, Higher Education
*	NAKAZAWA Minato	Professor	International Health, Public Health, Human Ecology and Demography
*	KAMEOKA Masanori	Professor	International Health, Virology
*	HOKUGO Akihiko	Professor	Disaster Mitigation and Management
*	KONDO Tamiyo	Associate Professor	Housing Policy, Planning for Built Environment, Housing Recovery
*	KITANO Shigeto	Professor	International Macroeconomics
*	ZHAO Laixun	Professor	International Trade, Foreign Investment, Multinational Labor-Management Relations, Cross- Border Pollution, International Merger
*	YOSHII Masahiko	Professor	Comparative Economics, Russian and Central and Eastern European Economies
*	KAJITANI Kai	Professor	Comparative Chinese Economics
*	HAMAGUCHI Nobuaki	Professor	Latin American Economy, Regional and Spatial Economics
*	SATO Takahiro	Professor	Indian Economy
*	MIYAZAKI Tomomi	Associate Professor	Public Economics, Public Finance
*	MINOHARA Tosh	Professor	US-Japan Relations, Diplomacy, International Politics, Intelligence, and Security Studies

The above information is as of Apr. 2021, and subject to change by Oct. 2021.

○The teaching staff of GSICS

*Professors belonging to other faculties in Kobe University

Academic Schedule

(Reference as of academic year 2021)

4 Oct.	Entrance Ceremony
5 Oct.	Beginning of Fall Semester
25 Dec. ~7 Jan.	Winter Vacation
31 Mar.	End of Fall Semester
1 Apr.	Beginning of Spring Semester
Early Aug. ~30 Sep.	Summer Vacation
Late Aug.	Final Examination for Master Thesis
Late Sep.	Completion Ceremony
30 Sep.	End of Spring Semester

Facilities

◆Libraries

Kobe University Library consists of a General Library and nine branch libraries. There are about 3.7 million bibliographical materials and approximately 35,200 titles of electronic journals in the collection. The libraries also receive nearly 4,600 different magazines and approximately 31,000 books annually.

Kobe University students, including JDS Fellows, are entitled to use all the libraries.

※Kobe University Libraries;

http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/campuslife/campus_guide/library.html

Information Science and Technology Center

Information Science and Technology Center operates a computer system for education and research, campus networks etc. There are about 1,300 iMac computers located in the center's branch office, classrooms on Rokkodai, Myodani, Fukae campuses, and all libraries. These are available for general and educational use. Wi-Fi access is also available in almost all buildings on campus.

Medical Center for Student Health

Medical Center for Student Health is open to medical examination, first aid, and consultation of physical and/or mental health problems. So students can use the emergency phone lines on campus to call the Medical Center, 119 (ambulance), or campus security service in case of emergency.

◆Kobe University's dormitory:

■Kobe University International Residence; 109 single rooms, eight married couple rooms, and four family rooms

<http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/campuslife/housing/accommodation.html>

Registration: January and July if there are vacancies.

Length of tenancy: maximum one year (for single room)

◆Residences managed by private organizations for international students:

■Hyogo International Students House; 159 single rooms and 38 married couple rooms

<http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/campuslife/housing/dormitory.html>

Registration: every month if there are vacancies

Length of tenancy: TBA

*Note: Rooms are not guaranteed due to the limited number of rooms available in these residences.

Message for Applicants

Kobe GSICS provides a very comprehensive and challenging program in economics. Graduate students in the program are able to increase theoretical and applicable knowledge/skills for economic policymaking and monitoring evaluation. Students are also able to acquire the analytical skills to tackle issues related to sustainable economic growth, economic planning & policy, public finance, good governance, investment policy, institution building, human resource development, etc. Many of our graduates currently work for universities and international organizations (e.g., UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, OECD, World Bank). In addition, high/mid-level government officials from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America participate in economics training at Kobe GSICS to enhance their knowledge and skills. In the past years, more than dozen of students from Bangladesh have got a Master's degree at our program.

[Voice from Returned Fellow]



Mr. SIDDIQUE Md Nur-E-Alom, 18th Batch (2019-2021)

Belonging Organization: Bangladesh Bank

Japan, a country where splendid natural beauty perfectly blends with sophisticated technology, seamless modernity marches together with unbending traditional spirits and where people with endless mechanic energy truly uphold inner softness and generous hospitality, holds enough to enrich anyone with wisdom and skills to become a global citizen. To elaborate further, Japan is a country of amazing natural sights like cherry blossoms and Mount Fuji, Shinto Shrines and Buddhist Temples, Calligraphy, Origami, Samurai, and pioneering technological advancements like Japanese cars and Shinkansen (bullet) trains, crazy inventions like karaoke, robot toilets and vending machines, social values like politeness, honesty and punctuality, and delicious food like ramen and sushi. Having a thousand years of glorious history, Japan has been shaping their culture until today hinging upon modern civilizations and advanced technology. All these things fuelled my desire to learn about the history, the culture, the people and the language of world's most unique culture. Therefore, Japanese universities have always been among my long-cherished dream institutions to pursue higher study. I was lucky to have that opportunity to attend a Master Degree in Economics at Kobe University under JDS program and I am grateful to all the organizations and concerned officials including JDS Operating Committee Members, Economic Relations Division (ERD) of Ministry of Finance (MoF), Bangladesh, Embassy of Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)- for offering such a unique opportunity.

I was inspired to apply for Kobe University under the JDS program by my senior colleagues at Bangladesh Bank who are also alumni of the university. The university is one of the oldest, largest and higher ranked national universities in Japan. Its vast arrays of courses, specifically in the field of economics and high-quality research work also inspired me to study and conduct research there. During application process I searched for some potential supervisors and found many extra-ordinary professors to guide me to conduct my research titled 'Impact of Exchange Rate Misalignment on Economic Growth: Evidence from Developing Countries'. Finally, I started to believe that I would be able to acquire a wide range of skills and knowledge there.

After taking part in the Master's program of the Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies

(GSICS), I found out that I could experience and learn here far more than I expected. This is a high-quality Master's program which allowed me to immerse myself in the studies both academically, personally and professionally, by living and studying in Japan. During my study, I took many important courses like Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Growth theory, Monetary theory, Econometrics, Development Planning, Environmental Economics, Academic writing and Special Seminar. In the Special Seminar, my supervisor was INOUE Takeshi, Associate Professor, GSICS. He is one of the leading researchers at the university in the aspects of Financial Development who helped and motivated me carry out my research. The courses I attended not only widened my knowledge base and but also enhanced my understanding of different tools and methods applied in Economics. I gained motivation from all the lecturers as well to conduct my research. The research facilities includes a large central library, unlimited internet access in the campus, having licensed academic software's and weekly seminar presentation- together, which helped me to carry out the research work independently and effectively.

During the study, we had a field trip to Nagoya in Aichi Prefecture, Japan to visit Toyota Kaikan Museum and Toyota plant, Nagoya on February 24-25, 2020. We know that Toyota Motor Corporation is the world's largest automaker. In the Museum, we saw the newest Toyota vehicles on display, learned about the history of the company, saw the advanced vehicle technology. We had the opportunity to see a robotic welding line where many robots were working and final assembly line process where human workers were installing various parts. While returning back from the museum and plant, we also visited Nagoya Castle nearby.

Another episode during my study is facing the Novel Coronavirus virus (Covid19) situations which has affected all the countries of the world including Japan. I had experienced how the university took prudent precautionary measures immediately to tackle probable infection spread among students. During this pandemic situation the university took many precautionary steps such as closing the campus, creating awareness among students and introducing remote classes. Proper management of university's academic support system 'BEEF' and/or web seminar systems have made remote classes successful. Teachers were very sincere, active and passionate about their works. They used to give regular updates, take classes, ask assignments and presentation, home work through on-line portal. It was really a good experience of having online classes here while many universities around the world remained closed or cancelled all activities due to this pandemic situation. In conclusion, this two years master's program in Japan was fantastic which will influence my future study or career decision greatly.

It was an immense pleasure and a lifetime opportunity for me to see the world through the lens of the second largest developed economy in the world which offered almost everything to gain the knowledge to the fullest. The health insurance system and the public transportation are the most reliable. People are generally very welcoming, respectful and well-mannered. The food industry maintains a very high standard, and food habit of Japanese people are also very hygienic- probably that's why Japanese people have the highest life expectancy in the world. During my two years staying in Japan, I got an experience of a new fascinating way of life. In my view, anybody studying in Japan will find that it is a great, if not the greatest place to live in.