



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 from around the world, in close collaborating with the faculty members of Kobe University, design and deliver 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
- Econometrics
- Business Economics
- Financial Accounting
- Financial Management

Sample Electives 2 (at least 22 credits)

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



English Language Support and Legal English

English Language Support

English is the language of instruction of the core curriculum given its prevalence in international business. To enable students to cope with any initial language difficulties and to achieve the high level of language skills required to function effectively in an English-speaking business environment, English language support is provided which is both comprehensive and responsive to the individual needs of each student. In addition to legal English courses from intermediate to advanced levels, one native speaker professor is allocated to provide support to students in all aspects of their English language needs.



Test of Legal English Skills (TOLES)

Students who attend the legal English courses have the opportunity to obtain internationally recognized certification of their legal English skills by taking the TOLES exams. TOLES is the world's leading English exam for lawyers, law students and legal translators. More information about TOLES, including the extent of international recognition, can be obtained from www.toleslegal.com. TOLES exams are at 3 levels namely Foundation, Higher and Advanced. Extra classes are given to students taking the Advanced level exam which, if passed at the top grade, certifies near-native knowledge of specific legal vocabulary. Kobe University is the only TOLES test centre in Japan.

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.

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, and ISDS and human rights.



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 “Online Dispute Resolution,” “The Rise of International Arbitration in Asia,” “Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Effective Advocacy in International Arbitration,” and “Investment Protection and Political Risk Insurance.” The program culminates with an

international arbitration moot competition for interested students.



Kobe DRAW

The Dispute Resolution in Asia Workshop provides an overview of the work and innovations of leading arbitration institutions and dispute-resolution centers 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 AIAC, CIETAC, HKIAC, ICC, KCAB, SIAC, SIMC, JCAA, and the JIMC.

Other Seminars and Lectures

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, EU law, telecommunications law, contract theory, and geopolitical consulting.



Seminar by Prof. Philippe Sands
(University College London)

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 2017-2019

2017-18

Prof. Rostam NEUWIRTH
(University of Macau)

Prof. Locknie HSU
(Singapore Management University)

Prof. Malgosia FITZMAURICE
(Queen Mary, University of London)

Dr. Edouard FROMAGEAU
(Max Planck Institute Luxembourg)

Prof. Ioannis KONSTANTINIDIS
(Qatar University)

Mr. Danny McFADDEN
(Managing Director, CEDR Asia Pacific, Hong Kong)

Prof. Luke NOTTAGE
(The University of Sydney)

Prof. Congyan CAI
(Xiamen University)

Prof. Yun ZHAO
(The University of Hong Kong)

Prof. Sakina Shaik Ahmad YUSOFF
(Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)

Prof. Roy PARTAIN
(The University of Aberdeen)

Dr. Caroline DUFY
(Sciences Po Bordeaux)



2018-19 (planned)

Prof. Jean d'ASPREMONT
(The University of Manchester)

Mr. Robert S. PE
(Arbitrator, Arbitration Chambers, Hong Kong)

Prof. Bénédicte FAUVARQUE-COSSON
(Université Panthéon-Assas, Paris 2)

Mr. Danny McFADDEN
(Managing Director, CEDR Asia Pacific, Hong Kong)

Prof. Monica CHIEN
(The University of Queensland)

Prof. Malgosia FITZMAURICE
(Queen Mary, University of London)

Prof. Thomas CHENG
(The University of Hong Kong)

Prof. Rostam NEUWIRTH
(University of Macau)



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 is a leading institution for research and the 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 of its graduates as Japanese lawyers.

At the present day, Kobe University includes 11 faculties, 14 graduate schools, and 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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