

Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine (Doctoral Program)
Application Guide to April 2027 Admission

Admissions Policy at Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine

Doctoral Course (Department of Medicine)

The Department of Medical Sciences aims to become a center for international and cutting-edge research and education in life sciences and medicine as a graduate school doctoral program located in Kobe, which is oriented toward becoming an international medical industrial city.

To this end, we are seeking the following types of students.

● Graduate School of Medicine Doctoral Program Requirements for Students

1. Students who wish to be active internationally as researchers in the life sciences and medicine

[Required elements: initiative and collaboration, interest and motivation]

2. Students who wish to become clinicians with advanced expertise and skills

[Required elements: knowledge and skills, interest and motivation]

3. Students who wish to be active in industries related to biotechnology, medicine, medical care, etc.

[Required elements: knowledge and skills, interest and motivation]

4. Students who wish to learn advanced life science and medical knowledge and techniques

[Required elements: knowledge and, skills, ability to think, judge, and express, interest and motivation]

5. Students who wish to conduct research and obtain a doctoral degree while working in companies, hospitals, public institutions, etc.

[Required elements: knowledge and skills, interest and motivation]

● Basic Policy for Selection of Students

In order to select students as described above, various factors will be measured in the following selection process based on the Diploma Policy and Curriculum Policy of the Graduate School of Medicine Doctoral Program.

In the General Entrance Examination and Special Entrance Examination for Foreigners, we measure “knowledge and skills,” “ability to think, judge and express,” “initiative and collaboration,” and “interest and motivation.”

This information is intended for prospective students to the Graduate School of Medicine (general guidance only).

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1. Quota and research Field

Quota for April 2027 admission (Application in autumn): 120

Research Field:

Please visit the following website.

<https://www.med.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/about/research/index.html>

**For more details, please contact Academic Affairs Section
(Department of Medicine) at kobegsm@med.kobe-u.ac.jp.**

(Note1) Applicants must refer to the "List of Available Sections/Branches and Overview of the Department (Research Content)" for the Department of Medicine (Doctoral Program), available at the URL below.

When entering your application information on the online application system, please enter the name of the supervising professor of your desired "Chair and Education/Research Section/Branch" in the field labeled "Preferred/Supervising Professor."

Department of Medicine (Doctoral Program) Application Guidelines:
"List of Available Sections/Branches and Overview of the Department (Research Content)"

<https://www.med.kobe-u.ac.jp/education/gs/exam/index.html>

(Note2) Applicants must carefully review the overview of the major (research content) in (1) and contact a faculty member of their desired "Education/Research Section/Branch" in advance to confirm details such as research topics and entrance examination procedures.

(Introduction of each education/research section:
<https://www.med.kobe-u.ac.jp/about/research/index.html>)

(Note3) Quota includes international students.

- (Note4) Quota includes successful applicants to Special Program for Early Medical Research (Special Program for Medical Scientist).
- (Note5) The school may make an announcement of secondary recruitment application if the number of successful applicants falls below the admission quota.

2. Eligibility

Only applicants who are not of Japanese nationality and obtain an appropriate visa for enrollment may apply to this program and satisfy one of the following conditions:

- (1) Those who have graduated from a school of medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, or veterinary medicine (including those who are expected to graduate by March 31, 2027).
- (2) Those who have completed 18 years course of school education (the last course must be one in medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, or veterinary medicine) in a foreign country (including those who are expected to complete such education before March 31, 2027).
- (3) Those who have completed 18 years course of school education (the last course must be one in medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, or veterinary medicine) (in a foreign country through correspondence courses provided in Japan by a foreign school of said country or who are expected to complete said courses by March 31, 2027).
- (4) Those who have completed or are expected to complete by March 31, 2026 a program in an educational facility in Japan designated separately by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology that provides courses from a foreign university within the school system of a foreign country (This applies solely to those who have completed 18 years of education (the last course must be one in medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, or veterinary medicine) in said foreign country)
- (5) Students who have been conferred a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree upon completion of a curriculum that has a course term of five years or longer at a university or other school (limited to schools whose overall educational and research activities have been evaluated by the relevant country's government or a government-approved individual, or are designated separately as having met this requirement by the Minister of Education) in a foreign country (including cases in which the student completed the curriculum by taking subjects conducted by said school via distance learning while the student resided in Japan, and cases in which the student has completed a curriculum at an educational facility that is positioned within that country's educational system as per the previous item) (including those who are expected to acquire a Bachelor degree by March 31, 2027)
- (6) Those who are specified by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Ordinance of the Ministry of Education, No. 39 of March 8, 1955), such as those who have obtained or are expected to obtain by March 31, 2027 a degree equivalent to a master's degree, first-stage doctoral degree (2-year program), or professional degree after completing

the necessary coursework, and are recognized to have academic abilities equivalent to persons who have graduated from an undergraduate school of medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, or veterinary medicine by this graduate school, or who will obtain such recognition by March 31, 2027.

- (7) Those who entered another graduate school (school of medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, or veterinary medicine) in compliance with the provisions of Article 102, Paragraph 2 of the Law and who are recognized by this graduate school as having academic ability appropriate for receiving postgraduate education.
- (8) Those who have been enrolled in a university's medical, dental, pharmaceutical, or veterinary medicine course for more than four years, those who have completed 16 years of formal education (limited to those that included a medical, dental, pharmaceutical, or veterinary science course; hereafter, the same shall apply in this item), those who have completed 16 years of education in a foreign country through correspondence courses provided in Japan by a foreign school of said country, or those who have completed a program in an educational facility in Japan designated separately by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology that provides courses from a foreign university within the school education system of a foreign country (this applies solely to those who have completed 16 years of education in said foreign country) and who have been recognized by this graduate school as having acquired the specified credits with outstanding performance by March 2027.
- (9) Those over 24 years old by March 31, 2027 whom this graduate school has authorized, through individual screening of entrance qualifications, as having abilities that are at least equivalent to those who have graduated from a university.

* For more information about your eligibility please contact the Graduate Student Affairs Section.

3. Prescreening of eligibility for application

Those who have completed a bachelor's degree course or master's degree course in a country other than Japan, or those received a bachelor's degree or master's degree from a university located abroad are required to go through prescreening of eligibility before submitting their application. If this is the case, please report to a professor of the division you wish to apply to by the date shown below. In addition, fill in the prescreening application format and submit it with other required documents to the professor during the prescreening application period. Only after you pass the prescreening, you will be able to submit your application.

Report to Graduate Student Affairs Section by: **August 13 (Thu), 2026**
Prescreening application period:
August 14 (Fri), 2025 - August 19 (Wed), 2026
Office hours: 9:00am to 4:00pm (Mon-Fri)

Download the prescreening application format at:

<https://www.med.kobe-u.ac.jp/GRADN/nyuushi/jizensinsa/jizensinsa.html>

4. Application period and application procedures

Both procedures (1) and (2) below are required.

(1) Online Application Registration and Payment of the Application Fee

Online Application Website:

<https://e-apply.jp/ds/kobe-u/>

Application Registration and Payment Period:

From 0:00 on Monday, August 31, 2026 to 16:59 on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 (JST)

Please complete the online application registration and payment of the application fee before submitting the required application documents in accordance with the attached document, "Online Application Procedure."

The application fee is JPY 30,000 (any handling charges must be borne by the applicant).

Follow the instructions on the online application website to register your application information and upload the documents marked with a circle (○) under "Online Application System" in the [List of Application Documents] below.

If you experience any technical difficulties accessing the online application website, please contact the Graduate Student Affairs Office, Graduate School of Medicine, Kobe University at: kobegsm@med.kobe-u.ac.jp

(2) Submission of Application Documents by Mail

Among the documents listed in the [List of Application Documents] below, those marked with a circle (○) under "Submission in Hard Copy" must be sent by postal mail and must arrive by the deadline.

Submission Period:

From Wednesday, September 2 to Friday, September 11, 2026 (Documents must arrive no later than this date)

Mailing Address:

Graduate Student Affairs Office
Faculty of Medicine, Kobe University
7-5-1 Kusunoki-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe 650-0017
Japan

After completing the online application registration and payment of the application fee, please print in color the third page of the "Application Form" (Address Label for Submission), which is displayed on your "My Page" in the online application system. Attach it to a standard Japanese size (Kaku-2)

envelope, enclose the required hard-copy documents listed in the [List of Application Documents], and send them by registered express mail within the application period.

Examination Admission Ticket:

After your application documents have been received and processed, please download your examination admission ticket from your "My Page" on the online application website. A notification email will be sent to the email address you registered once the download becomes available.

If you do not receive the notification email by Friday, October 2, 2026, please contact the Graduate Student Affairs Office of the Graduate School.

5. Application documents

List of Application Documents

No. / Document / Online Application System / Hard Copy Submission / Details

① Application Form

Online: / Hard Copy: -

Enter the required information in accordance with the instructions on the online application system.

② Official Academic Transcript and Certificate of (Expected) Graduation from Undergraduate Program

Online: / Hard Copy:

Must be issued by the President or Dean of your current or former university (faculty).

For documents prepared in a foreign language other than English, a Japanese translation must be attached.

Upload a PDF file to the online application system.

③ Official Academic Transcript and Certificate of (Expected) Completion of Master's Program

Online: / Hard Copy:

Must be issued and sealed by the Dean of your graduate school.

For documents prepared in a foreign language other than English, a Japanese translation must be attached.

Upload a PDF file to the online application system.

④ Applicant's Statement

Complete the required information in the designated form [FORM-3] provided by this Graduate School, available at the URL below, and upload the PDF to "File Upload 1" on the online application system.

<https://www.med.kobe-u.ac.jp/GRADN/nyuushi/jizensinsa/jizensinsa.html>

⑤ TOEFL / TOEIC / IELTS Score Report

Online: / Hard Copy:

You may submit a score report for one of the following: TOEFL iBT, TOEIC Listening & Reading Test, or IELTS. (Only scores obtained within two years prior to the application deadline will be accepted.)

Please note that scores from TOEFL Essentials, the Institutional TOEFL Program (TOEFL ITP), and the TOEIC Institutional Program (IP) are not accepted.

[TOEIC Listening & Reading Test]

<Applicants who took the TOEIC L&R Public Test in Japan>

Upload the "Digital Official Score Certificate" (PDF downloadable from your TOEIC member page) to "File Upload 2" on the online application system, and also complete the online score submission as described below. Submission of a paper copy is not required.

<TOEIC L&R Public Test Score Confirmation Service>

By the application deadline, access the TOEIC application website, enter Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine's application code (00010410), and select and submit the score you wish to use from among TOEIC L&R Public Tests taken within the past two years.

Scores can be submitted from 17 days after the test date.

● TOEIC application website:

<https://ms.toEIC.or.jp/Usr/Pages/Entry/Login.aspx>

<Applicants who took the TOEIC L&R Public Test outside Japan>

Since the Score Confirmation Service is not available, please submit the "Official Score Certificate" in an unopened condition.

[TOEFL iBT]

Upload the "Test Taker Score Report (PDF)" downloadable from your ETS account (MY TOEFL Home) to "File Upload 2" on the online application system.

In addition, submit the "Examinee's Score Record" or "Test Taker Score Report" sent to you, in an unopened condition.

[IELTS]

Upload the "Test Report Form (e-TRF (PDF))" downloadable from your IELTS test-taker portal to "File Upload 2" on the online application system.

In addition, submit the "Test Report Form" sent to you, in an unopened condition.

⑥ Letter of Recommendation

Online: / Hard Copy:

Must be written by the President, Dean, or Academic Supervisor of your previous university and addressed to the President of Kobe University.

If written in a language other than Japanese or English, attach a Japanese or English translation.

Upload the PDF to "File Upload 3" in the online application system.

⑦ Certificate of Residence (Juminhyo)

Online: / Hard Copy:

Submit a certificate issued by the municipal office indicating your residence status and period of stay (issued within 30 days prior to submission).

(Not required for applicants residing outside Japan at the time of application.)

Upload the PDF to "File Upload 4."

6. Selection

Selection will be made by comprehensively evaluating the result of examinations and the documents submitted by applicants.

6-1. Subjects of examinations, scoring and evaluation

(1) Foreign language (paper-based examination)

Examinees are allowed to use one paper dictionary; Electronic dictionaries are not permitted.

Foreign language: English

Allotment of marks: 100 points

Evaluation criteria: General command of English will be assessed.

Even if you have submitted the score record of 5-⑤, you are required to take the foreign language (English) examination.

* If the official test score of TOEFL, TOEIC or IELTS is considered as higher than your language (paper-based examination) examination score you will take in October, your official test score will be used to determine your entrance. (See 5. Application documents ⑤)

(2) Oral examination:

Allotment of marks: 100 points

Evaluation criteria: Comprehensively evaluate the applicant's interest in the fields of his/her choice, aptitude, motivation and logicity.

(3) Total allotment of marks: 200 points

Please note that applicants who fail to achieve the qualifying score (150 points in total) are not considered for admission.

6-2. Date and place of the examination

Examination Date for April 2027 admission (Application in autumn):

October 18 (Sun), 2026

Place: Campus of School of Medicine, Kobe University

Time and Subject:

9:00-10:30 Foreign language (English)

12:30- Oral examination

7. Announcement of successful applicants

Selection results will be posted on the following website.

<https://www.med.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/education/gs/exam/index.html>

In addition, a letter of acceptance will be sent to the successful applicants through the division they applied to. We do not respond to any inquiries about the selection results by phone.

Date and Time of Announcement: **November 27(Fri), 2026** at 14:00 JST

8. Entrance procedures

Accepted applicants are required to complete the entrance procedures before the deadline: **December 24 (Thu), 2026** (for April 2027 admission). All the documents required for entrance procedures must be sent by postal mail, these must arrive at Graduate Student Affairs Section by **December 24 (Thu), 2026** at 16:00 JST.

9. Admission fee and tuition

Admission fee: 282,000 Yen (tentative)

Tuition fee: 535,800 Yen per year (tentative)

(Note) If the amount of tuition changes during your period of study at the School, the new fee will immediately apply.

10. Important notes

- (1) Once you have submitted your application, you will not be able to make any changes to your application. Furthermore, neither the application fee nor the application form will be returned.
- (2) If your address (contact address) should change after submitting your application please notify us immediately of your new address.
- (3) Disabled applicants who need special care and support when taking the entrance examination and during their studies after being admitted to the University are requested to consult Graduate Student Affairs Section by August 13 (Thu), 2026.
- (4) If there are any changes, the information will be posted on the following website.

<https://www.med.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/education/gs/exam/index.html>

11. Additional admission and application

- (1) If and when there is a vacancy after the entrance procedures day (December 24, 2026), additional applicants may be admitted to enroll or the school may call for an additional application. The information on the additional admission or application will be posted, after the entrance procedures day, to the school's website at:

<https://www.med.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/education/gs/exam/index.html>

- (2) If you are accepted to fill the vacancy, Graduate Student Affairs Section will contact you by phone at the number written on your application. For this purpose, we ask you to specify your contact information so that we can reach you immediately.

(Please make yourself available during the following period because the accepted applicants must reply in person to our inquiry.)

Notification period for additional admission	From 16:00 JST, Monday, January 25, 2027 to 17:00 JST, Tuesday, January 26, 2027 (except Saturday, Sunday and holidays)
Entrance procedures for additional admission	A letter of acceptance and information on entrance procedures will be sent by postal mail to the additionally accepted applicants.

※The above notification finishes as soon as the vacancy is filled.

- (3) If those who have received a letter of acceptance fail to complete the entrance procedures by the designated date, they will be considered to decline our offer of admission.

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