

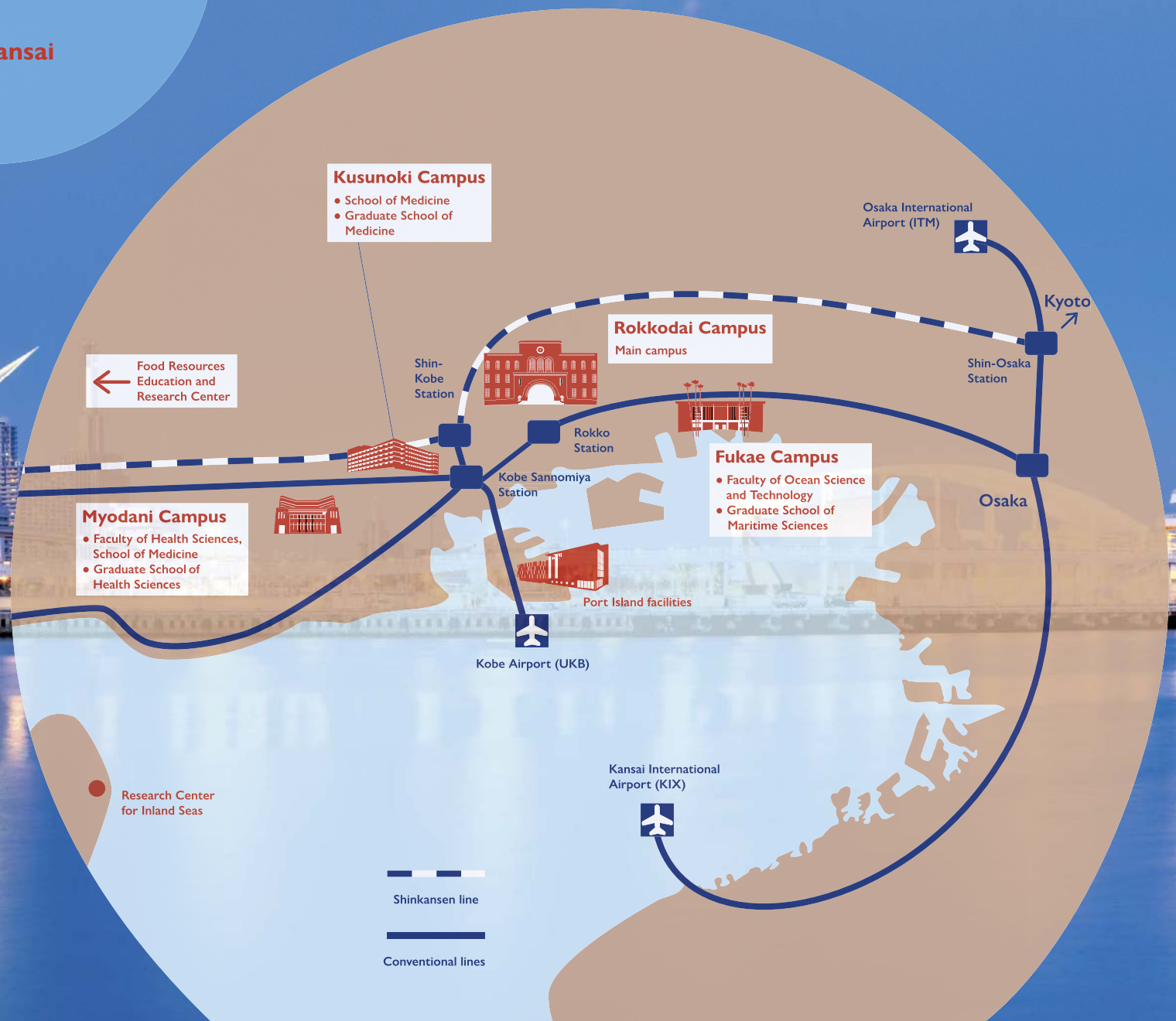


Discover

Kobe U

A global hub for multidisciplinary
research and education

Location



Our vision

President's message

We are dedicated to cultivating internationally leading minds for a digital society, to resolve global issues with innovative solutions at the interface of the humanities and the social, natural and life sciences. We foster in our students the ideal of harmony between principle and practice and strive to strengthen social implementation while making every effort to achieve sustainable growth and development.



Kobe University is a national university with roots dating back to the Kobe Higher Commercial School founded in 1902. It is now one of Japan's leading comprehensive research universities. Combining the social and natural sciences to cultivate leaders with an interdisciplinary perspective, Kobe University creates knowledge and fosters innovation to address society's challenges.

Integrity

Cooperation

Freedom



Our history



founded in
1902

The history of Kobe University is closely tied to the development of the international port city of Kobe. In 1868, the Meiji government opened Kobe Port, and the city began to grow as an international hub.

Before this background, the Kobe Higher Commercial School was established in 1902 to train personnel capable of handling foreign trade and even Kobe Hospital was originally established to treat foreign residents.

The Kobe Higher Commercial School has since evolved into Kobe University, formally established as such in 1949, and Kobe Hospital has become the university hospital. But even with its international outlook, the university maintains deep ties with the local community, also evidenced by its commitment to community recovery after the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Thus, the university is a symbol of the international port city of Kobe.



Kyoto Prize 1992
Lasker Award 1989
Order of Culture 1988



Order of Culture 2010



European Inventor Award 2024
Japan Prize 2012



Nobel Prize 2012
Order of Culture 2012
Kyoto Prize 2010
Lasker Award 2009

We are writing history every day.
See our news page. →



Awards

Who we are

Undergraduate faculties

Faculty of

- Letters
- Global Human Sciences
- Law
- Economics
- Science
- Engineering
- System Informatics (to be launched in April 2025)
- Agriculture
- Ocean Science and Technology

School of

- Business Administration
- Medicine

Graduate schools

Graduate School of

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Humanities | • Business Administration | • Agricultural Science |
| • Intercultural Studies | • Science | • Maritime Sciences |
| • Human Development and Environment | • Medicine | • International Cooperation Studies |
| • Law | • Health Sciences | • Science, Technology and Innovation |
| • Economics | • Engineering | |
| | • System Informatics | |

Facilities & centers

Please visit this website for a detailed list of research centers and facilities.



15
graduate
schools



10,501
papers stored on
Web of Science
(2019-2023)



11
faculties
(as of April 2025)

4,207
joint research
projects



108-121
university
start-ups



3,768,718
books



4,345
staff & faculty
members

1,687
faculty
members

2,658
staff
members

9:1

faculty-to-student
ratio



¥86 billion
expenditure



2,470
commissioned
research projects

Our students

15,999 (999)

students (int.)

11,460 (108)

undergraduate (int.)

4,539 (891)

graduate (int.)

2,780 (522)

master's (int.)

1,759 (369)

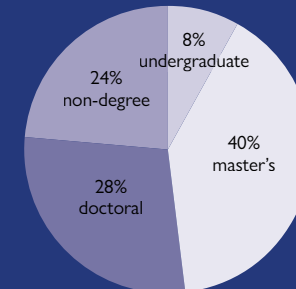
doctoral (int.)

474 (308)

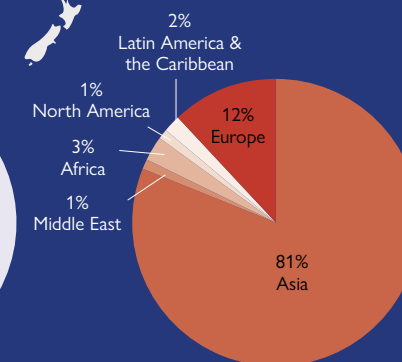
non-degree students (int.)

382
partner
schools
in 64 countries & regions

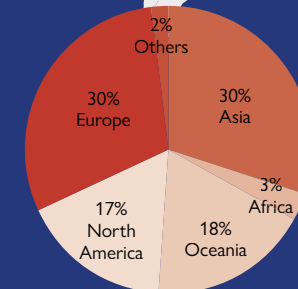
9
overseas
offices
in 6 countries & regions



International students by type



1,307
incoming students



633
outgoing students

International exchange

Study with us

Programs in English

The following programs are offered entirely in English, enabling students to acquire a full master's or doctoral degree in Japan without the need for advanced Japanese-language abilities.

KIMAP program

M.A., Graduate Schools of Law, Business Administration and Economics

SESAMI Ph.D. program

Ph.D., Graduate School of Business Administration

English-based master's program

M.A., Graduate School of Science

International program for medical research

Ph.D., Graduate School of Medicine

ICHS course

M.A., Ph.D., Graduate School of Health Sciences

Kobe global graduate program for agricultural science

M.A., Ph.D., Graduate School of Agricultural Science

Special course on development policy

M.A., Ph.D., Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies

Double-degree programs

Double-degree programs are for students of select partner universities. For a full list of currently available programs, please follow this link.



Non-degree students

Research students

Students who wish to conduct specific research on a non-credit basis may enter Kobe University as research students by obtaining approval from the appropriate faculty or graduate school. Many of those who enroll as research students do so to enhance their academic ability to the level sufficient for admission to master's or doctoral programs offered by the respective advisors or professors at Kobe University.

Exchange students

Kobe University is conducting intensive exchanges for education and research with partner universities and institutions overseas, which enrich the academic environment on campus. Kobe University currently has 382 partner institutions in 64 countries and regions across the globe.

Summer schools & short-term programs

Kobe University offers language and culture study programs for students of select partner universities and a range of summer schools, organized by our graduate schools, to open new perspectives to the participants.

Japanese classes

Kobe University offers Japanese language and Japanese studies courses for international students to suit various levels of language ability and study aims. Students can choose classes that meet their needs from the three types of classes listed below.

- Integrated Japanese language classes
- Japanese language and Japanese studies classes
- Intensive Japanese language courses

Health care
center

Cultural exchange
and language learning
opportunities

Childcare and
work-life balance
advisory

Research promotion
and coordination

International
students
advisory

Accommodation

Support



Our impact

Kobe University's commitment to balancing principle and practice is exemplified by the numerous startup companies that have emerged from the university, particularly in areas combining biotechnology and medical engineering. By collaborating with local governments and related organizations, the university contributes to regional revitalization through these startup companies in the Kansai region.

A notable example is that Kobe University was selected for the "Program for forming Japan's peak research universities (J-PEAKS)," which is funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). Kobe University implements this program mainly at the Advanced Research Hub for Engineering Biology, which is one of five advanced research hubs in the Digital Bio & Life Science Research Park (DBLR), and thus aims to address social issues by promoting science and technology and by revitalizing the local economy.



Health and longevity



Advanced membrane research



Social system innovation



Medical engineering



Bioproduction

Notable startups



- **Mediest Co. Ltd.**
AI diagnosis using image data



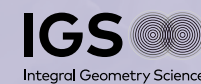
- **Rera Tech Inc.**
Offshore wind condition surveying



- **TearExo Inc.**
Breast cancer detection from tears



- **Bio Palette Co. Ltd.**
Genome editing venture



- **Integral Geometry Science Inc.**
Microwave mammography



- **Beyond Pharmacy Inc.**
Pet health care service



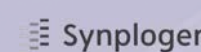
- **Immunorock Co. Ltd.**
Drug discovery venture



- **Bacchus Bio Innovation Co. Ltd.**
Comprehensive biofoundry



- **TelaAxon Inc.**
Countermeasures against AI fraud



- **Synplogen Co. Ltd.**
DNA synthesis venture



KOBE UNIVERSITY

1-1, Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe, 657-8501, JAPAN

www.kobe-u.ac.jp



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