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 the 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 cosmopolitan 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 the Graduate School https://www.gsics.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/

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 https://www.gsics.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/education/master.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 educational 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:
・Pre-enrollment training (Math, Statistics, etc.);
・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 final oral exam.

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

You can find the details about lectures at the link below.
Syllabi | For Current Students | GSICS | 神戸大学大学院国際協力研究科 GSICS
https://www.gsics.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/students/syllabi.html

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**
○	TAKAHASHI Shingo	Professor	Labor Economics, Personnel Economics, Applied Econometrics
○	OKAJIMA Shigeharu	Associate Professor	Applied Micro econometrics, Environmental Economics, Behavioral Economics, Labor Economics, Industrial Organization
○	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	Development Finance, Digital Financial Inclusion, International Remittances
○	SHIBATA Akiho	Professor	International Law
○	HAYASHI Mika	Professor	International Law
○	ABE Kie	Associate Professor	Introduction to International Environmental Law, Introduction to International Human Rights Law
○	NISHITANI Makiko	Professor	Theories of International Relations, Global Governance, International Norms
○	AKAHOSHI Sho	Associate Professor	International Institutions, Global Governance, Forced Migration Studies, Human rights and Humanitarianism
○	OUCHI Yuya	Associate Professor	International Relations, International Human Rights
○	MATSUNAMI Jun	Professor	Comparative Study of Deregulation, Privatization and Local Governments
○	KIMURA Kan	Professor	Korean Nationalism and Historical Disputes in Northeast Asia
○	KAWAMURA Yusuke	Associate Professor	Politics in the Middle East and North Africa, Social Policy in Authoritarian Countries
○	OGAWA Keiichi	Professor	Economics of Education, Education Finance, Education Policy and Planning
○	SAKURAI Aiko	Professor	Disaster Education Research and Implementation, Comprehensive School Safety, International Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction
○	SAKAUE Katsuki	Associate Professor	International Educational Development, Economics of Education, Evaluation of Education Policy, Evaluation of Education Policy
○	KANEKO Yuka	Professor	Law and Development, Comparative Law in Asia, Law in Disasters
○	SAITO Yoshihisa	Associate Professor	Social Law in Asia and Transition Economies
*	KITANO Shigeto	Professor	International Macroeconomics
*	HAMAGUCHI Nobuaki	Professor	Regional and Spatial Economics, Latin American

			Economy
*	SATO Takahiro	Professor	Indian Economy
*	Murakami Yoshimichi	Professor	Latin American Economy, Development Economics, Empiral Analysis on International Trade

The above information is as of Apr. 2026.

Academic Schedule

(Reference as of academic year　2026)

2 Oct.　Entrance Ceremony
6 Oct.　Beginning of Fall Semester
29 Dec. ~3 Jan.　Winter Vacation
31 Mar.　End of Fall Semester
Early Apr.　Beginning of Spring Semester
Mid 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;

https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/campus-life/guide/library/

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

https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/campus-life/housing/accommodation/

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
https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/campus-life/housing/dormitory/
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 industrial policy, job creation, SME (Small & Medium Enterprise) promotion, investment policy, etc. Many of our graduates currently work for universities and international organizations (e.g., ADB, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, OECD, and 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 several years, more than dozens of students from the Philippines have got a Master’s degree in our program.