

Kobe Design University Graduate School
2021 Fall Semester Admission Information for International Students from Exchange Partner and
Cumulus Member Institutions Applying from Outside Japan

Message from the President

Prof. Takahito Saiki, President, Kobe Design University

Kobe Design University Graduate School is one of the few graduate schools in Japan to provide comprehensive education and research in design and art. Our graduate students not only receive instruction in their specialized programs of choice, but also study the design theories that form the backbone of academic activities, as well as state-of-the-art science and technology.

“Arts and design” is an area of study aimed at developing advanced-level expertise demanded by the times and society, creative thinking, a flexible imagination, and an unconventional, yet solid ability to express thoughts and ideas, through research in arts and culture, which have formed part of human history, and academic activities related to arts and design using science and technology.

From its establishment in 1993 to the end of March 2021, Kobe Design University Graduate School has awarded the Master of Design degree to 610 students and the Doctor of Design degree to 63 students. Some of them have then gone on to advance their careers at corporations, and research and educational institutions inside and outside Japan, and others have achieved remarkable success, including winning prizes in various competitions and the Excellent Paper Award from the Society for Design and Art Fusing with Science and Technology.

The Graduate School has accepted international students from a range of countries, including China, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, Indonesia, India, Iran, Lebanon, Russia, Portugal, Ireland, Poland, Bosnia, Tunisia, El Salvador, Venezuela, Dominica, Argentina and Brazil. Exposure to different cultures and values encourages students to produce diverse ideas for designs.

I sincerely hope that each of you will experience a fruitful and rewarding time at this innovative and unique graduate school.

The Integrated Arts and Design Division (master’s degree course) is designed to educate students to be highly creative researchers as well as versatile designers and artists with advanced professional knowledge, abilities and skills who can devise practical strategies to meet today’s increasingly diverse and complex environmental and systemic needs by enabling them to engage in specialized research in arts and design and helping them gain a deep understanding of arts and design theories.

More advanced than the above master’s degree course, the Arts and Design Division (doctoral degree course) is designed to educate students to be intellectual experts capable of supporting a knowledge-based society through their diverse abilities founded on arts and design. At the same time, the Arts and Design Division aims to educate students to be innovative researchers with excellent R&D skills as well as educators equipped with solid teaching and research skills by enabling them to engage in academic activities related to arts and design.

Number of Places

Course	Division	Admission category	Number of places
Master's	Integrated Arts and Design	International student	Up to 10

* Applicants must contact their preferred research supervisor through the Graduate School Admissions Office and obtain the supervisor's informal consent to receive research supervision before submitting their applications.

* All classes are offered in Japanese only.

Application Period, Selection Date, Notification of Results, etc.

Description	Schedule
Application period	Tuesday, June 1 – Friday, June 11, 2021 (Required documentation must be postmarked by the deadline.)
Selection date	Wednesday, July 14, 2021
Notification of results	Friday, July 23, 2021
Enrollment period	Saturday, July 24 – Friday, August 6, 2021 (Required documentation must be postmarked by the deadline.)
Deadline for declining admission	Friday, September 10, 2021

Selection Method

Selection method	Remarks
Screening of submitted documents	Research plan and portfolio of works to be examined for screening * The above documents should be prepared in Japanese in principle, but can be prepared in English.

* Applicants will be screened for admission on the basis of their submitted documents. Therefore, they do not need to visit Japan to take the entrance exam.

Eligibility (Foreign nationals who are not permanent residents of Japan and who meet the following requirements may apply.)

1. Applicants who are aged 22 or over, and hold a bachelor's degree from one of the exchange partner institutions listed below or Cumulus member institutions, or who are expected to obtain a bachelor's degree from one of the exchange partner/Cumulus member institutions by Wednesday, September 15, 2021

- Exchange Partner Institutions

Beijing Institute of Technology

Weißensee Academy of Art Berlin

Dongseo University

Université de Montréal

National Yunlin University of Science and Technology

National Taiwan University of Arts

National University of Kaohsiung
Institute of Technology Bandung

FH JOANNEUM Gesellschaft mbH
University of Applied Sciences
Zuyd University of Applied Sciences

- Cumulus (International Association of Universities and Colleges of Arts, Design and Media) Member Institutions

* Please refer to <http://www.cumulusassociation.org/member/> for a list of member institutions.

2. Applicants who have attained level N2 or higher in the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) administered by the Japan Foundation and Japan Educational Exchanges and Services.

JLPT is usually held on Sundays in early July and December.

* For more information, please visit JLPT website: <http://www.jlpt.jp/e/index.html>.

3. Applicants who reside outside Japan at the time of application but who can expect to obtain, as a rule, the resident status of “Student” under the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act of Japan once admitted to the Graduate School.

Application Materials (All documents must be completed in black ink or black ballpoint pen. Please do not use an erasable ballpoint pen.)

1. Completed application form
2. Research plan
3. Statement of reason(s) for selecting your preferred research supervisor
4. Certificate of graduation (or prospect of graduation) from your university
5. Official transcript (undergraduate)
6. Résumé
7. Two letters of recommendation: one from your university’s president, dean or equivalent, and one from your direct academic supervisor
8. Materials showing your past research work, such as a portfolio of works or research papers (Please attach abstracts in Japanese.)
9. Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) Certificate of Result and Scores
10. Photocopy of passport (all pages including blank pages)
11. Health certificate

As a rule, all application materials must be prepared in Japanese.

For certificates and other documents in languages other than Japanese and English, please attach a Japanese translation certified by a Japanese language educational institution or a public organization such as an embassy.

* Please download the relevant formats for application materials 1-3 and 6 from the Kobe Design University Graduate School website: <https://www.kobe-du.ac.jp/education/gsd/>

* If incomplete application materials are received, the application might not be accepted. Please make sure that your application materials are complete and accurate before submitting them.

How to Submit Your Application

Please send the above application materials by EMS (Express Mail Service) or equivalent to the following address. (Application materials must be postmarked on or before June 11, 2021.) As a rule, submitted documents will not be returned.

[Where to submit]

Kobe Design University Graduate School Admissions Office

8-1-1 Gakuennishi-machi, Nishi-ku, Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture 651-2196, Japan

Notification of Results and Enrollment Procedure

1. Results will be notified to applicants by email and postal mail. The Graduate School will not respond to inquiries by any means including telephone.
2. Successful applicants are required to pay half the entrance fee (180,000 yen) and submit enrollment documents within the prescribed enrollment period. (Further details will be notified to successful applicants.)
3. The first payment for the fall semester in AY 2021 is due by Friday, September 10, 2021. Please pay the remaining half of the entrance fee (180,000 yen), the tuition and equipment & laboratory fee (260,000 yen + 140,000 yen = 400,000 yen) and the Japanese language tuition (150,000 yen).
4. Successful applicants are required to submit, within the prescribed enrollment period, proof of their ability to finance their living and educational expenses while studying in Japan, such as a certified copy of their financial guarantor's bank statement, certificate of employment and certificate of tax payment. Please prepare these documents in good time, since the enrollment period is short.
5. Successful applicants who fail to complete, for whatever reason, the required enrollment procedure within the prescribed enrollment period will be denied admission.
6. The entrance fee is non-refundable.

Tuition & Other Fees by Academic Year

(Unit: JPY)

Description		Due	Entrance fee	Tuition	Equipment & laboratory fee	Japanese language tuition	Total
AY 2021		Aug. 6	180,000	—	—	—	180,000
		Sep. 10	180,000	260,000	140,000	150,000	730,000
AY 2022	Spring semester 1st payment	Apr. 27	—	260,000	140,000	—	400,000
	Fall semester 1st payment	Oct. 27	—	260,000	140,000	—	400,000
AY 2023	Spring semester 1st payment	Apr. 27	—	260,000	140,000	—	400,000
	Fall semester 1st payment	Oct. 27	—	260,000	140,000	—	400,000

* Tuition and equipment & laboratory fees for a year are paid in two installments.

* A number of scholarships offered by Kobe Design University or by external organizations are open to application by international students.

* Kobe Design University offers a 50 percent tuition discount (325,000 yen) for 2nd-year graduate students who are recognized to have achieved excellent academic performance in the first year. For international graduate students (excluding Japanese government-sponsored scholarship recipients) from Exchange Partner/Cumulus Member Institutions, who are required to enroll for two years and six months, a tuition discount of 325,000 yen is granted in the final year based on their academic performance during the first one year and six months. For more information, please contact the Graduate School Admissions Office.

Course Duration (September 2021 to March 2024)

Students are required to enroll for two years and six months to complete the master's degree course at Kobe Design University Graduate School.

Other Important Information

1. International students admitted to Kobe Design University Graduate School are required to take a six-month Japanese language course offered at a Japanese language school designated by the Graduate School. Students are responsible for their own travel expenses (a six-month student commuter pass costs around 48,000 yen) to and from the language school.
2. The Japanese language course runs from October 2021 to March 2022. Students are required to take an end-of-course exam in late February, 2022. Students who do not pass this exam must retake the Japanese language course at their own cost.
3. For any inquiries, please contact the Kobe Design University Office of Student and International Relations.
Email: international@kobe-du.ac.jp

Entrance Ceremony

The entrance ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2021 at Kobe Design University.

Educational and Research Goals

The Graduate School educates students to be highly creative researchers by enabling them to engage in specialized research in design and helping them to form a deeper understanding of design theories. The Graduate School also provides training for students to become versatile designers equipped with knowledge, abilities and skills that can help them develop practical strategies to meet today's increasingly diversified environmental and systemic needs.

The discipline of "arts and design" is constantly evolving and developing in pace with society. Kobe Design University Graduate School offers an excellent curriculum and practical program that help students explore the principles, ideas and methods of design that can address the latest themes and issues presented by today's society.

Educational and Research Structure

Under the guidance of 60 selected faculty members from various departments of Kobe Design University, graduate students engage in interdisciplinary and integrated studies of the theories and methods of arts and design. Such studies provide them with a foundation for further specialized research in art and design practices.

Students

The discipline of "arts and design" covers a vast area. Students are therefore admitted from a diverse range of academic backgrounds that include but are not limited to art and engineering. The Graduate School also welcomes older adult students and international students.

Research Supervision

Prospective students select the faculty member they wish to be their research or project supervisor. Students complete their master's thesis, or project work under the specialized guidance of the appointed instructor. Students may also choose to receive supervision from instructors from more than one area of specialization.