

Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine (Doctoral Course) Application Guide to October 2026 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 October 2026 admission (Application in summer): a few

Research Fields: 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 are required to enter the name of the Head of the Division of the "Department and Educational/Research Field" they wish to apply to in the "Preferred Faculty Member / Academic Supervisor" field when entering their application information on the online application system.
- (Note2) Before making application, please contact a professor of the division you wish to apply to, check availability and discuss your research theme.

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 September 2026).
- (2) Those who have completed 18 years of education in a foreign country (including those who are expected to complete such education before September 2026).
- (3) Those who have completed 18 years of education 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 September 2026.
- (4) Those who have completed or are expected to complete by September 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 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 September 2026)
- (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 September 2026 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 September 2026.
- (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 September 2026.
- (9) Those over 24 years old by September 2026 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.

Submit the form to the professor by: **April 30 (Thu), 2026**
Prescreening application period: **April 30 (Thu)-May 8 (Fri), 2026**

Download a 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 Friday, May 8, 2026 to 16:59 on Wednesday, May 20, 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 Monday, May 11 to Friday, May 22, 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 Tuesday, June 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).

If the certificate is written in a language other than English, a Japanese translation certified by an official public institution (such as a Japanese government office or a foreign embassy/consulate) 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.

If the certificate is written in a language other than English, a Japanese translation certified by an official public institution must be attached.

Upload a PDF file to the online application system.

④ TOEFL / TOEIC / IELTS Score Report

Online: / Hard Copy:

Applicants must submit one score report from TOEFL iBT, TOEIC Listening & Reading Test, or IELTS (taken within two years prior to the application deadline).

※ Applicants who took TOEFL iBT or IELTS (inside or outside Japan) must also submit the original paper score report unopened.

※ Applicants who took TOEIC L&R outside Japan must submit the original "Official Score Certificate" unopened.

※ Scores from TOEFL Essentials, TOEFL ITP, TOEIC IP and other institutional tests 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)" to "File Upload 1" in the online application system.

In addition, submit your score online via the TOEIC Score Confirmation Service by entering the application code 00010410 for the Graduate School of Medicine, Kobe University.

Score submission is available 17 days after the test date.

TOEIC application site:

<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, submit the original "Official Score Certificate" unopened.

[TOEFL iBT]

Upload the "Test Taker Score Report (PDF)" downloaded from your ETS account (MY TOEFL Home) to "File Upload 1."

In addition, submit the original "Examinee's Score Record" or "Test Taker Score Report" unopened.

[IELTS]

Upload the "Test Report Form (e-TRF PDF)" downloaded from your IELTS candidate portal to "File Upload 1."

In addition, submit the original "Test Report Form" unopened.

⑤ 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 2" in the online application system.

⑥ Research Achievements

Online: / Hard Copy: -

Complete the designated form **【FORM-3】** available at the URL below and upload the PDF to "File Upload 3."

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

⑦ Research Plan

Online: / Hard Copy: -

Complete the designated form **【FORM-4】** available at the URL below and upload the PDF to "File Upload 4."

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

⑧ 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 5."

⑨ Permission Letter to Take the Examination

Online: ○ / Hard Copy: ○

Applicants currently employed by a government office or company must submit a letter of permission from their employer (designated form).

Complete the designated form available at the URL below and upload the PDF to "File Upload 6."

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

Note:

If your name differs among submitted documents due to a change of name, please submit official documentation (e.g., driver's license, family register excerpt, etc.) verifying both your former and current names.

6. Selection

Selection will be made by comprehensively evaluating the result of an oral examination and the documents submitted by applicants. This is a 200-point scale evaluation: 100 points for oral examination and 100 points for documents screening.

(1) Oral examination (100 points)

Please set up a date and venue for your oral examination (an interview either in person or via internet) during the oral examination period with a professor of the division to which you wish to apply.

Oral examination period: June 3 (Wed) – June 9 (Tue), 2026

Evaluation criteria: Multifaceted and comprehensive evaluation of their interest in their chosen fields, aptitude, motivation and logicity.

(2) Documents screening (100 points)

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: **July 23 (Thu), 2026** at 2 pm

8. Entrance procedures

Accepted applicants are required to complete the entrance procedures by postal mail. Admission documents must arrive no later than 4 pm, **August 28 (Fri), 2026**.

Entrance procedure documents must be sent to:

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

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 May 1 (Fri), 2026.

Academic Affairs Section (Department of Medicine)
Graduate Student Affairs Section
Graduate School of Medicine
Kobe University

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