SPECIAL COURSE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY

(DOCTORAL COURSE)

Enrollment for the academic year beginning in October 2027

Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies (GSICS)

KOBE UNIVERSITY

Note:

The application procedure consists of both online application registration through the Web Application System and submission of the required application documents by post.
Please follow the "Online Application Procedure" and the sample form" when completing your application and mail the required documents.
Applications will not be accepted unless both the online application registration and the postal submission of the required documents are completed by the application deadline.

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

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 2027.
(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 2027.
(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 2027.
(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 2027.
(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, 2027 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 2, 2026.

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, 2027 (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, 2027.

5. Application Procedure and Required Documents

Applicants must complete the online application registration through the online application website, upload all required application documents, and submit the required original documents by post within the application period. Applications will not be accepted unless all of these requirements are completed by the application deadline.

Complete the application procedure through the online application website.: https://e-apply.jp/ds/kobe-u/

After completing the online application registration and uploading all required application documents to the online application website, applicants must submit the required original documents by post.

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

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

Application Period: from February 19, 2027 to March 5, 2027 (JST)

	Document	Details	Online Submission	Submission **by Post**
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 master's program in English [Academic Transcript]	Convert to PDF and upload it to [Academic Transcript] on the online application website. In addition, submit the original document by post. If not in English, a translation should also be uploaded and submitted by post.	○	○ Photocopy is not accepted.
3	Official certificate of master's degree in English [Certificate of Graduation / Completion (Expected)]	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, 2027. Convert the certificate to PDF and upload it to [Certificate of Graduation / Completion (Expected)] on the online application website. The original document must also be submitted by post.If not in English, translation(s) should also be uploaded and submitted by post.	○	○ Photocopy is not accepted.
4	Research proposal [File Upload 1]	Prepare the research plan typed on A4 paper using a computer (maximum 2,000 words), convert it to PDF, and upload it with the designated cover sheet to [File Upload 1] on the online application website.	○	-

5	Two letters of recommendation [File Upload 2]	At least one of the letters should be from a person familiar with the applicant's academic work and English ability. The recommender should provide the letter directly to the applicant. The applicant must convert the letter to PDF and upload it to [File Upload 2] on the online application website. In addition, the recommender's handwritten original letter must be submitted by post. Postal Address: Academic Affairs Office Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University 2-1 Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe 657-8501, Japan The letter of recommendation must include the recommender's name, affiliation, position, and contact information (such as an e-mail address; an institutional e-mail address is strongly recommended), and must bear the recommender's handwritten signature. The University may contact the recommender directly to verify the contents of the recommendation if deemed necessary. If any false statement, alteration, or other misconduct is found in the submitted letter of recommendation, the application may be declared invalid regardless of the admission decision.	○	○ The original letter must bear the recommender's handwritten signature. Copies, in any form, will not be accepted.
6	Master's thesis along with its abstract (2,000 words maximum) [File Upload 3]	Convert to PDF and upload it to [File Upload 3] on the online application website. In addition, submit the original document by post. 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, 2027 may submit the current draft of their master's thesis and its abstract (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 (publications also accepted) along with its abstract (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, along with its abstract (2,000 words maximum). *4 In addition, applicants may submit up to two relevant published papers.		
7	Letter of consent [File Upload 4]	A letter of consent must be obtained from a prospective academic advisor. Refer to the list of teaching staff (page 10-12) Convert to PDF and upload to [File Upload 4] on the online application website.	○	-
8	Application fee: 30,000 yen (fee subject to change)	<Payment Method> Complete the payment procedure through the online application website. Remittance charge is the responsibility of the applicant.		-
9	Photocopy of the passport personal information page .	Foreign applicants must submit a photocopy of the passport personal information page. Only the page showing the name (in the Roman alphabet) and the photo. *1 Applicants residing in Japan must also submit a photocopy of their residence card. *2 Applicants without a passport at the time of application must submit a photocopy of a citizenship certificate instead.		○

10 (※)	Official TOEFL or IELTS score report (See 4(1)) [File Upload 5]	Applicants who possess an original paper score report are requested to submit it by post. Applicants who possess only an electronic score report should upload it to [File Upload 5] on the online application website. Copies or self-printed documents are not accepted. Original submission is not required if the score can be verified through official testing agency systems (ETS Data Manager for TOEFL or IELTS Results Verification Service for IELTS). 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 March 5, 2027 (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" (Photocopy is not accepted) or request that the testing center forward an original "Test Report Form" to GSICS to be received no later than March 5, 2027.		○ In case the scores cannot be digitally verified.

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 uploaded to the online application website by the application deadline.

Application documents submitted by post must be received by GSICS between February 19, 2027 and March 5, 2027.(JST)

Applications will not be accepted unless both the online submission and the required postal submission are completed by the application deadline.
Application documents brought in directly cannot be accepted.

7. Admission Process and Interview

Admission decisions will be made based on the application documents and the results of the interview.
Interviews will, in principle, be conducted online.
A connection test will be conducted on March 16, 2027, between 9am and 5pm (JST).
The interview date and time will be determined in accordance with the schedules of the interviewers.
The detailed schedule for the connection test and the date and time of the interview will be notified to applicants at a later date.

8. Admission Process and Results

On May 19, 2027, 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 telephone inquiries will be accepted.

9. Registration

(1) The fall semester begins on October 1, 2027. 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) Applications will not be accepted unless the online application registration and the submission of all required application documents (by upload and by post) are completed by the application deadline.
(2) Application documents cannot be altered after submission.
(3) Submitted documents will not be returned.
(4) The application fee is non-refundable.
(5) To obtain a letter of consent, applicants are advised to contact a prospective academic advisor well in advance.
(6) Financial support, including scholarships and accommodations for students, is not guaranteed. Applicants should make separate arrangements.
(7) Teaching staff who have their primary appointment in other faculties of Kobe University may only accept a limited number of students.
(8) Successful applicants who have not completed their master's program at the time of application must obtain a master's degree by September 30, 2027. Otherwise, the admission will be cancelled.
(9) If incorrect information is found in the application, the admission will be cancelled.

(10) 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 2, 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 2022).

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 2022)

＊ 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 ≦ positive （16.0 ≦ ）＊	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 ≦ positive (256x ≦ ）＊	
	NT method	4.0x ≦ positive (8x ≦ ）＊	
Rubella	HI method IgG－EIA method	32x ≦ positive 8.0 ≦ 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 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.

Name	Position	Research Fields	Courses
NISHITANI Makiko PS, IS	Professor	International Relations, Global Governance, International Norms	International Relations, Special Seminar
OUCHI Yuya PS, IS	Associate Professor	International Relations, International Human Rights	Issues in Peace and Development II, 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 PS, 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
TAKAHASHI Shingo E, IS	Professor	Labor Economics, Personnel Economics, Applied Econometrics	Statistics, Special Seminar
OKAJIMA Shigeharu E, IS	Associate Professor	Applied Econometrics, Environmental Economics, Behavioral Economics, Labor Economics, Health Economics, Industrial Organization	Economic Development Studies, Environmental Economics, 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
INOUE Takeshi E, IS	Professor	Development Finance, Financial Inclusion, Remittances	Monetary Theory, Special Seminar
KITANO Shigeto * E, IS	Professor	International Macroeconomics	Special Seminar

SATO Takahiro* E, IS	Professor	Indian Economy	Special Seminar
MURAKAMI Yoshimichi* E, IS	Professor	Latin American Economy, Development Economics, Empirical Analysis on International Trade	Special Seminar
SHIBATA Akiho L, IS	Professor	International 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
ABE Kie L, IS	Associate Professor	International Law	Introduction to International Environmental Law, Introduction to International Human Rights Law, Special Seminar
SAITO Yoshihisa L, IS	Associate Professor	Social Law in Asia and Transition Economies	Law and Social Development, 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, Social Policy and Development, Special Seminar