

Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine (Doctoral Program)
Application Guide to April 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, 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 2026 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 Graduate Student Affairs Section at kobegsm@med.kobe-u.ac.jp.

- (Note1) Please indicate on the application form the division you wish to apply to.
- (Note2) Before making application, please contact a professor of the division you wish to apply to, check availability and discuss your research theme.
- (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, 2026).
- (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, 2026).

- (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 31,2026.
- (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, 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 March 31,2026 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 March 31,2026.
- (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 March.

- (9) Those over 24 years old by March 31, 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.

Report to Graduate Student Affairs Section by: **August 14 (Thu), 2025**

Prescreening application period:

August 15 (Fri), 2025 - August 20 (Wed), 2025

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. When/Where to apply

Application period for April 2026 admission (Application in autumn):

September 3 (Wed), 2025 - September 11(Thu), 2025

We only accept application by postal mail. The application must be delivered to Graduate Student Affairs Section by 16:00 JST on September 11(Thu), 2025.

Send it by registered mail and write in red ink on the front of the envelope, "Application for Graduate School of Medicine is enclosed." Application documents must reach by the deadline, late arrival would not be considered for admission.

We will mail your examination slip. If you do not receive it up to 10 days before the examination date, please contact us.

Submit completed applications and all required documents to:

Graduate Student Affairs Section

Kobe University School of Medicine

7-5-1 Kusunoki-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe

650-0017, Japan

5. Application documents

Prepare and submit the following documents during the abovementioned period.

- (1) Application form 【FORM-1】
Fill in the form and attach a photo to it.
- (2) Applicant's Statement
- (3) Academic transcripts (Undergraduate and Graduate if applicable)
This should bear official signature/seal of President or Dean of the university you have attended.
- (4) Certificate of graduation or expected graduation (Undergraduate and Graduate if applicable)
- (5) Examination slip 1&2 【FORM-2】 【FORM-3】
Fill in the form and attach a photo to it.
- (6) Recommendation letter
Recommendation letter must be addressed to President of Kobe University and signed by President, Dean or Research Advisor/Professor of the school applicants are attending, last attended or graduated from. If the letter is written in other languages than Japanese or English, please attach its Japanese or English translation.
- (7) Application fee: 30,000 YEN
Please refer to "Application fee payment method".
- (8) Certificate of residence or a copy of residence card
International applicants residing in Japan at the time of application must submit this.
- (9) Self-addressed envelope
This will be used to send your examination slip. Enclose a self-addressed (332mm×240mm) envelope with the necessary amount of postage.
- (10) Official test score of TOEFL (Examinee's Score Record or Test Taker Score Report), TOEIC (Official Score Certificate) or IELTS (Test Report Form)
The test score must be in a sealed envelope and will be considered valid only if the test was taken within 2 years of your application date.
TOEFL Essentials, TOEFL-ITP and TOEIC-IP are not acceptable.
(Optional: See 6. Selection (1))

[For those who took the TOEIC L&R Public Test in Japan]

By the application deadline, please log in to the TOEIC application site, enter the application code for the Graduate School of Medicine, Kobe University (00010410), select the TOEIC L&R public test score you wish to submit (from tests taken within two years prior to the application deadline), and submit it.

You can submit your score starting 17 days after the test date.

In addition, please submit the "Official Score Certificate" in its sealed/unopened form.

● TOEIC Application Site URL

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

[For those who took the TOEIC L&R Public Test outside Japan]

If you took the TOEIC L&R public test outside Japan, you cannot use the "Public Test Score Submission Service."

Therefore, please submit the "Official Score Certificate" in its sealed/unopened form.

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-(10), 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. Please submit the sealed score sheet with other application documents. (See 5. Application documents (10))

(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 2026 admission (Application in autumn):

October 5 (Sun), 2025

Place: Campus of School of Medicine, Kobe University

Time and Subject:

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

11:30- 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 26(Wed), 2025** at 14:00 JST

8. Entrance procedures

Accepted applicants are required to complete the entrance procedures before the deadline: **December 25 (Thu), 2025** (for April 2026 admission). All the documents required for entrance procedures must be sent by postal mail, these must arrive at Graduate Student Affairs Section by **December 25 (Thu), 2025** 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 14 (Thu), 2025.
- (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 25, 2025), 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 26, 2026 to 17:00 JST, Tuesday, January 27, 2026 (except Saturday, Sunday and holidays)
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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.
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※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.

Graduate Student Affairs Section
Graduate School of Medicine
Kobe University

7-5-1 Kusunoki-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe 650-0017, Japan

Tel: +81-78-382 -5193

Fax: +81-78-382-5215

Email: kobegsm@med.kobe-u.ac.jp.

Preventive measures against measles, rubella, epidemic parotiditis, and chickenpox

(1) Submission of a certificate demonstrating inoculation and an antibody test against measles and rubella:

Kobe University has implemented the *Measles and Rubella Registration Policy*, and all newly enrolled Kobe University students must submit one of the following three certificates (①, ②, or ③) to prevent a possible outbreak of measles and rubella on campus.

Please note that students admitted to the following schools are required to submit either ① or ③:

School of Medicine (Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Health Sciences),
the Graduate School of Medicine.

- ① A vaccination certificate to prove that you have received two doses each of the measles and rubella vaccine after turning one year old (recommended)
- ② A vaccination certificate to prove that you were inoculated with measles and rubella vaccines each within the last five years (since April 2021).
- ③ An antibody certificate to prove that you have sufficient antibody titer in your blood (refer to the chart next page) to prevent the development of measles and rubella, based on the results of an antibody test performed within the last five years (since April 2021)
 - * For ① and ②, a combined vaccine against measles and rubella (e.g., MR vaccine) is permissible.
 - * For ① and ②, the certificate must be issued by an accredited medical institution and state the type of vaccine and the date of inoculation.
 - * If you have a history of measles or rubella, please submit ③ or receive a vaccination and submit ① or ②.
 - * For ③, the certificate must specify the measuring method and the measured values of antibody titer in your blood (refer to the next page), and it must satisfy the judging standard listed in the chart. A blood test report sheet itself can be accepted for submission.
 - If the antibody titer in your blood is insufficient, you must receive the necessary vaccination, and submit either ① or ②.
 - * You may submit a combination of ①, ②, and ③ (e.g., ① for measles and ③ for rubella).
 - * If your antibody titer level is below the threshold, yet you are unable to receive the vaccinations due to certain circumstances (such as illness or specific body conditions), please provide an official document (like a medical certificate) that explains the reason.

Procedure, deadline, and location for submission

- All successful graduate applicants enrolling in April (the Graduate School of Medicine):
 - Submit the certificate to the following institution by the designated date:
 - Students of the Graduate School of Medicine (Department of Medicine) should submit directly to the Medical Center for Student Health, Kusunoki Branch, by April 20
- Successful applicants enrolling in October:
 - Please submit the form at the time of the medical check-up for students entering in October.

(2) Submission of a certificate demonstrating inoculation and an antibody test against epidemic parotiditis and chickenpox (only for successful applicants enrolling in the School of Medicine including the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Medical Medical Device Engineering and the Faculty of Health Sciences; the Graduate School of Medicine):

In addition to the measles and rubella certificate, successful applicants enrolling in the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Medicine are also required to submit a certificate regarding Epidemic parotiditis and chickenpox. A designated form for the certificate is available at the Academic Affairs Section.

The certificate must state that either you were inoculated against epidemic parotiditis and chickenpox (twice each after one year of age), or verify that you have sufficient antibody titer in your blood to prevent the development of epidemic parotiditis and chickenpox based on an antibody test performed within the last five years (since April 2021)

If the antibody titer in your blood is insufficient, you must receive the necessary vaccination (twice each), by the due date for the certificate submission. (The two vaccinations must be given at least 4 weeks apart.)

- * If your antibody titer level is below the threshold, yet you are unable to receive the vaccinations due to certain circumstances (such as illness or specific body conditions), please provide an official document (like a medical certificate) that explains the reason.

<Procedure, deadline, and location for submission>

- Successful undergraduate and graduate applicants enrolling in April

By the end of June of your first year, submit the certificate to the following:

- Students of the School of Medicine should submit directly to the Medical Center for Student Health (Rokkodai).
- Students of the Graduate School of Medicine (Department of Medicine) should submit directly to the Medical Center for Student Health, Kusunoki Branch.

☆ Attention: For those who are enrolled in the School of Medicine but miss the submission deadline, you may not be able to participate in the initial on-site clinical training program etc.

- Successful graduate applicants enrolling in October

Submit the certificate by end of December of your first year to the following:

- Students of the Graduate School of Medicine (Department of Medicine) should submit directly to the Medical Center for Student Health, Kusunoki Branch.

Measuring methods and judging standards for blood antibody titers

	Measuring Method	Judging Standard	Remarks
Measles	IgG — EIA method	16.0 \leq positive *	Positive result by one of these three methods. For the School of Medicine the Graduate School of Medicine: Positive result by one of these three methods, and must achieve values shown in brackets.
	PA method	256x \leq positive *	
	NT method	8x \leq positive *	
Rubella	HI method IgG — EIA method	32x \leq positive 8.0 \leq positive	Positive result by one of these two methods. (HI method is recommended)
Epidemic parotiditis (mumps)	IgG — EIA method	4.0 \leq positive	Only for the following schools: School of Medicine, Graduate School of Medicine
Chickenpox	IgG — EIA method IAHA method NT method	4.0 \leq positive 4-fold \leq positive 4-fold \leq positive	Only for the following schools: School of Medicine Graduate School of Medicine Positive result by one of these three methods (IgG — EIA method is recommended)

* Antibody testing is not required if the vaccination history meets the requirements or if additional vaccinations are given.

* Make sure the above methods are followed when the antibody titer is measured in your blood.

* The protective antibody value differs according to the measuring method used. Please note that **the judging standards are higher than the usual standards used at medical institutions.**

Students who wish to enter the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Medicine should note that they are required to have a higher level of protective antibodies against measles, as indicated in brackets.

* Before visiting a medical institution, please confirm in advance whether you can receive the necessary antibody tests and/or the vaccinations.

When you visit a doctor at a medical institution, make sure to present this document to obtain the necessary certificate(s). (In particular, when taking an antibody test, please ensure the measurement methods meet the above criteria.)

* Points to consider when submitting a certificate:

- ① Please bring the original certificate along with one copy (A4 size).
- ② If the certificate is written in a language other than Japanese or English, please attach a document showing the Japanese or English translation.

For further information, please refer to:

Medical Center for Student Health, Kobe University Tel: 078-803-5245

Student Support Division, Student Affairs Department, Kobe University Tel: 078-803-5219