

SPECIAL COURSE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY (MASTER'S COURSE)

**Enrollment for the academic year
beginning in October 2026**

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

KOBE UNIVERSITY

Note:

The application must be completed through the online application system.
Please follow the "Online Application Procedure" and the sample form when applying.
In principle, submission of documents by post is not required at the time of application.
All documents must be uploaded to the online application website.

Additional Note (February 5, 2026):

Some faculty information has been added.

1. Overview and Number of Students Admitted

Our master's 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 70 students are admitted. Generally, the October admissions account for one-third to one-half of incoming students.

2. Study Requirements and Degrees Granted

Most students require two years to meet the degree requirements, but exceptional students may only need one year. The following requirements must be met: earn at least 30 credits (those who understand Japanese can take up to 12 credits from the subjects offered in the GSICS Program in Japanese), complete a master's thesis in English, and pass a final interview. Students who successfully complete these requirements are granted one of the following degrees: Master of International Studies, Master of Economics, Master of Laws, or Master of Political Science.

3. Eligibility for General Admission

Categories of eligible applicants are as follows:

- (1) Those who have graduated from an accredited Japanese university, or will graduate from it by the end of September 2026.
- (2) Those who hold a bachelor's degree according to the provisions of Article 104.4 in the School Education Act (No.26 of 1947), or will obtain one by the end of September 2026.
- (3) Those who have completed 16 years of academic education outside of Japan, or will complete it by the end of September 2026.
- (4) Those who have completed 16 years of formal education in foreign countries by taking a correspondence course through a non-Japanese university while residing in Japan, or will complete it by the end of September 2026.
- (5) Those who have graduated from a university in Japan that is a recognized university belonging to the system of higher education of a foreign country and is approved by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (only those who have completed at least 16 years of formal education), or will graduate from it by the end of September 2026.
- (6) Those who have obtained a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree by attending an overseas university or other overseas school (limited to those whose education and research activities have been evaluated by persons who have been certified by the relevant country's government or a related institution, or have been separately designated by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as being equivalent to such) and graduated from a program that requires three or more years to complete (including graduating from a program implemented by the relevant overseas school while residing in Japan through

distance learning, as well as graduating from a program implemented by an educational facility established with the relevant overseas country's school education system and has received the designation mentioned above).

- (7) Those who have graduated from a post-secondary course of a specialized training college recognized by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (limited to applicants who have attended for at least 4 years, and to those who have fulfilled requirements as approved by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology).
- (8) Those who have been approved by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Ministry Notice No. 5 of 1953).
- (9) Those who are at least 22 years of age by September 30, 2026 and are recognized as possessing an academic ability suitable for graduate studies by GSICS.

Note

Applicants in the eligibility category 3(6), 3(7), 3(8) or 3(9) above 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 February 4, 2026.

4. Eligibility for Special Admission

Applicants must satisfy the requirements for general admission. However, those who apply in accordance with the double degree programs established by GSICS or those who have been granted a scholarship from the following programs are eligible for special admission (See Section 6(6)).

- (a) Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)
- (b) ADB-Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP)

5. Other Requirements

Applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- (1) English proficiency: Applicants will need a sufficient command of English for graduate studies.
- (2) Accepted applicants must appear at the GSICS Academic Affairs Office no later than October 1, 2026 (i.e., before classes begin in the fall semester).

Note

Admission may be revoked:

- (1) If accepted applicants are not in Japan by the date specified above in 5(2) or
- (2) If accepted applicants fail to graduate from a university by the end of September 2026.

6. Application Procedure and Required Documents

Complete the application procedure through the online application website.

: <https://e-apply.jp/ds/kobe-u/>

All required documents must be submitted in PDF format (ID photo only in JPEG, PNG, or BMP format) and uploaded to the online application website by the deadline. **At the time of application, submission by post is not necessary.**

If there are any issues accessing the website, contact the GSICS Academic Affairs Office (gsics-kyomu@office.kobe-u.ac.jp).

The following documents must be submitted:

Register application information on the website as instructed and upload the following required documents.

	Document	Details	Submission by Post (For Successful Applicants Only, After Admission Result)
1	Photo data	Upload the photo according to the instructions on the online application website. The photo must be clear, show the upper body without a hat, face forward, have no background, be taken alone within three months before application, and be in JPEG, PNG, or BMP format. The photo will be used for the Examination admission ticket for identity verification. Do not edit or modify the image.	-
2	Official transcript of undergraduate studies in English [Academic Transcript]	Convert to PDF and upload to [Academic Transcript] on the online application website. If not in English, a translation should also be included.	<input type="radio"/> Photocopy is not accepted.
3	Official certificate of bachelor's degree in English [Certificate of Graduation / Completion(Expected)]	Applicants who have not yet graduated must provide an official letter from the university in which they are currently enrolled affirming the applicant's expected graduation and degree conferment by the end of September 2026. Convert to PDF and upload to [Certificate of Graduation / Completion (Expected)] on the online application website. If not in English, translation(s) should also be included.	<input type="radio"/> Photocopy is not accepted.

4	Research proposal [File Upload 1]	Prepare the research plan typed on A4 paper using a computer, convert it to PDF, and upload it with the designated cover sheet to [File Upload 1] on the online application website.	-
5	Letter of recommendation [File Upload 2]	<p>The letter should be from a person familiar with the applicant's academic work and English ability.</p> <p>*1 Those who have a letter with the recommender's handwritten signature convert to PDF and upload to [File Upload 2] on the online application website.</p> <p>*2 Instead of *1, the letter may be sent directly to us(gsics-rec@office.kobe-u.ac.jp) by the email address from the institution of the person providing the recommendation. [Email subject: Letter of Recommendation] The letter must be sent by email within the application period. Emails from free email services will not be accepted.</p>	<input type="radio"/> *1 Those who have uploaded the letter in PDF, with the recommender's handwritten original letter must be submitted; copy, in any form, is unacceptable.
6	Letter of consent [File Upload 3]	<p>A letter of consent must be obtained from a prospective academic advisor.</p> <p>*1 Refer to the list of teaching staff (page 9-11)</p> <p>Convert to PDF and upload to [File Upload 3] on the online application website.</p> <p>*2 This document is not required for those applying for special admission under the eligibility specified in Section 4 (a).</p>	-
7	Application fee: 30,000 yen (fee subject to change)	<p><Payment Method></p> <p>Complete the payment procedure through the online application website. Remittance charge is the responsibility of the applicant.</p>	-
8	Photocopy of the passport personal information page [File Upload 4].	<p>Foreign applicants must convert the relevant page to PDF and upload it to the online application website under [File Upload 4]. Only the page showing the name (in the Roman alphabet) and the photo.</p> <p>*1 Applicants residing in Japan must also submit a photocopy of their residence card.</p> <p>*2 Applicants without a passport at the time of application must submit a photocopy of a citizenship certificate instead.</p>	-

9 (※)	Official TOEFL or IELTS score report (if available) [File Upload 5]	<p>Applicants from undergraduate programs not conducted in English are strongly encouraged to submit their official TOEFL or IELTS scores.</p> <p>Upload the official score report to [File Upload 5] on the online application website. If you only have a paper certificate, scan it clearly and upload it as a PDF file.</p>	<input type="radio"/> In case the scores cannot be digitally verified.
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9 (※)

TOEFL

Submit an official “Test Taker (Examinee) Score Report” or request that ETS forward an “Official Score Report” to GSICS to be received no later than April 8, 2026 (DI Code:3341, Department Code: 80). TOEFL-ITP is not accepted.

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

IELTS

Submit an official “Test Report Form” or request that the testing center forward an original “Test Report Form” to GSICS to be received no later than April 8, 2026.

If the uploaded score document is a paper original, submit the original promptly after the admission results. Copies or self-printed documents are not accepted.

Original submission is not required if the score can be verified via official digital certificates or testing agency systems (ETS Data Manager for TOEFL, IELTS Results Verification Service).

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.

7. Application Deadline

All application documents must be submitted in PDF format (ID photo only in JPEG, PNG, or BMP format) and uploaded to the online application website by the application deadline.

Application documents must be received by GSICS between March 25, 2026 and April 8, 2026.

Application documents brought in directly cannot be accepted.

8. Admission Process and Results

Admission decisions will be made based on the submitted application. On May 20, 2026, the results will be posted on the GSICS website and also will be displayed on the applicant's My Page on the online application website. An email notification will be sent to the registered email address once the results are available for download. No inquiries by phone will be accepted.

9. Registration

- (1) The fall semester begins on October 1, 2026. All entering students must attend the GSICS New Student Guidance.
- (2) 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 on the online application website or missing required documents by the application deadline 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 for general admission are advised to contact a prospective academic advisor well in advance.
- (5) Financial support, including scholarships and accommodations for 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 undergraduate study at the time of application must obtain a bachelor's degree by the end of September 2026. Otherwise, the admission will be cancelled.
- (8) If incorrect information is found in the application, the admission will be cancelled.
- (9) Applicants who are in need of additional support to take an entrance examination and/or to conduct academic work should contact us by February 4, 2026.

* 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 2021).
- 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 2021)
 - * 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

- Successful applicants enrolling in October:

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

Measuring methods and judging standards for blood antibody titers

	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)

- * 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 along with one copy (A4 size).
- ② If the certificate is written in a language other than Japanese or English, please attach a document showing the 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 for Department names are as follows:
 - ✧ DEDP: Department of Economic Development and Policies
 - ✧ DICPS: Department of International Cooperation Policy Studies
 - ✧ DRCPS: Department of Regional Cooperation Policy Studies
- 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 Data (As of April 2026)

Name	Position	Department	Research Fields	Courses
NISHITANI Makiko PS, IS	Professor	DICPS	International Relations, Global Governance, International Norms	International Relations, Special Seminar
OUCHI Yuya PS, IS	Associate Professor	DICPS	International Relations, International Human Rights	Issues in Peace and Development II, Special Seminar
AKAHOSHI Sho PS, IS	Associate Professor	DICPS	International Institutions, Global Governance, Forced Migration Studies, Human rights and Humanitarianism	Issues in Peace and Development I, Special Seminar
OGAWA Keiichi E, IS	Professor	DRCPS	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	DRCPS	Soft Countermeasures of Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Education, Disaster Risk Communication	Development Management, Special Seminar
SAKAUE Katsuki E, IS	Associate Professor	DRCPS	International Educational Development, Economics of Education, Evaluation of Education Policy	Social Research Methods for Development, Special Seminar
KONDO Tamiyo *IS	Professor	DRCPS	Housing Policy, Planning for Built Environment, Housing Recovery	Post-Disaster Recovery Planning, Special Seminar

Development and Economics Program

Name	Position	Department	Research Fields	Courses
TAKAHASHI Shingo E, IS	Professor	DEDP	Labor Economics, Personnel Economics, Applied Econometrics	Statistics, Special Seminar
OKAJIMA Shigeharu E, IS	Associate Professor	DEDP	Applied Econometrics, Environmental Economics, Behavioral Economics, Labor Economics, Health Economics, Industrial Organization	Economic Development Studies, Environmental Economics, Special Seminar
UCHIDA Yuichiro E, IS	Professor	DEDP	Development Economics, Economic Development in East Asia, Applied Economics/Econometrics	International Economics, Growth Theory, Special Seminar
KODAMA Masahiro E, IS	Professor	DEDP	Development Macroeconomics, Structural Transformation	Macroeconomics, Special Seminar
KAWABATA Koji E, IS	Associate Professor	DEDP	Applied Econometrics, Economic Development, Industrialization	Econometrics, Special Seminar
INOUE Takeshi E, IS	Associate Professor	DEDP	Development Finance, Financial Inclusion, Remittances	Monetary Theory, Special Seminar
KITANO Shigeto * E, IS	Professor	DEDP	International Macroeconomics	Special Seminar
HAMAGUCHI Nobuaki * E, IS	Professor	DEDP	Latin American Economy, Regional and Spatial Economics	Special Seminar
SATO Takahiro * E, IS	Professor	DEDP	Indian Economy	Special Seminar
MURAKAMI Yoshimichi* E, IS	Professor	DEDP	Latin American Economy, Development Economics, Empirical Analysis on International Trade	Special Seminar

International Law /Law and Development Program

Name	Position	Department	Research Fields	Courses
SHIBATA Akiho L, IS	Professor	DICPS	International Law	International Polar Law II, Special Seminar
HAYASHI Mika L, IS	Professor	DICPS	International Law	Introduction to International Cooperation Law, International Security and International Law, Special Seminar
ABE Kie L, IS	Associate Professor	DICPS	International Law	Introduction to International Environmental Law, Introduction to International Human Rights Law, Special Seminar
KANEKO Yuka L, IS	Professor	DRCPS	Law and Development, Comparative Law in Asia, Law in Disasters	Law and Economic Development, Special Seminar
SAITO Yoshihisa L, IS	Associate Professor	DRCPS	Social Law in Asia and Transition Economies	Law and Social Development, Special Seminar

Political Science and Area Studies Program

Name	Position	Department	Research Fields	Courses
MATSUNAMI Jun PS, IS	Professor	DICPS	Comparative Study of Deregulation, Privatization and Local Governments	Japanese Politics, Local Government, Special Seminar
KIMURA Kan PS, IS	Professor	DICPS	Korean Nationalism and Historical Disputes in Northeast Asia	Introduction to Political Analysis, Special Seminar
KAWAMURA Yusuke PS, IS	Associate Professor	DICPS	Politics in the Middle East and North Africa, Social Policy in Authoritarian Countries	Principles of Political Research, Special Seminar