

Japanese Language Program

FALL 2025
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1. Kobe City University of Foreign Studies (KCUFS)



Founded in 1946, KCUFS offers undergraduate and graduate-degree programs in English, Russian, Chinese and Spanish studies, as well as International Relations. The undergraduate programs offer courses mainly in the following fields: Linguistics and Literature, General Culture, Social Sciences and International Communication. Our graduate school offers masters and doctoral degree programs in linguistic, cultural and social studies as well as double

degree program with renowned overseas universities.



<https://www.kobe-studyabroad.jp/ja/study/universities/kobe-cufs/>



2. Curriculum

Exchange students coming to KCUFS from overseas partner universities are enrolled into our Japanese Language Program (JLP). This program aims to improve students' Japanese language skills as well as deepening their understanding of Japanese culture. The study periods available for students are one semester or two semesters (1 academic year), starting either in Fall 2025 or Spring 2026. International students can also take regular university courses offered to KCUFS undergraduates. The available courses cover fields such as Languages, Linguistics, Literature, Culture, History, Law, Commerce, Economy, Education, and Psychology. JLP students who are in graduate programs at their home universities are allowed to take graduate course subjects at KCUFS.



Japanese Language Program

The program consists of **Japanese language classes** (Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing, Grammar, and Business Japanese), **Kanji(Chinese characters) class**, **Japanese Affairs** and **fieldtrips** to sites of cultural and historical importance. All classes are mainly offered in Japanese language. Instructors are committed to creating a positive and supportive learning environment in which students can realize their full potential.

The program offers 4 levels; **Upper Elementary level**, **Lower Intermediate level**, **Upper Intermediate level**, and **Advanced level**. All students are required to take a placement test after arrival and are divided into groups based on their Japanese proficiency.



Upper Elementary Course

- For the students who have completed over 150 learning hours of Japanese.
- Targeted level: equivalent to the JLPT N4-N3.

In this course, students aim to:

- ▶ Learn upper-elementary or pre-intermediate vocabulary and grammatical expressions.
- ▶ Communicate properly using frequently used expressions in daily-life situations.
- ▶ Understand Japanese passages on familiar daily topics.
- ▶ Write on familiar topics using basic vocabulary and sentence patterns.

Lower Intermediate Course

- For the students who have completed over 300 learning hours of Japanese.
- Targeted level: equivalent to the JLPT N3-N2.

In this course, students aim to:

- ▶ Reinforce previously learned Japanese knowledge while learning intermediate vocabulary and grammatical expressions.
- ▶ Communicate fluently in familiar situations and convey their opinions properly.
- ▶ Understand the main points and structures of relatively complex texts.
- ▶ Write logically and objectively on topics such as their experiences and familiar social themes.

Upper Intermediate Course

- For the students who have completed over 500 learning hours of Japanese.
- Targeted level: equivalent to the JLPT N2.

In this course, students aim to:

- ▶ Learn upper-intermediate vocabulary and grammatical expressions.
- ▶ Communicate with a degree of fluency and spontaneity, being able to state their opinions logically.
- ▶ Understand relatively long and complex texts on both concrete and abstract topics.
- ▶ Write various texts logically and coherently on a wide range of topics.

Advanced Course

- For the students who have completed over 800 learning hours of Japanese.
- Targeted level: equivalent to the JLPT N1.

In this course, students aim to:

- ▶ Learn advanced vocabulary and grammatical expressions.
- ▶ Communicate spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, even in complex situations.
- ▶ Understand a wide range of intricate, longer texts, and be able to recognize implicit meanings.
- ▶ Write clear, smoothly flowing, detailed texts on complex subjects using an effective and logical structure.

3. Academic Calendar

The schedule is subject to change. Please check our website for updates.



Fall 2025 (Sept. – Feb.)

Accommodation Move-in Date (Sept. 4)
Post-arrival Orientation (Sept. 5)
Placement Test (Sept. 8)
Opening Ceremony (Sept. 10)
Individual Counseling (Sept. 11, 12)
Classes start (Sept. 19)
Winter Break (Dec. 24-Jan. 12)
Closing Ceremony (Feb. 5)
Spring Vacation

*Exams of regular course subjects will be finished by February 9 in the fall semester.



Spring 2026 (Mar. – Aug.)

Accommodation Move-in Date (Late March)
Post-arrival Orientation (Late March)
Placement Test, Opening Ceremony (Early April)
Individual Counseling (Early April)
Classes start (Mid-April)
Closing Ceremony (Late July-Early August)
Summer Vacation (August-September)

* The regular course subjects' exam period for the Spring Semester will be finished by the second week of August.

* Details for the Spring 2026 will be published on our website in August, 2025.



4. Student life

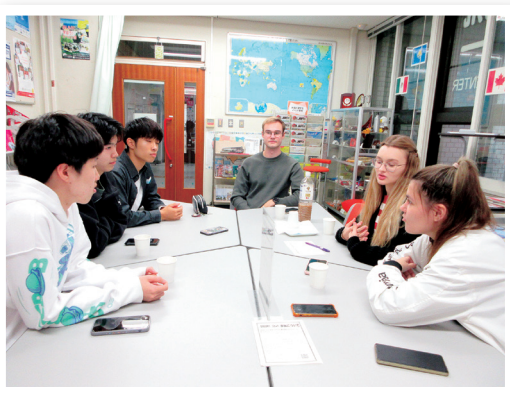
Student Support

International Office/JLP Instructors

The International Office is open from Monday to Friday and all staff is readily available to support you in English. The students are welcome to come in at any time and talk to the staff for any requests or concerns during their student life at KCUFS. Also, students are welcome to consult their instructors on their Japanese studies outside class hours as well.

JLP Partners

JLP partners are KCUFS students who provide personal support and friendship to JLP students helping them successfully adjust to the new culture and environment of Japan. 2-3 KCUFS students are paired with each JLP student. JLP partners contact the newcomer JLP students before they arrive to Japan, helping them with all the necessary information and answering their questions and concerns about their arrival.



GAIDAI Chat

GAIDAI Chat is a student activity where international students can enjoy a friendly and relaxed conversation with a group of KCUFS students in their native language. This is a great opportunity for the JLP students to introduce their country and culture as well as making many KCUFS friends!



Club Activities

KCUFS has a wide range of club activities including sports, culture, language, music, and volunteering. Join a club and take up a new hobby while having fun with KCUFS students!

Karate / Japanese Archery / Kendo / Tennis / Soccer / Baseball / Swimming / Dance / Basketball / Badminton / Volleyball / Rugby / Lacrosse / Tea Ceremony / Choir / Folk Music / Flamenco etc

Accommodation

KCUFS will provide furnished individual accommodations for each exchange student and give them all the necessary information on their housing before they arrive to Japan.

(Accommodation cost : approximately 400,000 JPY per semester)

Manabigaoka College Heights

- Apartment size: 25 m²
- 6 minutes by bus (2.2 km from KCUFS)



Gakuen-Nishi College Heights

- Apartment size: 18 m²
- Approx. a 15 minute on foot (1.2 km from KCUFS)



5. Student Voices



CARRARO Edoardo
(Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)



I would have no regrets if I described this as the best experience of my life. When I chose KCUFS as the place to study a full year abroad I was looking for something different from the crowd of Tokyo, a quiet place surrounded by nature and next to the sea. I can say I found that here. The area around is clean and full of flowers. In addition you can find anything you need close by like conbini, stations well-connected to the center of the city etc. The apartment was also the best option for me due to the price and the beautiful area in which it was located. Also the program allowed me to really increase my Japanese skills. From any level you are starting at you will enjoy classes and homework (which of course requires dedication). But that doesn't mean you won't have lots of extra time to enjoy your stay in Japan, make new friends and have exciting adventures. The teachers and the university staff are very welcoming during your entire journey, they offer you support for everything plus many opportunities to discover and jump into Japan's culture. Personally speaking, this experience helped me to find my way for the future. I can say during the entire year I enjoyed every single day and it helped me a lot. I would do it again if I could. If you are looking for a place to improve your Japanese skills, enjoy Japan's culture and live a year full of rich experiences this is the best choice, highly recommended.



RUZMETOVA Kamolabonu
(Uzbekistan State World Languages University, Republic of Uzbekistan)

As someone who doesn't enjoy big cities and crowded places, I was fortunate to participate in an exchange program in Kobe, a city that perfectly balances urban life with tranquility. Kobe's beautiful nature, kind-hearted people, and relaxed atmosphere made it an ideal place for me to study and live. The locals are always ready to lend a helping hand, making me feel at home despite being far from my own country.

The exchange program exceeded my expectations, providing not only academic growth but also personal development. I'm incredibly grateful for the wonderful people I've met — friends from different countries, JLP partners and supportive, inspiring teachers. I've formed meaningful connections that I deeply cherish, and I hold immense respect and admiration for all of them.

This life-changing experience has left a lasting impact on me. The lessons I've learned, the friendships I've made, and the support I've received from everyone at KCUFS will stay with me forever. I will carry these memories and values wherever I go.



HIRAYAMA CUSTODIO Kenta David
(Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain)



I personally found this to be a great experience to meet new people and learn Japanese culture from a point of view that can't be accessed through books or any other means. There are so many students at KCUFS who are willing to meet exchange students and show us a lot of interesting things. Teachers and people from the International Office also organized interesting activities and classes that helped me to learn a lot of new things. I also had a lot of fun in all of the different circle activities and got the opportunity of bonding with Japanese students through hobbies such as music and sports. You will always have something to do if you are bored, and there will always be people willing to have fun with you!



SACPOPO Lee Jerson Aludos
(Eastern Washington University, USA)

Being an international student at KCUF has been an incredible journey, the city of Kobe is a place that I recommend anyone should visit. The university offered me numerous opportunities to enhance my language and communication skills, such as GAIDAI Chat, where we expressed our thoughts openly. Participate in numerous circles and clubs that they have. Other than that, fun things also happened when we had field trips and explored new places during our stay in Japan. The students and staff consistently showed kindness and support as I went through this journey. Engaging with Japanese culture and learning about their traditions has taught me to cherish life's small joys and cultivate a deeper appreciation for mindfulness and respect for others. The memories I acquired during my stay here in KCUF are very sentimental and full of unforgettable experiences. Thank you for this opportunity and I appreciate it very much, until next time!



6. Kobe City

Blessed with a beautiful nature landscape of mountains and sea, Kobe is a very popular city to live in Japan. It has a population of 1.5 million and is the 7th largest city in Japan. Having established itself historically as a trading port, Kobe has a vibrant culture which flourished thanks to a diverse population of foreign residents and their communities. Located in the both historic and cosmopolitan Kansai area, Kobe is an ideal hub to enjoy a day trip to Japan's old capitals Kyoto and Nara as well as Osaka or other famous cities. All these places are just a short train ride away.

Please access the page below for some more beautiful sights of Kobe: <http://feel-kobe.jp/en/>



7. Application Procedures

	Fall Semester 2025	Spring Semester 2026
Nomination Deadline	March 1, 2025	August 31, 2025
Submission of Application Deadlines	April 15, 2025	October 15, 2025
Acceptance Notification	the end of May, 2025	the end of November, 2025
Arrival to Japan	September, 2025	March, 2026

*Application information available at:

https://www.kobe-cufs.ac.jp/english/international_students/study_at_kcufs/jlp/index.html



7-1. Eligible Students

- Exchange students (tuition waived) / Fee-paying students (tuition: 267,900JPY/semester) from partner universities.
- Students who have a Japanese language competence equivalent to the JLPT level N4 or above. (Upper Elementary to Advanced levels)
- Students who have an English language proficiency of CEFR B1, IELTS 4.5, TOEFL iBT 60 or equivalent.

[Notes]

- * Students must be enrolled in undergraduate/graduate courses at the time of applying for and finishing the JLP program.
- * Reapplications to this program will not be accepted.
- * There is no lower elementary level course (corresponding approximately to the JLPT N5 level).

7-3. Contact Us

International Office

Kobe City University of Foreign Studies

Address: 9-1, Gakuen-higashi-machi, Nishi-ku, Kobe, Hyogo 651-2187, JAPAN

TEL: +81-78-794-8171

FAX: +81-78-794-8178

Email: JLP@office.kobe-cufs.ac.jp

Website: <https://www.kobe-cufs.ac.jp/english/>



7-2. Access

