



Guidelines for Application 2027 (Entrance)

Kobe Global Graduate Program for Agricultural Science (doctoral program)

The “Kobe Global Graduate Program for Agricultural Science” is conducted in English, and students are required to write their doctoral thesis in English.

If you are an international student and wish to take the examination, make sure to contact your prospective supervisor before applying.

Graduate School of Agricultural Science

KOBE UNIVERSITY

Admission Policy

The Doctoral Program of the Graduate School of Agricultural Science aims to cultivate individuals with a high level of expertise and broad perspectives in their respective fields, as well as outstanding creativity and innovative thinking. To achieve this goal, the Graduate School admits individuals with fundamental academic aptitude in agricultural science or related fields at the master's program level, with critical thinking and presentation skills, and with intellectual curiosity and passion for agricultural science research, who wish to become researchers or educators and those who are currently working in public institutes or in the industrial sector and wish to advance their careers as professionals with advanced specialized skills.

Degree requirements

To obtain a doctoral degree, students are required to complete the doctoral program in English, receive research guidance for a minimum of three years, earn at least 10 credits in their major field of study, and pass the doctoral thesis defense and final examination, both conducted in English.

Degree Conferred

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural Science
or Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Application Guidelines

1. Divisions and Enrollment Capacity

Divisions and Research Fields available for the Kobe Global Graduate Program for Agricultural Science:

Departments and Divisions		Research Fields
Agricultural Engineering and Socio-Economics	Agricultural Engineering	Water Resources and Environmental Engineering
		Geotechnical Engineering for Agriculture
		Geo-Environmental Engineering for Agricultural Facilities
		Rural Planning
		Agri-Food Process Engineering
		Mechanical Engineering of Bioproduction
		Information Engineering of Bioproduction
		Field Machinery and Plant Production
	Food and Environmental Economics	Food Economics and Policy Science
		Farm and Rural Management
		International Agriculture and Food Studies
Bioresource Science	Animal Science	Animal Breeding and Genetics
		Reproductive Biology
		Developmental Biotechnology
		Animal Nutrition and Metabolism
		Animal Molecular Morphology
		Histophysiology
		Microbiology and Immunology
		Animal Genetic Resources
		Cell Signaling
	Plant Science	Crop Science
		Plant Breeding
		Forest Resources
		Horticultural Crop Propagation
		Horticultural Crop Production
		Tropical Crop Science
		Plant Germplasm Enhancement
Agrobioscience	Applied Chemistry in Bioscience	Biological Chemistry
		Food and Nutritional Chemistry
		Natural Products Chemistry
		Physical Chemistry for Environmental Molecules
		Phytochemistry
		Chemistry and Utilization of Animal Production Resources
		Environmental Microbiology
		Biochemistry Frontiers
	Plant Health, Environment and Biotechnology	Soil Science
		Plant Nutrition
		Plant Genetics
		Cell Function and Structure
		Environmental Chemistry
		Cell Signaling and Regulation
		Plant Pathology
		Insect Molecular Biology
		Insect Biodiversity and Ecosystem Science

Enrollment Capacity:

A few for Doctor of Philosophy Program

2. Admission

April 1, 2027, or October 1, 2027

3. Eligibility Requirements for Applicants

Applicants must meet both of the following requirements, 3.1 and 3.2.

3.1 Applicants must meet the following requirement

Those who have obtained the consent of a prospective supervisor at the Graduate School of Agricultural Science (who will supervise their studies upon enrollment).

3.2 Applicants must meet at least one of the following requirements 3.2.1 to 3.2.8.

Those who do not fulfill any of these requirements at the time of application must meet one of these requirements by the end of March 2027 for admission in April 2027, and by the end of September 2027 for admission in October 2027.

3.2.1 Those who have obtained a master's degree or a professional degree in Japan.

3.2.2 Those who have obtained a degree in a foreign country equivalent to a master's degree or a professional degree in Japan.

3.2.3 Those residing in Japan who have completed a correspondence course at a foreign-affiliated educational institution and obtained a degree equivalent to a master's degree or a professional degree.

3.2.4 Those who have completed their education at a foreign-affiliated university within a school educational system of a foreign country in Japan and designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, limited to those who have obtained a degree equivalent to a master's degree or a professional degree.

3.2.5 Those who have been conferred a degree equivalent to a master's degree from the United Nations University, which was promulgated by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 11, 1972, and in accordance with the Agreement between Japan and the United Nations concerning the Act on Special Measures Incidental to Enforcement of the "Agreement between the United Nations and Japan regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations University" (1976, Resolution 72, Article 1, Item 2).

3.2.6 Those who have completed the curricula at a foreign university, an educational institution which is designated under Item 4, or the United Nations University, and are recognized as possessing academic abilities equivalent or superior to those given a master's degree by passing the examination and screening which are equivalent to those stipulated in Article 16, paragraph (2) of the Standards for Establishment of Graduate Schools (under Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ordinance No. 28, 1974).

3.2.7 Those who are approved by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (under Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Public Notice No. 118, 1989).

3.2.8 Those who are 24 years of age or older and are recognized by Eligibility Screening as possessing academic abilities equivalent or superior to those given a master's degree or a professional degree.

* Those who are applying under the requirements of 3.2.7 or 3.2.8 must undergo a preliminary eligibility screening process before submitting their application. Please contact the Student Affairs Section,

Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kobe University (ans-kyomu@office.kobe-u.ac.jp) no later than six weeks prior to the application deadline.

4. Selection

Applicants will be selected through a comprehensive evaluation of their application documents, followed by an interview conducted via online meeting software or e-mail. The details of the interview will be sent separately to the applicants by the prospective supervisor.

5. Documents to be Submitted

All application documents should be submitted in English. Documents in languages other than English must be accompanied by an English translation. In addition, documents written in Japanese are also accepted for the items (8)-(11).

To obtain the necessary forms, please send your request by e-mail to the Student Affairs Section, Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kobe University (ans-kyomu@office.kobe-u.ac.jp).

(1) Application form for admission (Form 1)

Applicants must complete all required items on the form.

Attach your photo (taken within the last 3 months, full-face from the shoulders up, with no background) in the designated section of the form.

(2) Detailed educational background and employment history (Form 2)

Provide your detailed educational background and employment history on the form.

(3) Application fee

Remittance period: From October 10 to November 1, 2026 (for April 2027 admission)

From April 10 to May 1, 2027 (for October 2027 admission)

(A) Applicants residing in Japan

Payment of Application Fee by Post Bank Transfer

- The application fee of 30,000 yen can be paid at Japan Post Bank branches in Japan using the Kobe University application fee payment form.
- After the payment, please submit part A of the form along with the required application documents. (Please make sure that the remittance forms are properly stamped).

(B) Applicants residing outside Japan

Applicants residing outside Japan may pay the 30,000 yen by credit card or Alipay. Overseas applicants are required to contact the Student Affairs Section, Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kobe University (ans-kyomu@office.kobe-u.ac.jp) before making the payment to inquire about the payment procedure.

[Note]

*Once the fee is paid, no refund will be granted under any circumstances except the following case.

*Kobe University will take special measures to waive the application fee for applicants affected by large-scale natural disasters. Applicants who wish to benefit from these special measures should contact the

Admissions Office of Kobe University (Tel: +81-78-803-5230) even after paying the fee.

(4) Original certificate of graduation or expected graduation from the master's course issued by the current university of study.

(5) Original transcript/certificate of academic records from the undergraduate program (issued by the head of the school/institute or the dean of the department)

(6) Original transcript/certificate of academic records from the master's course (issued by the head of the school/institute or the dean of the graduate school)

(7) Abstract of master's thesis

a) For applicants who have completed a master's course

An abstract of the master's thesis in English (approximately 1,200 words). Use A4 size paper.

b) For applicants who are expected to complete the master's course

A summary of the research progress in the master's course in English (approximately 1,200 words). Use A4 size paper.

c) Copies of published manuscripts, if any.

(8) Letter of recommendation 1

Submit a letter of recommendation from a supervisor or dean of the university you attend or graduated from.

(9) Letter of recommendation 2

If you are employed by a public agency or company at the time of application, submit a letter of recommendation from your immediate superior.

(10) Certificate of scholarship award

If you have received a foreign government or private scholarship for your research stay in Japan, submit the scholarship award certificate from the director of the scholarship foundation.

(11) Letter of acceptance (Form 3)

Submit a letter of acceptance from your prospective supervisor in the Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kobe University.

(12) Research plan

Submit a research plan at Kobe University (A4 size paper, approximately 1,200 words) .

(13) Copy of official score of English proficiency test (TOEFL-iBT or IELTS)

Submit a copy of either a TOEFL-iBT Official Score Report or an IELTS Test Report Form (must include your photo) dated to within 24 months of your application.

(14) Copy of passport or certificate of residence

(15) Certificate of residence (Jūminhyō)

Foreign applicants residing in Japan must submit an original certificate of residence (Jūminhyō) issued by the Mayor of the municipality.

6. Application Procedure

(1) The application documents must be submitted by registered mail, such as simple registered mail of Japan

Post, EMS, DHL or FedEx (whichever is available), and they must arrive by the application deadline.

The application documents should be sent to:

the Student Affairs Section, Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kobe University
1-1 Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe 657-8501, JAPAN

- (2) Applicants with physical disabilities who require special arrangements should contact the Student Affairs Section, Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kobe University (ans-kyomu@office.kobe-u.ac.jp) beforehand.

7. Application Deadline/ Announcement of Successful Applicants

For admission in April 2027

Application Deadline: **November 4, 2026**

Announcement of successful applicants: Late December, 2026

For admission in October 2027

Application Deadline: **May 7, 2027**

Announcement of successful applicants: Late June, 2027

A notification will be mailed to all successful applicants.

8. Admission Fee and Tuition

Admission fee: 282,000 yen: *This amount may be revised at the time of enrollment.

Yearly tuition fee: 535,800 yen: *This amount may be revised at the time of enrollment.

(Japanese Government Scholarship Students are exempted from paying tuition fee.)

9. Admission Procedure

The admission procedure period is scheduled to be around mid-March 2027 for April 2027 admission and around mid-September 2027 for October 2027 admission. The details will be mailed to each successful applicant along with the necessary documents for the procedure.

10. Notes

(1) Admission Fee Payment Exemption

Applicants recognized as having extreme difficulties paying the admission fee who fall under any of the following categories and make the relevant application may be exempted from the payment of all or half the admission fee upon screening (low income does not automatically qualify applicants for the exemption).

1. The person mainly responsible for paying school expenses for the applicant having passed away within the year prior to admission.
2. The applicant or the person mainly responsible for paying school expenses for the applicant having suffered from flood or storm damage within the year prior to admission.

3. The applicant having a reason equivalent to either of the above-mentioned that is recognized by the University.

(2) Admission Fee Payment Deferral

Applicants who fall under any of the following categories and make the relevant application may be able to defer payment of the admission fee for a certain period upon screening (subject to confirmation by Kobe University).

1. Applicants for whom payment by the payment deadline has become difficult due to financial reasons, and who are recognized as having excellent academic records.
2. Applicants for whom payment by the payment deadline has become difficult because the person mainly responsible for paying school expenses for the applicant has passed away within the year prior to admission.
3. Applicants for whom payment by the payment deadline has become difficult because the applicant or the person mainly responsible for paying school expenses for the applicant has suffered from flood or storm damage within the year prior to admission.
4. Applicants for whom payment by the payment deadline has become difficult due to unavoidable circumstances other than those indicated above.

(3) Tuition Fee Payment Exemption

Applicants who fall under any of the following items and make the relevant application may be exempted from the payment of all or half of the tuition fee upon screening.

1. Applicants recognized as having difficulty making payments due to financial reasons and having excellent academic records.
2. Applicants, except those who fall under (1), recognized as having extreme difficulty making the payment due to any of the following circumstances:
 - i The person mainly responsible for paying school expenses for the applicant having passed away within a year prior to admission (when concerning the exemption from paying the tuition fee of the term of the admission).
 - ii The applicant or the person mainly responsible for paying school expenses for the applicant having suffered from flood or storm damage within a year prior to admission (when concerning the exemption from paying the tuition fee of the term of the admission).
 - iii The applicant having a reason equivalent to either of the above-mentioned that is recognized by the University.

- (4) To select a research field, please contact the prospective supervisor of the field you wish to enter in advance. Make sure to read the Outline of the Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kobe University carefully before doing so. If you have any questions about selecting a laboratory, please contact the Student Affairs Section, Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kobe University (ans-kyomu@office.kobe-u.ac.jp).

- (5) The contents of the submitted application documents cannot be changed for any reason.

- (6) The admission of applicants who fall under the following items may be revoked.

(A) Applicants who made a false declaration.

(B) Applicants who did not meet the qualification requirements.

(7) The admission fee once paid will not be refunded for any reason.

(8) Admission fee and tuition fee are not required for Japanese government-sponsored international students who will continue to be government-sponsored after the enrollment.

(9) Handling of personal information

Personal information (name, gender, date of birth, address etc.) provided in the application documents will be used only for the selection process (the entrance examination) and the preparation for accepting students (the admission procedure, scholarships, accommodation).

(10) If you are an international student and wish to take the examination, make sure to contact your prospective supervisor beforehand.