



Kobe University
Kobe LL.M.
GMAP in LAW

Mission

The Kobe LL.M. seeks to cultivate well-rounded practitioners able to understand both the law and the practice of international business. Many courses focus on practical skills and include role-plays and interactive exercises that simulate international practice. Our mission is to prepare students to find jobs and prosper in international law firms, international business enterprises, and international organizations.

Features

At a Glance

- Graduate degree in international business law taught in English
- Combines an LL.M. program with experiential training
- 1-2 years to complete with commencement in the fall or spring
- Instruction by top international academics and lawyers
- Internships in law firms, arbitral institutions, international organizations, and corporations
- Coaching and financial support for international moot competitions
- Completion of a master's thesis under close professor supervision
- Idyllic wooded campus in Kobe, Japan



The Kobe LL.M. combines coursework in international business law with electives in dispute management, economics, business administration, and business management. Courses address both theoretical and practical aspects of international business.

Courses are taught by a core faculty of academics and lawyers from jurisdictions around the world. Class sizes are kept small to assure a favorable teacher-to-student ratio. A busy calendar of academic and social events brings teachers and students together regularly.

Leading thinkers and practitioners around the world, in close collaboration with the faculty members of Kobe University, design and deliver the multidisciplinary courses and workshops for Kobe LL.M. students.

Curriculum

Courses

Graduation Requirements (30 credits)

Compulsory (6 credits)

- Master's thesis (4 credits)
- Internship (2 credits)

Sample Electives 1 (at least 2 credits)

- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Business Economics
- Econometrics
- Financial Accounting
- Financial Management

Sample Electives 2 (at least 22 credits)

- Japanese Legal System I and II
- Introduction to Legal English 1 and 2
- Introduction to International Business Law
- International Investment Law 1 and 2
- International Business Transactions A and B
- International Business Litigation A and B
- ADR in Asia and the Rest of the World
- International Arbitration 1 and 2
- International Arbitration Institutions in Asia A and B
- International Corporate Law and Practice
- Strategic International Business Consulting A and B
- Comparative Law in Asian Context 1 (Kobe SALAD)
- Comparative Competition Law
- WTO Law
- LAWASIA Moot Workshop
- FDI Moot Workshop
- Vis Moot Workshop
- Frankfurt Investment Moot Workshop

Master's Thesis

Students must complete a master's thesis or research paper on a topical legal issue in order to complete the program. Each student is assigned a supervising professor who acts as advisor and mentor through this process. Students are encouraged to take advantage of formal coursework and informal assistance from native English speakers to improve their drafting.



International Arbitration Courses

International arbitration is a leading method for resolving international disputes. Recognizing its importance, the Kobe LL.M. offers a variety of academic and extracurricular opportunities for students to learn about and simulate the practice international arbitration. A sample of past and future courses follows.



International Commercial Arbitration Practice

This course introduces the principles and practice of international commercial arbitration. Students act as lawyers in a mock commercial arbitration case. The case proceeds in sequence from the filing of a request for arbitration to the enforcement of the award. The emphasis is on learning by doing, and students are assessed on both their written and oral advocacy.

Students perform each of the following tasks over the term:

- Meeting and advising a client
- Drafting memoranda to a client
- Meeting and advising a witness
- Revising a witness statement
- Analyzing and using written evidence
- Objecting to a request for documents from opposing counsel
- Drafting a written pleading
- Performing cross-examinations
- Pleading before a tribunal

Investor-State Arbitration Practice

This course introduces students to the theory, principles, and practice of investor-state arbitration including ICSID arbitration. Classes are primarily devoted to analyzing the leading cases that have shaped this area of the law. In addition, criticisms of the current system and possible reforms are discussed. Over the term the students also participate in a series of exercises that simulate the work of lawyers in this area. The exercises are video recorded and discussed with students individually.

International Arbitration Theory

This course surveys some of the theoretical aspects of international arbitration. Classes are devoted to discussions of works by leading scholars and practitioners. The subjects considered include the legal foundations of arbitration, the nature of arbitration, arbitrability, arbitral authority, international arbitration as a legal order, ethical challenges, and public policy challenges.

Mooting

The law faculty has a strong tradition of international mooting. Students participate in the Vis Arbitral Moot in Vienna, the Vis East Moot in Hong Kong, the LAWASIA International Moot Competition, and the FDI International Arbitration Moot as well as various regional and national mooting competitions.

Mooting participants benefit from generous financial support and coaching for international competitions.

Legal English Program

English is the language of instruction of the core curriculum given its prevalence in international business. Non-native speakers of English will find that they have myriad resources to improve their ability to understand, write, and speak English related to international business law.

A wide variety of electives are offered in both English and Japanese.



Seminars & Conferences

The Kobe LL.M. sponsors a number of seminars and conferences annually. These feature leading academics and practitioners from around the world drawn from a variety of legal and business disciplines. A sample of past events follows.

Kobe SALAD

The Kobe University Summer School of Asian Law and Dispute Management is a one-week symposium of academics and lawyers. Speakers include leading thinkers from across Asia who engage about important trends in law and business. Care is taken to include participants from a diverse variety of jurisdictions. A sample of past topics includes "Expanding the Legal Service Market in Asia," "Islamic Finance," "Dispute Resolution in China," and "Law and Economic Development Through the Lens of Geopolitics." The program culminates with an international arbitration moot competition for interested students.



Asian Arbitration Institutions

This AAI Conference provides an overview of the work and innovations of leading international arbitration institutions in Asia. The structure, rules, and operations of the various centers are considered and compared. The seminar is taught by senior members of the institutions themselves including the HKIAC, the SIAC, the KLRCA, the CIETAC, the ICC, and the JCAA.

International Investment Law Seminar

The IIL Seminar brings together lawyers, academics, and jurists to discuss trends in international investment law and dispute settlement. Participants in past seminars have addressed such topics as transparency in ISDS proceedings, moral damages, counterclaims, res judicata in ISDS, ISDS and human rights, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

In addition to the annual events, the Kobe LL.M. sponsors a number of smaller seminars that give students insight into various aspects of international business and law. Past seminars have been held in such disciplines as international mediation, cross-examination, space law, telecommunications law, EU law, contract theory, and geopolitical consulting.



Internship Program

A hallmark of the GMAP program is its compulsory internship program. Students gain practical work experience through 1-3 month placements in law firms, arbitral institutions, international organizations and corporations.

The law faculty maintains a network of partners for this purpose. Students can also gain credit for placements outside of this network with approval. Former students have secured full-time jobs with their host enterprises upon completion of their studies.



Visiting Professors 2015-2017



2015-16

- Prof. Congyan CAI
(Xiamen University, China)
- Prof. David CAMPBELL
(Lancaster University, U.K.)
- Ms. Aude FIORINI
(University of Dundee, U.K.)
- Mr. Jeff LEONG
(Senior Partner, JLPW, Malaysia)
- Prof. Peter McELEVY
(University of Dundee, U.K.)
- Mr. Danny McFADDEN
(Managing Director, CEDR Asia Pacific,
Hong Kong, China)
- Prof. Locknie SHU
(Singapore Management University,
Singapore)
- Prof. Yun ZHAO
(The University of Hong Kong, China)

2016-17 (planned)

- Prof. Alexander BATALOV
(Moscow State University, Russia)
- Prof. Congyan CAI
(Xiamen University, China)
- Ms. Aude FIORINI
(University of Dundee, U.K.)
- Prof. Hasani Bin Mohd Ali
(Universiti of Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia)
- Mr. Danny McFADDEN
(Managing Director, CEDR Asia Pacific, Hong
Kong, CHINA)
- Mr. Jeff LEONG
(Senior Partner, JLPW, Malaysia)
- Prof. Yun ZHAO
(The University of Hong Kong, China)
- Prof. Thomas CHENG
(The University of Hong Kong, China)
- Prof. Yancheng ZHU
(Xiamen University, China)
- Dr. Kun FAN
(The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China)
- Dr. Konstantinidis IOANNIS
(Head of Investment Treaty Arbitration and
International Law, KLRCA, Malaysia)



Kobe University School of Law

Kobe University was established as the higher education institution more than one hundred years ago for bringing up business leaders for the modernization of Japan. Since then, it always leads the research and education of law, economics and management science.

Kobe University School of Law comprises about 1,100 students (800 undergraduate students and 300 graduate students) and 70 full-time faculty members. It regularly ranks among the top 5 Japanese universities both for legal research and for the qualification rate its graduates as Japanese lawyers.

At the present day, Kobe University includes 11 faculties, 14 graduate schools, and overall about 16,000 students across 4 campuses.

Kobe, Japan

Kobe is consistently rated a top place to live in Japan and the most European of Japanese cities. Kobe is clean, safe and easy to navigate by public transportation. A port city, Kobe is known for its cosmopolitan population and sidewalk café culture.

Kobe offers the perfect compromise between city and nature. Within the city limits are hiking trails, waterfalls, hot springs and beaches as well as museums, restaurants, bars, and shopping. Both Kyoto and Osaka, Japan's second largest city, are less than an hour away by train.

Tuition and Fees

JPY1,353,600 (approx. USD12,000)
(The total tuition for two years)

Breakdown

- JPY 282,000 Admission Fee
- JPY 535,800* Tuition Fee (1st year)
- JPY 535,800* Tuition Fee (2nd year)

(*Payable in semi-annual installments)

Applying

Candidates for admission should submit the following application materials:

- A completed application form and CV
- Examination admission ticket
- A research proposal comprising about 1,500 words
- Certification of English proficiency such as TOEIC, TOEFL or IELTS scores
- Academic transcript(s)
- Confirmation of (expected) graduation

Promising candidates will be interviewed either in person or by videoconference.



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[http://www.law.kobe-u.ac.jp
/GMAP/index.html](http://www.law.kobe-u.ac.jp/GMAP/index.html)

