



2026

Kobe University Graduate School of Law

Kobe LL.M.

Kobe University Interdisciplinary Master Program

(KIMAP) in Global Business Law

Applicant's Guide

【Enrollment for the academic year beginning in October, 2026】

【Autumn Admissions】

Admission Policies

Educational Objectives of KIMAP in Global Business Law

In the field of international business, the ability to do everything in English is required in addition to having specialist knowledge. The objectives of this program is to provide interdisciplinary knowledge in business management and economics as well as specialist skills and knowledge in law. In addition, the program is to help students acquire practical skills in English and to produce people that are able to flourish in lives as international business legal practitioners.

Students Qualities Sought by the Program

This program seeks applicants who wish to play an active role in the field of international business; and to acquire English communication skills and basic experience of working abroad in addition to interdisciplinary knowledge in business management and economics and specialized and advanced knowledge in law.

The qualities sought are: basic knowledge and academic ability, critical thinking, decision making skills, and writing and verbal expression, curiosity and motivation, independent thought processing and teamwork skills.

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1. Number of Students to Be Admitted

Approximately 8 students for each academic year

2. Application Eligibility

Any of the following persons may apply.*

- (1) University graduates or those expecting to graduate from a university by September 30, 2026
- (2) Holders of a bachelor's degree under the provisions of Article 104, Paragraph 7 of the School Education Act, or those expecting to be so by September 30, 2026¹⁾
- (3) Persons who have completed, or are expected to complete by September 30, 2026, 16 years of school education in a country other than Japan (hereinafter also referred to as "a foreign country")
- (4) Persons who have completed, or are expected to complete by September 30, 2026, 16 years of school education of a foreign country by following, in Japan, a distance-learning program provided by an educational institution of that foreign country
- (5) Persons who have completed, or are expected to complete by September 30, 2026, in Japan, a course of an educational institution (i) established within a foreign country's educational system, (ii) treated as providing university courses (limited to those courses whose graduates are regarded as having completed 16 years of school education in that foreign country) and (iii) specifically designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as "MEXT")
- (6) Holders of a bachelor's degree or equivalent, or those expecting to receive such a degree by September 30, 2026, from a university or any other educational institution in a foreign country (limited to that institution whose educational and research activities have been evaluated by the government of that foreign country or a relevant organization accredited by it, or any equivalent institution as is designated by MEXT) after the completion of a course of 3 years or more (including cases in which the said course is completed by following, in Japan, a distance-learning program provided by an institution of that foreign country, or the said course is provided by an educational institution established within a foreign country's educational system and designated by MEXT pursuant to the provision of Item (5))
- (7) Persons who have completed, after the date determined by MEXT, a specialized course of a vocational school (limited to that course which fulfills the criteria determined by MEXT, including the requirement that the course length be 4 years or more)
- (8) Persons who are designated by MEXT (under the Public Notice of the Ministry of Education No. 5 of 1953)²⁾
- (9) Persons who are enrolled in a graduate program of a university conforming to Article 102, Paragraph 2 of the School Education Act³⁾, and who are recognized by the Kobe University Graduate School of Law (hereinafter referred to as "the School") to possess the academic capability required to undergo a graduate program of Kobe University
- (10) Persons who, following an individual screening, are recognized by the School to possess the academic capability equivalent to or greater than that possessed by those holding a bachelor's degree and who will be 22 years old or over when they enroll in the Kobe LL.M. program⁴⁾
- (11) Persons who meet any of the requirements listed below and are recognized to have

achieved excellent results for credits as designated by the School:

1. Persons who will have been enrolled in a university for 3 years or more as of September 30, 2026⁵⁾
 2. Persons who have completed, or are expected to complete by September 30, 2026, 15 years of school education in a foreign country
 3. Persons who have completed, or are expected to complete by September 30, 2026, 15 years of school education of a foreign country by following, in Japan, a distance-learning program provided by an educational institution of that foreign country
 4. Persons who have completed in Japan, or are expected to complete by September 30, 2026, a course of an institution (i) established within a foreign country's educational system, (ii) treated as providing university courses (limited to those courses whose graduates are regarded as having completed 15 years of school education in that foreign country) and (iii) specifically designated by MEXT
- (12) Holders of a Juris Doctor degree (i.e., the degree granted to a person who has graduated from the law school program as provided for in Article 18, Paragraph 1 of the Standards for Establishment of Professional Graduate School) who were granted the degree within three years prior to September 30, 2026, or who expect to be granted the degree by September 30, 2026.

*If you do not understand whether or not you are eligible for application, do not hesitate to ask the Academic Affairs Section of the Graduate School. For contact information about the Academic Affairs Section, see the last page of this Guide.

Notes:

- 1) Item (2) refers to those who have been conferred a bachelor's degree by the former National Institution for Academic Degrees, the former National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation, or the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education, or are expected to be conferred such a degree by these Institutions.
- 2) Item (8) refers to those who have graduated, or are expected to graduate, from a university established under the old Imperial Ordinance for Universities, or a university or any equivalent institution of higher learning established under a ministerial Order for Organization or an Act for Establishment of a ministry.
- 3) This refers to those who have enrolled in a graduate program of a university without holding a bachelor's degree.
- 4) Item (10) covers those who have graduated from a junior or technical college, a vocational or miscellaneous school, or a Japanese branch of a foreign university or school for foreigners, and do not have a bachelor's degree certificate.
- 5) Item (11)-1 applies to those who have earned, at the end of their second year (i.e. September 30, 2025), 80 or more of the credits required to graduate. In this case, the percentage of ratings equivalent to "excellent" (A) as provided for by the rules of the Kobe University Faculty of Law must account for 80% or more of the total credits earned. Those enrolled in the Graduate School based on this qualification will be supposed to withdraw from the university in which they have been enrolled.

[Evaluation of Application Eligibility]

Applicants seeking to apply on the basis of Item (9), (10), or (11) must go through a prior evaluation of eligibility before starting application process. They are required to submit the following documents to the Academic/Student Affairs Office of the Graduate School no later than **Tuesday, April 14, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)**:

- a) A request form for prior evaluation of eligibility (the form can be downloaded from our website: <https://www.law.kobe-u.ac.jp/KIMAP/admissions.html>)
- b) Certificate of graduation (or completion) or student status obtained from your most recently attended educational institution as well as academic transcript from the institution
- c) A stamped, self-addressed envelope (From within Japan, applicants must prepare a No. 3 size (12 cm x 23.5 cm) envelope with a clearly printed return address and a 410-yen stamp on it. For those applicants living outside Japan are asked to previously contact the Academic Affairs Section of the Graduate School.

*Those seeking to apply on the basis of (9) must submit the following documents as well:

- Academic performance report and certificate of registration from the university from which the applicant graduated
- Academic performance report and certificate of registration from the applicant's current graduate school
(Those who have already completed the graduate school course need to submit a certificate of completion instead.)

3. Selection Methods for Admission

Admission decisions will be made based on a comprehensive evaluation of the results of the academic examinations, as well as the applicant's academic achievements and research accomplishments prior to admission.

The academic examination consists of two stages: a first-stage review of the application documents, followed by a second-stage oral examination conducted by the Graduate School.

4. Examination

(1) First-stage Selection (Document Review)

Documents A and B below will be the primary basis for evaluation.

A. Documents Certifying English Proficiency

TOEFL (iBT), TOEIC (Listening & Reading Test), and IELTS (Academic) results will be converted to a common scale for evaluation. If multiple English proficiency results are submitted, the highest converted score will be used.

B. Research Plan

The research plan, which must be written in English and be within 1,500 words, will be evaluated. Applicants applying under eligibility criterion (12) above may instead submit a

research plan in Japanese up to 3,000 characters.

The results of the first-stage selection will be posted on the Graduate School's website (<https://www.law.kobe-u.ac.jp/KIMAP/>) **at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12, 2026 (Japan Standard Time).**

(2) Second-stage Selection (Oral Examination)

The oral examination will be conducted only for those who pass the first-stage selection. It will be held in English and will focus on the submitted application documents.

On a day between Monday, June 22 and Friday, June 26, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)	Oral examination (online)	Details will be sent by email.
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5. Application Period

Applications must be received by Academic Affairs Section of the Graduate School during the following period: **From Monday, May 18, 2026 to Friday, May 29, 2026 by 5:00 p.m. (Japan Standard Time).**

Note: All dates and times are given in Japan Standard Time .

6. Application Process

Both of the following procedures (1) and (2) must be completed.

Please carefully check which documents must be submitted via the online application system and which must be submitted by post and complete the application procedures accordingly.

(1) Procedures via the Online Application System

- ◆ Online Application System: <https://e-apply.jp/ds/kobe-u/>
(Scheduled to be available from March 26, 2026)

Application Period / Examination Fee Payment Period:

From Monday, May 18, 2026 to Friday, May 29, 2026, 5:00 p.m. (Japan Standard Time)

Please complete the application and pay the examination fee before mailing the application documents. For guidance, refer to the document entitled **“Online Application Procedure (Flow of the Online Application).”**

Follow the instructions on the online application system, register your application information and upload the documents indicated as “Required” under “Submit via Online Application System” in the [List of Application Documents] below.

If you experience any problems accessing the online application system, please contact the

Academic Affairs Section, Graduate School of Law, Kobe University [mail to: law-kyomu-kenkyuka@office.kobe-u.ac.jp].

(2) Submission of Application Documents

Among the documents listed in the [List of Application Documents] below, those marked as “Required” under “Submit by Post” must be sent by **registered express mail** to the Academic Affairs Section, Graduate School of Law, Kobe University.

Post to:

2-1 Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe 657-8501, Japan

Submission Deadline:

Friday, May 29, 2026 (must arrive by 5:00 p.m. Japan Standard Time)

[List of Application Documents]

Documents to be submitted via the online application system must be converted to **PDF format** (only facial photo data in JPG, PNG, BMP, or HEIC format) and uploaded to the online application system.

Documents written in a language other than English or Japanese must be accompanied by Japanese translation.

	Document Name	Submit via Online Application System	Submit by Post	
1	Confirmation of (expected) Graduation*	Not required	Required	Must be issued by the president of the applicant’s university or the dean of the applicant’s faculty/department. * <u>Refer to page 8 for universities in China</u>
2	Academic Transcript	Not required	Required	Must be issued by the president of the applicant’s university or the dean of the applicant’s faculty/department.
3	Research Plan	Required	Not required	Within 1,500 words in English formatted for A4 paper size. Those applying under application eligibility (12) may instead submit a research plan in Japanese within 3,000 characters.

4	Certification of English Proficiency	Required	Not required	<p>TOEFL (iBT) Test Taker Score Report *1; IELTS (Academic) Test Report Form *2; or TOEIC (Listening & Reading Test) Official Score Certificate *3</p> <p>In each case the test(s) must have been taken on or after May 18, 2024.</p> <p>Submission of a certificate may be exempted for applicants whose first language is English. Please check with the Academic Affairs Section of the Graduate School before the application period.</p> <p>*1 Submission of an Official Score Report (paper or digital) is also acceptable (sent from the testing organization (ETS) directly to Kobe University). Please make sure to request ETS to send the score report well in advance, so it can arrive within the application period. Kobe University Graduate School of Law Institution Code (DI code) is “G050”. Submission of a TOEFL iBT certificate is also acceptable.</p> <p>*2 Applicants may arrange with the IELTS Official Test Centre to send the Official Score Certificate (paper or digital) directly to Kobe University Graduate School of Law. Please make sure to request the test centre well in advance, so it can arrive within the application period.</p> <p>*3 Official digital certificates (TOEIC Digital Official Score Certificates) are also acceptable.</p>
5	Photograph Data File	Required	Not required	<p>Please upload your photograph following the instructions on the online application system.</p> <p>The photograph must show your upper body without headwear, facing forward, with a plain background. It must be a clear image taken of yourself alone within three months prior to the application. Acceptable file formats are JPG, PNG, BMP, or HEIC.</p> <p>This photo will be used on your exam admission ticket and to confirm your identity on the exam day. If the photo has been edited or changed so that we cannot clearly confirm that it is you, you may not be allowed to take the exam.</p>

6	Application Fee	Required	Not required	<p>30,000 JPY</p> <p><u>Payment Method:</u> Please make the payment through the online application system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any bank or transaction fees must be borne by the applicant. • The University provides a special exemption from the application fee for applicants affected by major disasters. Applicants who wish to request this exemption should contact the Admissions Office, Academic Affairs Division at +81-78-803-5230.
7	Application Mailing Label	Not required	Required	<p>After completing your application registration and payment of the application fee through the online application system, please print the “Application Mailing Label” on page 3 of the “Application Form” displayed on your My Page of the online application system (color printing recommended).</p> <p><u>For applicants posting from within Japan:</u> Please attach the “Application Mailing Label” to the front of the envelope you will use to mail the required documents (a standard A-4 sized No. 2 square envelope is recommended).</p> <p><u>For applicants posting from outside Japan:</u> Please include the “Application Mailing Label” in the application documents.</p> <p>Application documents must be sent by registered express mail.</p>
8	Passport or Certificate of Residence (only for non-Japanese applicants)	Required	Not required	<p>Copy of passport or certificate of residence (住民票) issued by the municipality in which the applicant lives, certifying his/her residence status, period of stay, etc.</p>

9	Recommendation Letter (only for non-Japanese applicants)	Not required	Required (Optional)	<p>Sealed letter of recommendation written by an academic supervisor or similar person at a university where the applicant has been enrolled (optional) The letter must be written in either Japanese or English and placed in a sealed envelope.</p> <p>Alternatively, the letter may be sent directly by the recommender to: law-kyomu-kenkyuka@office.kobe-u.ac.jp</p> <p>If the letter is sent directly by your recommender via email, include a note confirming this with your other application documents.</p> <p>When requesting the recommendation letter, please ask your recommender to follow the guidelines below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the letter is sent within the application period. • Attach the letter to an email with the subject line: “Kobe LL.M. Letter of Recommendation” • The recommendation letter must be signed by the recommender.
10	(Only for MEXT scholarship applicants)	Required	Not required	Certification of MEXT scholarship

7. Examination Admission Ticket

After your application documents have been received and processed, please download your Examination Admission Ticket from the “My Page” section of the online application system. Once the ticket becomes available for download, a notification email will be sent to the email address you registered on the online application system.

If you do not receive the email by **Wednesday, June 10, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)**, please contact the Academic Affairs Section of the Graduate School of Law.

Universities in China

The requirements for items 2 of the application documents are as follows:

【Applicants who have graduated from a university in China】

In addition to the original official certificate of graduation, please arrange for an official English version of an Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate to be sent directly to Kobe University Graduate School of Law (law-kyomu-kenkyuka@office.kobe-u.ac.jp) by email. A forwarded message from the applicant is not acceptable.

【Applicants who will have graduated from a university in China】

At the time of application, the original official certificate of expected graduation must be submitted. After obtaining your bachelor's/master's degree, please arrange for an official English version of an Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate to be sent directly to Kobe University Graduate School of Law (law-kyomu-kenkyuka@office.kobe-u.ac.jp) by email. A forwarded message from the applicant is not acceptable.

The Graduate School may revoke the admission of the applicant if the certificate does not reach the Graduate School before enrollment. The original official certificate of graduation must be submitted before the enrollment procedures.

Note:

- For applicants who have already received a CREDENTIAL REPORT from CDGDC, a CREDENTIAL REPORT sent from CHSI directly to Kobe University Graduate School of Law (law-kyomu-kenkyuka@office.kobe-u.ac.jp) is acceptable as well as the online verification email from CHSI. A forwarded message from the applicant is not acceptable.

- After application, it may take about one month before the report is dispatched. Since it may take more time during long vacations, please prepare with plenty of time to spare.

8. Notification of Acceptance

The results will be posted on the website of Kobe University Graduate School of Law (<https://www.law.kobe-u.ac.jp/KIMAP/>) **at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, July 17, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)**. Successful applicants will receive an official letter by post. No telephone or e-mail inquiries regarding the results of the entrance examination will be accepted.

Note: After the enrollment has been completed, a supervisor will be assigned to each student from among professors specializing in international business law, taking into consideration the research plan submitted as an application document and a possible subject of his/her master's thesis.

9. Assistance for Applicants with Special Needs

Physically disadvantaged applicants who desire special assistance in the entrance examination or in their coursework after the enrollment are asked to apply for such to the Academic/Student Affairs Office of the Graduate School before **Tuesday, April 14, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)** except in special circumstances.

10. Points to Keep in Mind

- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Once submitted, the application materials (including certificates) will not be returned to the applicant under any circumstances.
- Once submitted, no modifications to the submitted application materials will be accepted.

- If inaccurate information is found to be provided in any of the submitted application materials or an omission of information that should be included in any of the submitted application materials is found, the Graduate School may revoke the admission of the applicant even after the enrollment in the program has been completed.

11. Enrollment Fee and Tuition Fees

- Enrollment fee: 282,000 JPY [AY 2025]
- First installment of tuition fees: 267,900 JPY (yearly amount is 535,800 JPY [AY 2024])
- If tuition fees change during the period of enrollment, the applicant will be required to pay the revised fee.

Handling of Personal Information Obtained during Application

1. Personal information kept by Kobe University will be handled pursuant to the Act on the Protection of Personal Information (Act No. 57 of 2003) and other applicable laws and regulations, and in strict adherence to the Guidelines on Personal Information Held etc. by Kobe University.
2. Academic results and other information used for selecting applicants will be used for the selection of applicants (application processing and selection), notification of acceptance, enrollment procedures, and research/studies for future selection methods and improvement of university education. The information will be processed in a way so that individuals cannot be identified during the research/studies or on the publication of results.
3. Personal information disclosed during the application process will only be used for general educational purposes such as matters relating to the provision of support to students following their admission (health management, tuition fee waiver, scholarship application) and conducting academic operations (student registration and academic guidance), as well as tuition fees etc., and accompanying tasks.
4. A part of the above operations may be entrusted to subcontractors hired by Kobe University. Kobe University will provide any such subcontractors with the minimum amount of personal information needed for their work and instruct them to observe confidentiality.

Preventive Measures against Measles and Rubella

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.

- 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 2020).

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 2020)

* 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.

* None of the above documents are used to determine the admission test results.

Procedure, deadline, and location for submission

- Successful applicants enrolling in April:

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

- 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	Ig-EIA method	8.0 \cong positive	Positive result by one of these three methods.
	PA method	256x \cong positive	
	NT method	4.0x \cong positive	
Rubella	HI method	32x \cong Positive	Positive result by one of these two methods. (HI method is recommended)
	IgG-EIA method	8.0 \cong positive	

- * 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.**
- * 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

Student Support Division, Student Affairs Department, Kobe University

Tel: 078-803-5245

Tel: 078-803-5219

Academic Affairs Section

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