

**SPECIAL COURSE FOR
DEVELOPMENT POLICY
(DOCTORAL COURSE)**

**Enrollment for the academic year
beginning in October 2025**

**Graduate School of
International Cooperation Studies
(GSICS)**

KOBE UNIVERSITY

1. Overview and Number of Students Admitted

To enable international students to continue their studies in English while acquiring a doctoral degree, the doctoral program for the Special Course for Development Policy was established in 1999. This is a highly competitive program and only those with excellent academic credentials and outstanding potential will be accepted. Although proficiency in Japanese is not considered in the selection process, a high proficiency in Japanese may be required depending on the applicant's research topic.

Our doctoral program has a dual structure: the Japanese program starts in April and the English program (i.e., Special Course for Development Policy) starts in October. Accordingly, we have two enrollment periods: April and October. For a single academic year (from April to March), a total of 23 students are admitted.

2. Study Requirements and Degrees Granted

Students will be assigned an academic supervisor to pursue their research. All students must pass a candidacy application before completing their doctoral thesis. The following requirements must be met: obtain the status of a doctoral candidate, complete a thesis, which must be approved by the GSICS faculty, and pass a final examination. Most students require three years to earn a doctoral degree, but exceptional students may finish sooner. Students who successfully complete the requirements will be granted one of the following doctoral degrees: Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, Doctor of Laws, or Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science.

3. Eligibility

Only applicants who are not of Japanese nationality and can obtain an appropriate visa for enrollment may apply to the Special Course for Development Policy. Categories of eligible applicants are as follows:

- (1) Those who hold a master's degree or a professional degree, or who will obtain one by the end of September 2025.
- (2) Those who hold a degree equivalent to a master's degree or a professional degree from an accredited institution outside of Japan, or who will obtain one by the end of September 2025.
- (3) Those who have completed a formal education by taking a correspondence course through a non-Japanese university while residing in Japan, and hold a degree equivalent to a master's degree or a professional degree, or who will obtain one by the end of September 2025.
- (4) Those who have obtained a master's degree from a graduate program at an educational institution in a country outside of Japan, which has been assessed by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to be equivalent to a graduate program in the education system of Japan, or who will obtain one by the end of September 2025.
- (5) Those who have completed the course of the United Nations University and have received a degree equivalent to a master's degree. The United Nations University refers the university established by the United Nations General Assembly's resolution of December 11 in 1972. The university is provided for under Paragraph 2 of 1st Article of the Act on Special Measures (Law No. 72. 1976) concerning the

Implementation of the Agreement between the United Nations and Japan relating to the Headquarters of the United Nations University.

- (6) Those who have completed their formal education by taking courses through 1) a non-Japanese university, 2) an educational institution which received the designation of Item 4 or 3) the United Nations University, who have passed an examination or a screening provided in the regulations by Article 16.2 in Standards for the Establishment of Graduate Schools, and who are recognized to have an academic ability equivalent to master's degree holders.
- (7) Those who have been approved by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Ministry Notice No. 118 of 1989).
- (8) Those who are at least 24 years of age by September 30, 2025 and are recognized as possessing an academic ability equivalent to or higher than those with a master's degree by GSICS.

Note

Applicants in eligibility categories 3(5), 3(6), 3(7) or 3(8) must contact the GSICS Academic Affairs Office about eligibility. All inquiries must be accompanied with the following documents: curriculum vitae, official transcript from the last university attended (if any), and an explanation of the reasons for applying, including additional supporting evidence of eligibility. The documents outlined above must be received by December 4, 2024.

4. Other Requirements

Applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- (1) English proficiency: Applicants will need a sufficient command of English for graduate studies. Applicants must submit their official TOEFL or IELTS scores.
Except for:
 - a) Applicants whose undergraduate or graduate activities outside Japan are carried out in English
 - b) Applicants who have completed GSICS master's course in English.Other applicants are encouraged to submit their official TOEFL or IELTS scores.
- (2) Accepted applicants must appear at the GSICS Academic Affairs Office no later than October 1, 2025 (i.e., before classes begin in the fall semester).

Note

Admission may be revoked:

- (1) If the accepted applicants are not in Japan by the date specified above in 4(2) or
- (2) If the accepted applicants do not receive a master's degree by September 30, 2025.

5. Application Documents (Application documents cannot be returned)

The following documents must be submitted (by post):

- (1) Application form (enclosed)
- (2) Official transcript of master's program in English (Photocopy is not accepted)
If not in English, a translation should also be included.

- (3) Official certificate of master's degree in English (Photocopy is not accepted)
 Applicants who have yet to obtain a master's degree must submit an official letter from the university in which they are currently enrolled affirming the applicant's expected graduation and degree conferment by September 30, 2025.
 If not in English, translation(s) should also be included.
- (4) Research proposal (3 copies, 2000 words maximum, double spaced on A4-sized paper)
- (5) Master's thesis (3 copies) along with its abstract (3 copies, 2,000 words maximum,). If the thesis is not in English, the abstract must be in English.
- *¹ Applicants who are expected to obtain a master's degree by September 30, 2025 may submit the current draft of their master's thesis (3 copies) and its abstract (3 copies, 2,000 words maximum).
- *² Applicants who have or will obtain a master's degree without submitting a master's thesis must submit an academic paper or report equivalent to a master's thesis (3 copies, publications also accepted) along with its abstract (3 copies, 2,000 words maximum).
- *³ Applicants in eligibility category 3(5), 3(6), 3(7) or 3(8) must submit an academic paper or report based on their research work or practical experience, which is equivalent to a master's thesis (3 copies), along with its abstract (3 copies, 2,000 words maximum).
- *⁴ In addition, applicants may submit up to two relevant published papers (3 copies).
- (6) Two letters of recommendation (forms enclosed)
 Original letters must be submitted; copies, in any form, are unacceptable. At least one of the letters should be from a person familiar with the applicant's academic work and English ability.
 Instead of posting the letter, it may be sent directly to us (gsics-kyomu@office.kobe-u.ac.jp) by the email address from the institution of the person providing the recommendation.
 [Email subject: Letter of Recommendation]
- Make sure that the letter must be sent by email within the application period.
 - If the letter is sent directly from your recommender, enclose a note stating so, along with the other application documents.
- (7) Letter of consent (form enclosed)
 A letter of consent must be obtained from a prospective academic advisor.
- * Refer to the list of teaching staff (page 9-10)
- (8) Application fee: 30,000 yen (fee subject to change)
 Please print the incoming email of payment completion and attach it to the application form (Refer to page 11)
 Remittance charge (if any) is the responsibility of the applicant.
- (9) Photograph card and examination registration form (forms enclosed)
- (10) Three recent (within the last three months) portrait-sized (4.5 cm × 3.5 cm) photographs.
 Affix a photograph to each of the following: application form, photograph card, and examination registration form.
- (11) Photocopy of the passport biographical information page
- *¹ Applicants residing in Japan must also submit a photocopy of their residence card.
- *² Applicants without a passport at the time of application may submit a photocopy of a citizenship certificate instead.
- (12) Official TOEFL or IELTS score report (See 4(1))
TOEFL
 Submit an official "Test Taker (Examinee) Score Report" (Photocopy is not accepted) or request that ETS forward an "Official Score Report" to GSICS to be received no later than February 12, 2025 (DI

Code:3341, Department Code: 80). TOEFL-ITP is not accepted.

Only if you submit the Score Report through ETS Data Manager, please enclose a photocopy of the Score Report.

IELTS

Submit an official “Test Report Form” (Photocopy is not accepted) or request that the testing center forward an original “Test Report Form” to GSICS to be received no later than February 12, 2025.

Note

Applicants who have graduated or will graduate from a university in China, if admitted, must apply for the certificate of their bachelor's degree and transcript provided by China Higher Education Student Information (CHSI) without delay. Details will be communicated to each successful applicant in this category after the admission decision

6. Application Deadline

All application documents must be submitted as a single packet to the GSICS Academic Affairs Office by registered mail.

Application documents must be received by GSICS between January 29, 2025 and February 12, 2025.

Application documents brought in directly cannot be accepted.

7. Admission Process and Interview

Admission decision will be made based on the application documents and the results of the interview.

Applicants will be contacted with the date of the interview, which will be determined in accordance with the schedule of the interviewers. The interview can be conducted online.

8. Admission Process and Results

On April 9, 2025, the results will be posted on the GSICS website and an official letter be sent.

No telephone inquiries will be accepted.

9. Registration

- (1) All necessary documents for the registration and the enrollment procedures will be mailed to successful applicants along with the notification of the application results.
- (2) The fall semester begins on October 1, 2025. All entering students must obtain a student visa and attend the GSICS New Student Guidance.
- (3) Fees (subject to change): Entrance fee: 282,000 yen.
Tuition fee: 535,800 yen/year (267,900 yen/semester).

10. Additional Information

- (1) Incomplete application cannot be accepted.
- (2) Application documents cannot be altered after submission.
- (3) The application fee is non-refundable.
- (4) To obtain a letter of consent, applicants are advised to contact a prospective academic advisor well in advance.
- (5) Financial support, including scholarships and accommodations for international students, is not guaranteed. Applicants should make separate arrangements.
- (6) Teaching staff who have their primary appointment in other faculties of Kobe University may only accept a limited number of students.
- (7) Successful applicants who have not completed their master's program at the time of application must obtain a master's degree by September 30, 2025. Otherwise, the admission will be cancelled.
- (8) If incorrect information is found on application, the admission will be cancelled.
- (9) Applicants who are in need of additional support to take an entrance examination and/or to conduct their academic work should contact us by December 4, 2024.

* This is for us to make every effort to ensure that all qualified applicants take full advantages of our programs and is not to restrict their application or study. If you need to take the entrance examination using adaptive equipment such as a hearing aid, crutches, and a wheelchair, please contact us in advance.

For further inquiries, please contact:

Academic Affairs Office

Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University

2-1 Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe 657-8501, JAPAN

Phone: +81-78-803-7267

Fax: +81-78-803-7297

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

11. Control and Prevention of Infectious Diseases

Submission of a certificate demonstrating inoculation and an antibody test against measles and rubella:

Kobe University has implemented the *Measles and Rubella Registration Policy*, and all newly enrolled Kobe University students must submit one of the following three certificates (①, ②, or ③) to prevent a possible outbreak of measles and rubella on campus.

Please note that students admitted to the following schools are required to submit either ① or ③:
School of Medicine (Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Health Sciences),
the Graduate School of Medicine, or the Graduate School of Health Sciences.

① A vaccination certificate to prove that you have received two doses each of the measles and rubella vaccine after turning one year old (recommended)

② A vaccination certificate to prove that you were inoculated with measles and rubella vaccines each within the last five years (since April 2020).

③ An antibody certificate to prove that you have sufficient antibody titer in your blood (refer to the chart next page) to prevent the development of measles and rubella, based on the results of an antibody test performed within the last five years (since April 2020)

* For ① and ②, a combined vaccine against measles and rubella (e.g., MR vaccine) is permissible.

* For ① and ②, the certificate must be issued by an accredited medical institution and state the type of vaccine and the date of inoculation.

* If you have a history of measles or rubella, please submit ③ or receive a vaccination and submit ① or ②.

* For ③, the certificate must specify the measuring method and the measured values of antibody titer in your blood (refer to the next page), and it must satisfy the judging standard listed in the chart. A blood test report sheet itself can be accepted for submission.

If the antibody titer in your blood is insufficient, you must receive the necessary vaccination, and submit either ① or ②.

* You may submit a combination of ①, ②, and ③ (e.g., ① for measles and ③ for rubella).

* If your antibody titer level is below the threshold, yet you are unable to receive the vaccinations due to certain circumstances (such as illness or specific body conditions), please provide an official document (like a medical certificate) that explains the reason.

Procedure, deadline, and location for submission

- All successful undergraduate and graduate applicants enrolling in April (except the Graduate School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Health Sciences and the Graduate School of Maritime Sciences):

Please submit at the time of the medical checkup for new students scheduled in April.

- All successful graduate applicants enrolling in April (the Graduate School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Health Sciences, and the Graduate School of Maritime Sciences):

Submit the certificate to the following institution by the designated date:

- Students of the Graduate School of Medicine should submit directly to the Medical Center for Student Health, Kusunoki Branch, by April 21.
- Students of the Graduate School of Health Sciences should submit directly to the Physical and Mental Health Consultation Office (Myodani Campus), by April 21.
- Students of the Graduate School of Maritime Sciences should submit the form at the medical examination site on the day of the medical check-up for maritime sciences students.

• Successful applicants enrolling in October:

Please submit the form at the time of the medical check-up for students entering in October.

(Only for the Graduate School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Health Sciences):

Submit the certificate by end of December of your first year to the following:

- Students of the Graduate School of Medicine should submit directly to the Medical Center for Student Health, Kusunoki Branch.
- Students of the Graduate School of Health Sciences should submit directly to the Physical and Mental Health Consultation Office (Myodani Campus).

	Measuring Method	Judging Standard	Remarks
Measles	IgG — EIA method	$8.0 \leq$ positive $(16.0 \leq) *$	Positive result by one of these three methods. * For the School of Medicine (both the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Health Sciences), the Graduate School of Medicine, and the Graduate School of Health Sciences: Positive result by one of these three methods, and must achieve values shown in brackets.
	PA method	$256x \leq$ positive $(256x \leq) *$	
	NT method	$4.0x \leq$ positive $(8x \leq) *$	
Rubella	HI method IgG—EIA method	$32x \leq$ positive $8.0 \leq$ positive	Positive result by one of these two methods. (HI method is recommended)

Measuring methods and judging standards for blood antibody titers

- * Antibody testing is not required if the vaccination history meets the requirements or if additional vaccinations are given.
- * Make sure the above methods are followed when the antibody titer is measured in your blood.
- * The protective antibody value differs according to the measuring method used. Please note that **the judging standards are higher than the usual standards used at medical institutions.**

Students who wish to enter the School of Medicine (the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Health Sciences), the Graduate School of Medicine, and the Graduate School of Health Sciences should note that

they are required to have a higher level of protective antibodies against measles, as indicated in brackets.

* Before visiting a medical institution, please confirm in advance whether you can receive the necessary antibody tests and/or the vaccinations.

When you visit a doctor at a medical institution, make sure to present this document to obtain the necessary certificate(s). (In particular, when taking an antibody test, please ensure the measurement methods meet the above criteria.)

* Points to consider when submitting a certificate:

- ① Please bring the original certificate and one set of copies (A4 size).
- ② If the certificate is written in a language other than Japanese or English, please attach a document that shows either a Japanese or English translation.

For further information, please refer to:

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

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

List of Teaching Staff

- Abbreviations under each name are the degrees students can apply for under the supervision of that person.
 - ◇ E: Master of Economics, Doctor of Philosophy in Economics
 - ◇ IS: Master of International Studies, Doctor of Philosophy
 - ◇ L: Master of Laws, Doctor of Laws
 - ◇ PS: Master of Political Science, Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

- Faculty members whose names are followed by an asterisk (*) have their primary appointment in other faculties of Kobe University, and may only accept a limited number of students.

International Studies Program

Name	Position	Research Fields	Courses
NISHITANI Makiko PS, IS	Professor	International Relations, Global Governance, International Norms	International Relations, Special Seminar
AKAHOSHI Sho PS, IS	Associate Professor	International Institutions, Global Governance, Forced Migration Studies, Human rights and Humanitarianism	Issues in Peace and Development I, Special Seminar
OGAWA Keiichi E, IS	Professor	Economics of Education, Education Finance, Education Policy and Planning	Human Capital Development, United Nations and SDGs, World Bank and SDGs, Special Seminar
SAKURAI Aiko E, IS	Professor	Soft Countermeasures of Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Education, Disaster Risk Communication	Development Management, Special Seminar
SAKAUE Katsuki E, IS	Associate Professor	International Educational Development, Economics of Education, Evaluation of Education Policy	Social Research Methods for Development, Special Seminar
NAKAZAWA Minato * IS	Professor	Global Health, Public Health, Human Ecology and Demography	Demography, Medical Anthropology, Environmental Health, Special Seminar
KAMEOKA Masanori * IS	Professor	Global Health, Virology	Special Seminar
KONDO Tamiyo* IS	Professor	Housing Policy, Planning for Built Environment, Housing Recovery	Post-Disaster Recovery Planning, Special Seminar

Development and Economics Program

Name	Position	Research Fields	Courses
TAKAHASHI Shingo E, IS	Professor	Labor Economics, Personnel Economics, Applied Econometrics	Statistics, Special Seminar
ITO Takahiro E, IS	Associate Professor	Development Economics, Applied Econometrics	Microeconomics, Special Seminar
UCHIDA Yuichiro E, IS	Professor	Development Economics, Economic Development in East Asia, Applied Economics/Econometrics	International Economics, Growth Theory, Special Seminar
KODAMA Masahiro E, IS	Professor	Development Macroeconomics, Structural Transformation	Macroeconomics, Special Seminar
KAWABATA Koji E, IS	Associate Professor	Applied Econometrics, Economic Development, Industrialization	Econometrics, Special Seminar

Name	Position	Research Fields	Courses
INOUE Takeshi E, IS	Associate Professor	Development Finance, Financial Inclusion, Remittances	Monetary Theory, Special Seminar
ZHAO Laixun * E, IS	Professor	International Trade, Foreign Investment, Multinational Labor-Management Relations, Cross-Border Pollution, International Merger	Special Seminar
KITANO Shigeto * E, IS	Professor	International Macroeconomics	Special Seminar
HAMAGUCHI Nobuaki * E, IS	Professor	Latin American Economy, Regional and Spatial Economics	Special Seminar
SATO Takahiro* E, IS	Professor	Indian Economy	Special Seminar

International Law /Law and Development Program

Name	Position	Research Fields	Courses
SHIBATA Akiho L, IS	Professor	International Law	Introduction to International Environmental Law, International Polar Law II, Special Seminar
HAYASHI Mika L, IS	Professor	International Law	Introduction to International Cooperation Law, International Security and International Law, Special Seminar
YOTSUMOTO Kenji L, IS	Professor	Asian Constitutional Law	Law and State Building, Special Seminar
KANEKO Yuka L, IS	Professor	Law and Development, Comparative Law in Asia, Law in Disasters	Law and Economic Development, Special Seminar
SAITO Yoshihisa L, IS	Associate Professor	Social Law in Asia and Transition Economies	Law and Social Development, Special Seminar

Political Science and Area Studies Program


Name	Position	Research Fields	Courses
MATSUNAMI Jun PS, IS	Professor	Comparative Study of Deregulation, Privatization and Local Governments	Japanese Politics, Local Government, Special Seminar
KIMURA Kan PS, IS	Professor	Korean Nationalism and Historical Disputes in Northeast Asia	Introduction to Political Analysis, Special Seminar
KAWAMURA Yusuke PS, IS	Associate Professor	Politics in the Middle East and North Africa, Social Policy in Authoritarian Countries	Principles of Political Research, Special Seminar
MINOHARA Tosh * PS, IS	Professor	US-Japan Relations, Diplomacy, International Politics, Intelligence, and Security Studies	Special Seminar

海外から送金する場合のみ

Only when sending money from overseas

検定料のお支払いについて

下に表示のURL、またはQRコードから神戸大学検定料決済システムへアクセスし、クレジットカードまたはアリペイでお支払いください。クレジットカードの名義人は出願者本人である必要はありませんが、お客様情報欄には、必ず出願者本人の情報を入力してください。支払い完了の受信メールを印刷し、入学願書に添付してください。

学生種別	学部/研究科	支払金額	URL	QR code
大学院博士課程後期課程(博士)	国際協力研究科	¥30,660	https://tinyurl.com/yxu4qkyn	

内訳
 ¥30,000 【検定料】
 ¥660 【システム利用料(手数料)】

【神戸大学検定料決済システムの取り扱いクレジットカード等】




海外から送金する場合のみ

Only when sending money from overseas

Application fee payment method

Please access the Application Fee Payment System of Kobe University from the URL shown below or the QR code, and pay with a credit card or Alipay. The credit card holder does not have to be the applicant, but please be sure to enter the applicant's information in the Customer information field. Please print the Incoming email of payment completion and attach it to the application form.

Student type	Faculty/Graduate	Amount of money	URL	QR code
Doctoral Program	Graduate School Of International Cooperation Studies	¥30,660	https://tinyurl.com/y39u2wm6	

items
 ¥30,000 【Application fee】
 ¥660 【Remittance fee】

【Handling credit cards, etc. at the payment system of Kobe University】



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 TEL : +81-570-035-672 Email: ips-support@univapay.com