

## **Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine**

### **- Fostering next-generation ASEAN leaders to promote medical transformation - (Ph.D Course for Japanese Government Scholarship Students)**

### **Application Guidelines for Academic Year 2026**

Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine is inviting applications from talented international students for the “Fostering next-generation ASEAN leaders to promote medical transformation (Ph.D Course for Japanese Government Scholarship Students).”

#### **1. Field of Study and Quota**

##### **(1) Field of Study**

Please refer to the following URL.

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

##### **(2) Quota**

Four (4)

#### **2. Features**

- (1) The date of admission is October 1, 2026. The period of study is, in principle, four years ending September 25, 2030. Ph.D degree (Medicine) will be conferred to those who have fulfilled all the requirements for graduation.
- (2) Lectures, research advice and instruction are given in English, and the dissertation must be written in English.
- (3) Grantees will have the opportunity to learn the Japanese language to a level sufficient for everyday life in Japan.
- (4) Faculty members of the Graduate School of Medicine will tutor each student, extending beyond the scope of their own specialties.

#### **3. Program offered**

All the grantees will be enrolled in “International Program for Medical Research”, which is a double-major course that covers both basic and clinical medicine from a global perspective. The grantees will be required to choose two fields: one from Physiology and Cell Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Pathology, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, and Social/Community Medicine and Health Sciences, and the other from Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine Related, Surgery, and Surgery Related.

#### 4. Eligibility

- (1) Qualified applicants: Those who reside outside Japan and are planning to come from overseas to join Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine.  
(However, we can select one applicant who is the resident of Japan at the time of submitting application.)
- (2) Nationality: Citizens of the Southeast Asian countries specified by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan (MEXT).  
Those countries are Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Singapore, the Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Laos.  
Admission preference is given to Indonesian and Thai applicants.
- (3) Age: Those who were born on or after April 2, 1991.
- (4) Educational background: One of the following.
  - (i) Those who have completed, or are scheduled to complete by the time of admission, 18 years of school education (ending with a course in medicine, dentistry, a six-year course in pharmacy or a six-year course in veterinary medicine).
  - (ii) Those who have engaged in more than 2 years of research at universities or equivalent research organizations after completing at least 16 years of school education.
  - (iii) Those who are recognized by the Graduate School of Medicine to have the same or even higher academic competence than medical school graduates.
- (5) Recommendation: Those who have been recommended by their alma mater.
- (6) Health: Those who are in good mental and physically healthy.
- (7) English proficiency: Those who meet any of the following criteria.
  - ①Cambridge English: 160 or above
  - ②EIKEN CSE Score: 2300 or above
  - ③GTEC: 1190 or above
  - ④IELTS: 5.5 or above
  - ⑤TEAP: 309 or above
  - ⑥TEAP CBT: 600 or above
  - ⑦TOEFL iBT: 72 or above
  - ⑧TOEIC L&R/S&W: 1560 or above

The test score will be considered valid only if the test was taken within 2 years of the application date.
- (8) Arrival in Japan: Those who will be able to arrive in Japan between October 1 and October 7, 2026.
- (9) Visa requirement: Accepted applicants must obtain a student visa before arriving in Japan.

#### 【Important】

- 1) Failure to enroll in the school during the designated period shall lead to

cancellation of the admission.

- 2) Failure to graduate from universities by the end of September 2026 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
- 4) Those who are granted a scholarship from any other organization or party, including the ones from their home country shall not be adopted.

## 5. Terms of Scholarship

- (1) Allowance: ¥148,000 per month (¥ represents Japanese yen)

This amount is for AY2025 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 air ticket from an international airport (must be located in the country of a grantee's citizenship) nearest his/her home address to the Kansai International Airport will be provided.

(ii) Return travel: An economy class air ticket from the Kansai International Airport to an international airport (must be located in the country of the grantee's citizenship) nearest his/her destination will be provided to those who are returning to their home county 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: Four years from October 2026 to September 2030.

The period may be shortened in case a grantee shows an outstanding performance. However, the period of scholarship support cannot be extended beyond 4 years.

## 6. Application Procedure

Applicants are required to submit to the Graduate School of Medicine the following documents through their prospective professors by 17:00 JST on January 16, 2026.

- (1) 2026 Application Form for Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship (Research Student) (Form 5)
- (2) Field of Study and Research Plan (Form 6)
- (3) A copy of diploma 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).

Documents specifying the applicant's standing such as GPA (Grade Point Average), ABC grading or the order of merit (Xth place out of the total student number of XX), etc. must be attached.

- (5) Research achievement: An English summary of academic paper or/and that of 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 and be addressed to President of Kobe University.
- (7) Passport copy (photo page)
- (8) Score report of English proficiency test.
- (9) Photograph (4.5 x 3.5 cm, a front view of the upper half of the body with a hat off, taken within the past six months, the applicant's name and nationality written on its back. Electronic data can be acceptable) .

**【Important】**

- 1) Applicants should contact a professor of their major field beforehand and make good inquiries about their research activities.
- 2) All the documents pertaining to the application should be typewritten and printed on the paper of the same size (size of A4 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 an oral examination (either an in-person interview or via the internet), and 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 notified to Kobe University.
- (3) Kobe University will notify each applicant of the result of the MEXT scholarship selection in July 2026 and issue a letter of acceptance to the successful applicants.  
Their status will be identical to that of regular Ph.D course graduate students of Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine.

**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 his/her 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.
- (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) Applicants to this program are not allowed to make a simultaneous application to other MEXT scholarship programs including one via the Japanese embassy recommendation or scholarship programs sponsored by Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).

#### 9. Notes

Applicants are advised to familiarize themselves with Japan's climate, weather, customs and the university itself beforehand.

While educational and research activities are carried out mainly in English, some command of Japanese language is necessary for their daily life. They are expected to have some knowledge on Japanese language.

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

Graduate Student Affairs Section  
Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine  
7-5-1 Kusunoki-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe 650-0017  
Japan  
E-mail: kobegsm@med.kobe-u.ac.jp