



*2026 Academic Year*

**Graduate School of Business Administration  
Kobe University**

Kobe University Interdisciplinary Master Program  
(**KIMAP**) in Management

**Application Procedure (Enroll in October)**

**Graduate School of Business Administration  
Kobe University**

## The Admission Policy of the Graduate School of Business Administration's Master's Program, Kobe University

The Graduate Program of the Graduate School of Business Administration provides students with in-depth knowledge and advanced professional skills in the fields of management, accounting, and commerce, and enables the students to develop into outstanding internationally-minded researchers and professionals who excel in humanity and creativity, through a five-year program, consisting of a two-year master's course and a three-year doctoral course.

The Master's Program aims to provide students with methodologies of scientific research as well as advanced and specialized knowledge in management, accounting and commerce enabling them to contribute towards the progress and development of the relevant fields in universities, research institutions and industries.

The Master's program seeks students whose qualities and abilities align with its objectives and actively welcomes applicants with outstanding and diverse abilities from a broad range of universities, departments, and academic backgrounds.

- Applicants are sought with the following qualities and abilities:

1. Students with a strong desire to explore the principles of management, accounting, and commerce.  
[Required competences: knowledge and technique; critical thinking, good judgement, and expression; initiative and cooperativeness; interest and motivation]
2.  
Students who possess the fundamental capabilities necessary to acquire the scientific methodologies required to address research questions in management, accounting, and commerce.
3. Students with the imagination and insight to translate into new scientific knowledge their research outcomes in the fields of management, accounting, and commerce.  
[Required competences: knowledge and technique; critical thinking and good judgement, and expression; initiative and cooperativeness]

- Basic Policy for the Selection of Students:

To select students with the abilities mentioned above, we examine the competence of the applicants in the areas listed below, based on the diploma policy and the curriculum policy of the Master's Program.

In the entrance examinations (General Entrance Examination, Recommendation-based Entrance Examination, and Entrance Examination for KIMAP), we assess each student's knowledge and technique; critical thinking and good judgement; expression; initiative and cooperativeness; interest and motivation.

## Kobe University Interdisciplinary Master Program (KIMAP) in Management

The Graduate School of Business Administration at Kobe University initiated a new MA/PhD program, the Strategic Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Alliance Management Initiatives (SESAMI) program, in 2013. In 2015, the Master's program became part of the Global Master's Program jointly established with the Graduate Schools of Law and Economics and was renamed the Global Master's Program in Management (GMAP–Management). In 2013, GMAP was further developed into a new program titled the Kobe University Interdisciplinary Master's Program, which emphasizes interdisciplinary education in the social sciences. The KIMAP emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of technical knowledge and aims to develop human resources equipped with the abilities of policymaking, strategic planning, and execution to solve social issues. The goal of the program is to develop interdisciplinary knowledge, compound thinking, and evidence-based decision-making abilities with the advanced analytical skills that are required in a progressive society.

### Program Overview and Issues Covered During the Program

The SESAMI program, which started in 2013, identified two problems that need to be addressed: the relative lack of **entrepreneurship** and **sustainable alliances** with the environment and regional society in Japan. To achieve the ultimate aim of revitalizing Japanese economies, the program aimed to (1) define **the educational and research domain of strategic entrepreneurship and sustainability alliance management**, which fuses entrepreneurship and sustainable alliances, and (2) produce **strategic entrepreneurship and sustainability alliance management experts** who can set global standards to leverage the strengths of Japanese business systems.

However, to keep pace with the restructuring of the world order and the advent of new technologies, Japan, alongside other countries, is seeking professionals who can provide solutions for social issues and economic development. Starting in 2023, the KIMAP in management responds to such social needs through advanced and interdisciplinary education.

The program comprises three fields: “International Business,” “Entrepreneurship & Finance,” and “Sustainable Development & Public Policy.” The three graduate schools of law, economics, and business administration offer courses in these fields. The objective of the program is to enable students to organically integrate technical knowledge and analytical skills into an interdisciplinary program to solve broad social issues.

### Features of the Program and the Types of Graduates It Seeks to Produce

The KIMAP in Management aims to develop professionals with policymaking, strategic planning, and execution abilities to solve social issues.

The program covers interdisciplinary fields with advanced specialized disciplines based on basic social science courses. The goal of the program is to foster superior personnel who are capable of conducting evidence-based management and policymaking and contribute widely to global society. The experts produced by this MA program are equipped with **advanced specialist knowledge** in each field: international business, entrepreneurship and finance, sustainable development, and public policy. They possess a **systematic understanding** and **analytical capabilities** in these fields. They also have **practical problem-solving and theorizing capabilities** to reconstruct management theories through hypothesis formation and testing in areas where corporate activities are conducted internationally. In addition, they can exercise **leadership** to coordinate with stakeholders across multiple organizations.

The program places emphasis on new and unique initiatives and strategic alliances as follows:

1. **An interdisciplinary curriculum of social sciences** will be based on the collaborative work of graduate schools of Law, Economics.
2. **All-English-language coursework will continue throughout the year**, with subjects taught in collaboration with researchers affiliated with overseas universities.
3. **Research projects** will involve collaboration with companies that conduct international business. The projects are designed to develop practical problem-solving abilities.
4. **International research seminars and workshops** aimed at building international academic standards are regularly held.

**Student Admission Policies**

The school seeks applicants from a broad range of backgrounds, both from Japan and overseas, who wish to work after their completion of the program as strategic entrepreneurship and sustainable alliance management experts both in academic institutions and in companies deploying their operations internationally. The classes in the first year of the master's program cover general business subjects, and the program is open to a broad range of applicants, irrespective of their previous fields of university study. Applicants may hold degrees in other social sciences, natural sciences, or humanities.

In the selection process, applicants will be evaluated on their English communication ability as demonstrated by suitable scores in TOEFL, IELTS or TOEIC, their basic scholastic aptitude as demonstrated by suitable scores in GMAT or GRE, or their potential research capability as demonstrated by previous research output or class assignment research reports, as well as evaluations they have received and the research plan they have developed.

## 1. Number of Students to Be Admitted

A few

## 2. Applicant Qualifications

Applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria.

- (1) Applicants who have graduated or will have graduated from a four-year university program in Japan by September 30, 2026.
- (2) Applicants who have received a bachelor's degree under Article 104-7 of the School Education Law of Japan or will have received one by September 30, 2026.
- (3) Applicants who have completed at least 16 years of formal education overseas or will have completed it by September 30, 2026.
- (4) Applicants who have graduated with at least 16 years of formal education at an overseas school by completing the class subjects in a distance learning course while residing in Japan, or will have completed the course by September 30, 2026.
- (5) Applicants who have completed the course at foreign university in Japan, or will have completed the course by September 30, 2026 (limited to those courses whose graduates are considered to have completed 16 years of formal education in the foreign country). The school must be recognized as an educational institution by their home country's education system, and approved by the Minister of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- (6) Applicants who have received a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree or will have received one by September 30, 2026 by completing at least 3-year program at a foreign university or other foreign educational institution. The foreign university or other foreign educational institution must be accredited in terms of overall education and research activities by the respective foreign government or a person certified by the appropriate foreign governmental agency, or have been so designated by the Minister of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The above-mentioned 'at least 3-year program' can be completed: by taking class subjects offered by the respective foreign educational institutions in distance learning format while residing in Japan, and by graduating from an educational institution which is recognized by the home country's education system and specified in the previous item (5).
- (7) Applicants who have graduated from specialized training colleges course (limited to courses of at least four years of duration and of meeting the other standards specified by the Minister of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) that has been separately recognized by the Minister of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, or will have graduated from the course by September 30, 2026. The date of graduation must be after that determined by the Minister.
- (8) Applicants who have been specially designated by the Minister of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (under the Ministry of Education Notification No. 5, 1953).
- (9) Applicants who have enrolled in Japanese graduate school under Article 102-2 of the School Education Law of Japan and have been recognized as possessing the necessary academic ability to receive education at the Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University.
- (10) Applicants whom the Graduate School of Business Administration of Kobe University has deemed via a separate enrollment eligibility screening process to possess academic ability equivalent to or higher than a university graduate and who will be 22 years of age by September 30, 2026.
- (11) Applicants who meet at least one of the following requirements and have been recognized as obtaining excellent achievements in credit units designated by this graduate school:
  1. Applicants who have been enrolled in university for at least three years by September 30, 2026.
  2. Applicants who have completed a course of at least 15 years of formal education overseas, or will have completed the course by September 30, 2026.
  3. Applicants who have graduated with at least 15 years of formal education at an overseas school by completing the class subjects in a distance learning course while residing in Japan, or will have completed the course by September 30, 2026.
  4. Applicants who have completed a course at a foreign university in Japan, or will have completed the course by September 30, 2026 (limited to those courses whose graduates are considered to have completed at least 15 years of formal education in the foreign country). The school must be recognized as an educational institution by their home country's education system, and approved by the Minister of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Note: If you meet criterion (9) to (11), your eligibility will be reviewed by the Admission Committee. Please obtain an "Application for Entrance Screening Form" from the Academic Affairs Section and apply for the review. (Please enclose a self-addressed envelope (Standard size 23.5 cm×12 cm) attached with a stamp of the value sufficient to reach you back in a timely manner – JPY 110 inside Japan). Your application for entrance screening must arrive at our office between Friday, February 20 and Friday, February 27, 2026.

### 3. Application Period

Applications must be received between Tuesday, April 7 and Tuesday, April 14, 2026 by 5:00 PM. (Japan Standard Time)

**\*All documents, whether submitted online or by mail**

### 4. Application Procedure

Some documents can be submitted through the online application site, while others must be sent by post. Please carefully check the requirements before completing your application.

Please submit your application through the **online application site**: <https://e-apply.jp/ds/kobe-u/>.

If you experience any issues accessing the online application site, please contact the **Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University, Academic Affairs Group** at [bkyomu@b.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:bkyomu@b.kobe-u.ac.jp).

#### ○Application Documents

Documents marked with ♦ are downloadable from the web([https://kimap.b.kobe-u.ac.jp/admission\\_and\\_finance](https://kimap.b.kobe-u.ac.jp/admission_and_finance)).

**Documents that can be submitted through the online application site**

Research Plan♦	Please use the Graduate School's designated format.
Previous Research Output or Documented Proof of Basic Scholastic Abilities	Applicants must submit their major research outputs which show their potential research capability (up to 3 items): examples include a copy of graduation thesis, copies of term reports, copies of presentation slides, copies of GMAT/GRE scores, etc. Once submitted, documents will not be returned. *Note 1 applies.
Certificate of Residence or Copy of Residence Card (Foreigners only)	Foreign applicants residing in Japan should submit an official document indicating their Japanese residency status as issued by the head of their residential city/ward/town/village, such as a Copy of Resident Record (must be issued within the past 30 days). A photocopy of both sides of Residence Card is acceptable.  *If you live overseas at the time of application, you must submit a copy of your passport.
Others: Proof of Japanese Proficiency	A copy of the Japanese Language Proficiency (JLPT) scores report is acceptable. (not compulsory)
Examination Fee	JPY 30,000 <b>Payment Method:</b> Please make the payment through the <b>online application site</b> . * Payment processing fees should be borne by the payer.  International students on a MEXT Scholarship international students are required to submit a Certificate of their MEXT Scholarship in place of the application fee.  *Note 1 applies.

Note 1: Please prepare and attach your own translation (English or Japanese) for research papers or related documents in languages other than English or Japanese.

Please upload your documents in **PDF format** (only **photo data** can be in **JPG, PNG, BMP, or HEIC format**) to the online application site.

Carefully read the attached document, **"Web Application Procedure,"** and upload each required document to the designated section.

## Documents to be Submitted by Post

After completing the online application, please print the “**Application Mailing Label**” and send your documents by **registered express mail** to: **Academic Affairs Group,**  
**Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University**  
2-1 Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe 657-8501, Japan

Academic Transcript	Submit an original transcript issued by the president (or dean) of the university from which you graduated. *Notes 2 and 3 apply.
Certificate of Graduation or Expected Graduation	Submit an original certificate of graduation or expected graduation issued by the president (or dean) of the graduate school from which you graduated. *Notes 2 and 3 apply. If you graduated from a foreign university, you must also submit a certificate for your bachelor’s degree (e.g., a copy of your diploma).
Applicant Evaluation Form◆	Two applicant evaluation forms must be submitted using the Graduate School’s designated format. Two separate evaluators should complete the applicant evaluation forms. Suitable evaluators include university professors who have supervised the applicant, superiors at the applicant’s current company or research institute, or an equivalent. Each evaluation form must be sealed in the envelope, with a seal or signature placed over the flap. A specific envelope size or format is not required.
Documented Proof of English Proficiency	Please submit any of the documents from ① to ④. Only scores obtained within two years prior to the application deadline < <u>Tuesday, April 14</u> > will be accepted. ① TOEFL-iBT: “Test Taker Score Report (original)” or “a photocopy of the Report + applying via ETS Data Manager” . Institution code:C747 Department code:82 ② IELTS (Academic) : "Test Report Form (original)" or "a photocopy of the Form + applying via IELTS Results Verification Service". ③ TOEIC L&R Test: “Official Score Certificate (original)” or “a photocopy of Digital Official Score Certificate” . ④ For those who have graduated from a university or graduate school where English is the medium of instruction (excluding correspondence courses): “A certificate stating that the medium of instruction is English(original) ” . Note: Scores of TOEFL-ITP, TOEIC-IP, TOEIC Speaking & Writing, TOEIC-Bridge, IELTS Online and ‘TOEFL iBT Home Edition’ are not accepted.

Note 2: Each certificate must be the original.

Note 3: As for documents such as certificates prepared in languages other than English, please attach a Japanese or English translation with a certificate of translation issued by a public institution such as the relevant consulate or embassy (The certificate in Chinese should be translated at a public institution in China).

## 5. Screening Method

Admission selection will be based on the results of the first screening and the second screening.

### (1) First screening

Admission selection will be based on all application documents submitted.

### (2) Second screening

Applicants who pass the first screening will be selected through Online Interview based on the submitted research plan and other documents.

Online Interview is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

Applicants who pass the first screening will be notified of the designated time for the Online Interview.

## **6. Announcement of Results**

First screening	Friday, May 22,2026,2:00 p.m.
Second screening	Friday, June 19,2026,2:00 p.m.

The admission results will be posted on the web site of the KIMAP in Management. ([https://kimap.b.kobe-u.ac.jp/news\\_and\\_blogs](https://kimap.b.kobe-u.ac.jp/news_and_blogs)). The official letter for successful applicants will be sent by post mail as well. No telephone or e-mail inquiry is accepted.

## **7. Admission Fee**

- (1) Enrollment fee: JPY 282,000
- (2) Tuition fee (per semester): JPY 267,900 (annual amount JPY 535,800)  
(If the tuition fee changes while students are enrolled, the new tuition fee will be applicable from the date of revision.)

## **8. Handling of Personal Information**

- (1) Personal information obtained by Kobe University will be handled with the utmost confidentiality, in compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act and other related laws and regulations, as well as Kobe University Guidelines on Personal Information Protection.
- (2) Personal information used in applicant selection, such as examination results, shall be used for applicant screening, announcement of examination results, enrollment procedures, and the creation of study materials for the purpose of improving future applicant screening and education program. No individual can be identified in any form of publication.
- (3) Personal information provided during the application process shall be used for student support services including health management, exemption from tuition fees, and scholarship applications, as well as for purposes such as academic instruction and other administrative procedures.
- (4) Some work may be commissioned to a third party (hereafter referred to as a contractor). When commissioning work, personal information may be shared with a contractor, in whole or in part, only to the extent necessary to carry out the work and subject to a confidentiality agreement.

## **9. Important Notes**

- (1) Changes to information included in application documents will not be accepted after submission. The examination fee is non-refundable and no application documents will be returned after submission.
- (2) An offer of admission may be subsequently rescinded where false information is provided by the applicant in the application or other related documents.
- (3) While the academic year starts in April and ends in March, the KIMAP-in Managment runs from October to June.

## **10. Inquiries about Obtaining and Submitting Application Forms**

Academic Affairs Section,  
Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University  
2-1, Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe-shi 657-8501, Japan  
Tel: +81-78-803-7260 Fax: +81-78-803-7294  
E-mail: [bkyomu@b.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:bkyomu@b.kobe-u.ac.jp)



【Number of successful applicants in the past】

	2022		2023		2024	2025
	Winter	Spring	Winter	Spring		
Applicants	13	22	15	19	48	49
Examinees	13	22	15	19	48	49
Successful applicants	6	10	7	10	15	14
Enrollees	5	9	5	6	10	9

\*Application in the spring only for AY 2024 and later.