**Kobe University Graduate School of Agricultural Science**

**Education program for the next generation agriculture leaders in mature society (Master's and doctoral courses for Japanese government scholarship students)**

# Application Guidelines for the Academic Year 2027

The Kobe University Graduate School of Agricultural Science invites applications of talented international students for the "Education program for the next generation agriculture leaders in mature society (Master's and doctoral courses for Japanese government scholarship students)."

## 1. Field of Study and Quota

(1) Field of Study

Please refer to the following URL.
https://www.ans.kobe-u.ac.jp/english/index.html

(2) Quota

Three

## 2. Features

(1) The date of Admission is October 1, 2027.

The period of study is, in principle, five years ending on September 25, 2032. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Science or Doctor of Philosophy will be conferred to those who have fulfilled all requirements for graduation.

(2) Lectures, research advice and instructions are given in English, and the dissertation must be written in English.

(3) Faculty members of the Graduate School of Agricultural Science will tutor students across the boundaries of specialties.

## 3. Program Offered

The program is aiming to educate the next generation agriculture leaders in mature society. The grantees will be attached to one of the laboratories in the three departments Agricultural Engineering and Socio-Economics, Bioresource Science, and Agrobioscience, and conduct research for their dissertation. The grantees will take English-language classes on related studies with the support of the following research centers under the Graduate School of Agricultural Science: Food Resources Education and Research Center, Center for Regional Partnership, and Research Center for Food Safety and Security.

## 4. Eligibility

(1) Qualified applicants: Those who reside outside Japan and are newly coming from overseas to join the Kobe University Graduate School of Agricultural Science. Currently working adults have an academic record of their final educational background, and current students

have an academic record of 2.30 out of 3.00 or above in their current course, and are expected to maintain this in their current course during the scholarship period.

(2) Nationality: Citizens of Southeast Asian or Southwest Asian countries specified by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Those countries are Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Singapore, Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Laos, as well as India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Maldives.

Admission preference is given to students from Southeast Asian countries.

(3) Age: Those who were born on or after April 2, 1992.

(4) Educational background: One of the following.

(i) Those who have completed, or are scheduled to complete, 16 years of school education by the time of admission.

(ii) Those who are recognized by the Graduate School of Agricultural Science to have an equivalent or higher academic ability than university graduates.

(5) Recommendation: Those who are recommended by their alma mater or current institution.

(6) Health: Those who are mentally and physically healthy.

(7) English proficiency: Those who meet one of the following CEFR B2 criteria.

①Cambridge English: 160 or above
②EIKEN CSE Score: 2300 or above
③GTEC: 1190 or above
④IELTS Academic: 5.5 or above
⑤TEAP: 309 or above
⑥TEAP CBT: 600 or above
⑦TOEFL iBT: 72 or above

In addition to the overall band score of a test, detailed scores in the four skills (Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking) of the test also must be CEFR B2 level or above. As the process of checking the detailed scores is complicated, please inquire at the Student Affairs section, Graduate School of Agricultural Science.

The test score will be considered valid only if the test was taken within 2 years of the application deadline.

Only the scores of a test taken at a test center are acceptable.

(8) Arrival in Japan: Those who will be able to arrive in Japan between October 1 and October 7, 2027.

(9) Visa requirement: Accepted applicants must obtain a student visa before arriving in Japan.

【Important】

1) Failure to enroll in the Graduate School during the designated period shall lead to cancellation of the admission.

2) Failure to graduate from university by the end of September 2027 shall lead to cancellation of the admission (for those who have submitted an application based on the expectation of graduation by the time of admission).

3) Military personnel or military civilian employees shall not be admitted while retaining

these titles.

## 5. Terms of Scholarship

(1) Allowance: 147,000 yen per month

This amount is for the academic year 2026 and may be subject to change.

(2) School Fees: Fees for the entrance examination, matriculation and tuition are exempted.

(3) Travel Expenses:

(i) Inbound travel: An economy class airplane ticket from an international airport (must be located in the country of a grantee's citizenship) nearest to their home address to Kansai International Airport will be provided.

(ii) Return travel: An economy class air ticket from Kansai International Airport to an international airport (must be located in the country of the grantee's citizenship) nearest to their destination will be provided to those who are returning to their home country by the stipulated date after the scholarship period is over.

※Travel insurance, airport fee and tax, and other related taxes must be borne by each grantee.

(4) Period: Two years for master's course from October 2027 to September 2029, and three years for doctoral course from October 2029 to September 2032.

In principle, scholarship support will be provided for a total of 5 years but may be inspected after completion of the master's course based on an evaluation of performance.

## 6. Application Procedure

Applicants are required to submit to the Graduate School of Agricultural Science the following documents through their prospective supervisors during the period between January 5 and 15, 2027. All documents should be written in English.

(1) Application Form for the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship (Research Student) (Form 5)

(2) Field of Study and Research Plan (Form 6)

(3) A copy of the diploma (certified by the university from which you graduated.), or an original certificate of graduation / scheduled graduation from the applicant's home university (both undergraduate and graduate).

(4) Official transcript or certificate of school records from the applicant's home university (both undergraduate and graduate). Transcripts should include all courses, credits, grades, and term information along with details about the grading system. If your transcripts are not in English, a certified translation must also be submitted. If available, documents specifying the applicant's academic excellence such as GPA (Grade Point Average), ABC grading or grade rank (your rank out of the total number of students), etc. may be attached.

(5) Research achievement: An English summary of academic papers or/and of the degree thesis.

(6) Recommendation letter: This must be written by a person with an equivalent (or higher) position to the Dean of the applicant's home university or the head of the applicant's institute, and be addressed to President of Kobe University.

(7) Passport copy (photo page)
(8) Score report of an English proficiency test (taken within two years of the application deadline)
(9) Photograph (4.5 x 3.5 cm, a front view of the upper half of the body with no hat, taken within the past six months, the applicant's name and nationality written on its back. Electronic data is acceptable).

【Important】

1) Applicants should contact a professor of their major field beforehand and inquire about their research activities.
2) All documents pertaining to the application should be typewritten and printed on paper of the same size (A4 size is preferable).
3) Use the prescribed forms for the above mentioned documents (1) and (2).
4) In case the application documents submitted are found incomplete or inaccurately filled, or have not reached us by the deadline, they will not be accepted.
5) Application documents will not be returned.

## 7. Selection and Result Notification

(1) Kobe University will select the candidates based on document screening and oral examination (interview either in person or via online meeting software), then will recommend them to MEXT.
(2) MEXT will examine the candidates and make a decision on the successful applicants. The result will then be relayed to Kobe University.
(3) Kobe University will notify each applicant of the result of the MEXT scholarship selection in July 2027 and issue a letter of acceptance to the successful applicants. Their status will be identical to that of regular master students of the Kobe University Graduate School of Agricultural Science.

## 8. Suspension of Payment of Scholarship

(1) Payment of the scholarship may be cancelled in the following cases.
  (i) In case the application documents submitted are found false.
  (ii) In case a grantee violates any article of their pledge to the Minister of MEXT.
  (iii) In case a grantee is subject to disciplinary action at Kobe University or judged to have no possibility of completing the Ph.D. course.
  (iv) In case a grantee withdraws from Kobe University.
  (v) In case a grantee's visa status is changed from "Student" to another classification.
  (vi) When the coefficient of academic performance at any point in the year falls below 2.30 or the grade standard set by the university.
(2) In principle, payment of the monthly allowance will be suspended during the period when a grantee is taking a leave of absence from the school or does not attend the school for a long period of time.
(3) Students who plan to receive scholarships, fellowships, etc. contributed by the Japanese government or Japanese government-related organizations after the start of scholarship

payments will not be selected.

9. Notes

Applicants are advised to acquire information beforehand on Japanese climate, weather, customs and the university itself.

While educational and research activities are carried out mainly in English, some command of Japanese language may be necessary for their daily life. It is preferable for applicants to have some preliminary knowledge of the Japanese language.

10. For more information, please write to the following address.

Student Affairs Section
Graduate School of Agricultural Science Kobe University
1-1 Rokkodai, Nada-ku, Kobe, 657-8501,
Japan
E-mail: ans-kyomu@office.kobe-u.ac.jp