



# *Carpe Diem*

“Shaping a better global society  
through the study of law, politics, and history.”

**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LAW**

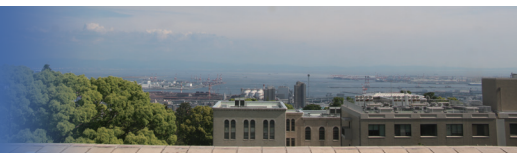


**KOBE UNIVERSITY**

神戸大学



# Message from the Dean



Narufumi Kadomatsu,  
Dean,  
Graduate School of Law and  
Faculty of Law

The Graduate School of Law and Faculty of Law (GSL&FL) is an integral part of Kobe University's nationally renowned Social Sciences departments. Its academic roots dates back to 1902 when the Higher Commercial School was established under the pre-Second World War education system. GSL&FL has since consistently maintained its position in both education and research as one of Japan's leading institutions in the fields of legal and political studies.

GSL&FL provides a solid curriculum that is designed to enable both graduate and undergraduate students to acquire advanced knowledge and practical experience in the fields of law and political studies. We possess one of the best faculty-to-student ratios compared to other national universities' law and political studies departments in Japan. Naturally this leads to closer contact between students and professors.

GSL&FL has rich tradition of having students from all over the world enrolled at both the graduate and undergraduate programs. Its strong departmental support includes "tutors" assigned to each international student and a dedicated full-time "international student lecturer" who provides academic guidance to students who are not familiar to Japanese law or political institutions. The Kobe University International Center offers assistance in other areas, such as placement in dormitories, extra-curricular activities, scholarship information, and financial assistance through employment as TA/RAs.

An Innovative addition to our tradition of international education is a Double-Degree master's program with the University of Essex (UK) and the Jagiellonian University (Poland) to strengthen educational cooperation between the EU and Japan.

By providing excellent education and research opportunities in law and political studies, it is our mission to create global leaders who can tackle 21st century challenges facing the international community. This is by no means an easy task, but it is most definitely an exciting one. I will look forward to you becoming such a person through your years at Kobe University.

## Data

### Kobe University

Number of students, etc. (Including undergraduate and graduate schools)	16,080
Number of international students	1,227
Number of degree conferrers (Excluding bachelor's and master's)	11,420
Number of faculty and staff	3,734

### Graduate School of Law/Faculty of Law

Number of students, etc. (Including undergraduate and graduate schools)	1,138
Number of international students	21
Number of degree conferrers (Excluding bachelor's and master's)	250
Number of faculty and staff	62
Number of academic exchange agreements concluded with foreign universities, etc.	372

# About Us



The Graduate School of Law (GSL) and Faculty of Law (FL) specialize in the discipline of law while providing a variety of courses from other disciplines with an aim to nurture global human resources capable of tackling modern society issues. By offering various specialized undergraduate and graduate courses combining the disciplines of law, politics, history, international relations, GSL&FL provide a well-rounded education—knowledge to students who are planning to enter the legal profession or become public administrators, diplomats, or specialists in the private sector.

## Academic Fields

Theory and History of Law	Sociology of Law	Sociology of Law
Public Law	Criminal Law	Civil Law
Commercial Law	International Law	International Relations
Political Theory	Political Process	

## Key Features

- A leading education system recognized nationwide
- More than 50 faculty members active in Japan and abroad
- One faculty supervising three students
- Small-size classes based on cutting-edge research
- A variety of academic programs

## Research Excellence

Our institution is in the top five top ranked schools in the country in the area of law and political studies receiving one of the highest amount of founding funding in the country.

The faculty members who teach at the Graduate School of Law at Kobe University are internationally and domestically recognized experts in their fields, who serve as chairs and directors of numerous academic societies, and are esteemed members of domestic as well as international academic societies, including The Japan Academy, an organization that accords special recognition to researchers with the most eminent records of academic and scientific achievement. At the same time, many faculty members greatly contribute to society by serving as examiners for various national examinations, such as the civil service examination, and as council members of the national and local governments.

## Enhanced Educational System

The Graduate School of Law consists of four courses:

### Research Scholar Training Program

- Offers a training for future research experts in the areas of law and politics

### Advanced Training Program for Working Professionals

- Provides an upgraded training for students continuing from the Law School for conducting political science research and utilizing it in society
- For future civil servants, diplomats, and persons involved in international organizations, media, NPOs and NGOs.

### Kobe LL. M. (GMAP in Law)

- Provides advanced education in English for people who are active in the international business field

### Legal Recurrent Program

- Program designed for lawyers and students to boost their legal expertise and update their knowledge.

# Meet Our Professors



**Ryo Shimanami**  
Professor,  
Intellectual Property Law

I have primarily conducted research on legislative issues related to Japanese intellectual property laws—for example, the reconciliation of interests between labor and management in cases where productions of intellectual property are carried out in the firms, or the impact that transfer of intellectual property rights has on licensing agreements—referring at times to the foreign laws, and at other times, applying economics. In addition to such practical issues, my recent interests also include basic research, such as the future of the patent system and the reason for its existence.

The intellectual property law education at Kobe University is made of two orthodox parts: structured lectures by two full-time professors, and seminars in which students present the results of their research.

Kobe University accepts many international students. In fact, in the past dozen years or so that I have taught here, I have had more than 20 international students from countries such as China, South Korea, Ukraine, and Brazil studying with me. Many of these graduates are now playing an active role as a bridge between their home country and Japan, whether by teaching at universities, engaging in the legal profession, or working as businesspersons.



**Tosh Minohara**  
Professor, Foreign Relations  
& Diplomatic History

Welcome to the Faculty and the Graduate School of Law at Kobe University!

I am currently the professor of US-Japan relations of this department, where I have taught well over two decades. If you are interested in international relations, national security issues, foreign policy, diplomatic and political history, then you'll be interested in taking my courses.

There are several things that make this department special in my view. One is the comradery between the faculty members. We work closely together with the benefit of the students in mind. Furthermore, the faculty members are all highly qualified and established members of their respective academic fields. Most are known globally for their publications and other academic contributions. Finally, our student body is very international, particularly at the graduate level. I personally have advised students from Canada, Mexico, Serbia, Portugal, Uzbekistan, Lebanon, India, South Korea, Taiwan, and China just to name a few. Thus, if you are a foreign student, then you'll feel right at home in our department.



**Dr. Naoko Matsumura,**  
Associate Professor  
International Relations

How can international institutions, such as treaties and international organizations, facilitate cooperation among states? This is one of my research interests which I answer empirically by using statistical methods. I also utilize online survey experiments to ascertain the role that international institutions play in shaping public opinion. In the graduate school program, I teach various courses dealing with quantitative methods. In today's world, the abundance of data as well as technological innovation provides us with the tools to answer difficult questions regarding our society. I am very much looking forward to engaging inquisitive students who are interesting in seeking answers to their own research questions through the collection of original data and the use of various analytical tools.

Our graduate school program offers students courses that are taught from a variety of research methods, such as quantitative methods to qualitative methods including case studies, interviews, and socio-historical analyses. Outside the regular lectures, we regularly hold workshop sessions and guest lectures by renowned scholars both domestic and overseas where students will be exposed to the cutting edge of research. From my experience of studying abroad, I value the importance as well share in the joy of working with people with different social and academic backgrounds. Our graduate school also offers double degree programs with universities in the United Kingdom and Poland. I do hope that students take advantage of these opportunities and strive to expand their future possibilities.



# Student Support



## Financial Aid

Various scholarships are available to privately financed students (excluding Foreign Government Scholarship Students). Selection for awards is based on academic record, character, and other factors. Information is posted on the notice board of the International Student Division and each faculty. Please visit Kobe University website to obtain information on scholarships.

These scholarships do not usually apply to exchange students, however other financial aids are offered that are available to exchange students. Students should inquire with the student affairs section and also visit <http://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/international/student/scholarship/index.html>

Please note that you can only apply for one scholarship at a time.



## Prospective Students

Kobe University Faculty of Law and Graduate School of Law accept admissions from international students. We provide support in English to prospective students in regard to their application process, both administrative and support from a prospective academic advisor. However, keep in mind that the final application documents must be submitted in Japanese. Please contact the office for any questions in regard to the admissions. Upon acceptance, each international student is provided with a tutor, a peer from the same department, who will help them navigate their academic and daily lives at the beginning for the first six months.



## Department Publications



### Journals:

#### In English

##### ■ *Kobe University Law Review*

URL: <http://www.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/kernel/seika/ISSN=00756423.html>



#### In Japanese

##### ■ *Kobe Law Journal*

URL: <http://www.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/kernel/seika/ISSN=04522400.html>



##### ■ *Kobe Annals of Law and Politics*

URL: <http://www.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/kernel/seika/ISSN=09123709.html>



##### ■ *The Rokkodai Ronshu*

URL: <http://www.lib.kobe-u.ac.jp/kernel/seika/ISSN=13414941.html>



## Our Faculty Members



Please visit here for the respective research fields of our academic staff.

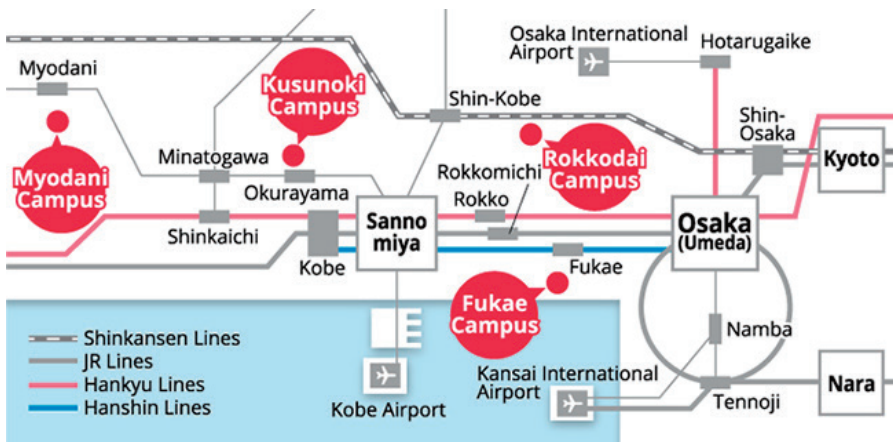
URL: <http://www.law.kobe-u.ac.jp/english/about/people/>



## Access from Tokyo



## Access to our Campuses



JR Kansai Airport Station	↓ 60 min.
JR Osaka Station	↓ 25 min.
JR Rokkomichi Station	↓ 20 min.
Kobe University Rokkodai Campus	

## Rokkodai Campus

