



Kobe City
University of Foreign Studies

Japanese Language Program

FALL 2024
▼
SPRING 2025



1. Kobe City University of Foreign Studies (KCUFS)



Founded in 1946, KCUFS offers undergraduate and graduate-degree programs in English, Russian, Chinese and Spanish studies, as well as International Relations. The undergraduate programs offer courses mainly in the following fields: Linguistics and Literature, General Culture, Social Sciences and International Communication. Our graduate school offers masters and doctoral degree programs in linguistic, cultural and social studies as well as double degree program with renowned overseas universities.

2. Curriculum

Exchange students coming to KCUFS from overseas partner universities are enrolled into our Japanese Language Program (JLP). This program aims to improve students' Japanese language skills as well as deepening their understanding of Japanese culture. The study periods available for students are one semester or two semesters (1 academic year), starting either in Fall 2024 or Spring 2025.

International students can also take regular university courses offered to KCUFS undergraduates. The available courses cover fields such as Languages, Linguistics, Literature, Culture, History, Law, Commerce, Economy, Education, and Psychology. JLP students who are in graduate programs at their home universities are allowed to take graduate course subjects at KCUFS. Regular university courses are mostly offered in Japanese and require advanced Japanese language skills.



Japanese Language Program

The program consists of **Japanese language classes** (Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing, Grammar, and Business Japanese), **Kanji(Chinese characters) class**, **Japanese Affairs** and **fieldtrips** to sites of cultural and historical importance. All classes are mainly offered in Japanese language. Instructors are committed to creating a positive and supportive learning environment in which students can realize their full potential.

The program offers 4 levels; **Upper Elementary level**, **Lower Intermediate level**, **Upper Intermediate level**, and **Advanced level**. All students are required to take a placement test after arrival and are divided into groups based on their Japanese proficiency.

Upper Elementary Course

-For the students who have completed over 150 learning hours of Japanese.
-Targeted level: equivalent to the JLPT N4-N3.

In this course, students aim to:

- ▶ Learn upper-elementary or pre-intermediate vocabulary and grammatical expressions.
- ▶ Communicate properly using frequently used expressions in daily-life situations.
- ▶ Understand Japanese passages on familiar daily topics.
- ▶ Write on familiar topics using basic vocabulary and sentence patterns.

Lower Intermediate Course

-For the students who have completed over 300 learning hours of Japanese.
- Targeted level: equivalent to the JLPT N3-N2.

In this course, students aim to:

- ▶ Reinforce previously learned Japanese knowledge while learning intermediate vocabulary and grammatical expressions.
- ▶ Communicate fluently in familiar situations and convey their opinions properly.
- ▶ Understand the main points and structures of relatively complex texts.
- ▶ Write logically and objectively on topics such as their experiences and familiar social themes.

Upper Intermediate Course

-For the students who have completed over 500 learning hours of Japanese.
-Targeted level: equivalent to the JLPT N2.

In this course, students aim to:

- ▶ Learn upper-intermediate vocabulary and grammatical expressions.
- ▶ Communicate with a degree of fluency and spontaneity, being able to state their opinions logically.
- ▶ Understand relatively long and complex texts on both concrete and abstract topics.
- ▶ Write various texts logically and coherently on a wide range of topics.

Advanced Course

-For the students who have completed over 800 learning hours of Japanese.
-Targeted level: equivalent to the JLPT N1.

In this course, students aim to:

- ▶ Learn advanced vocabulary and grammatical expressions.
- ▶ Communicate spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, even in complex situations.
- ▶ Understand a wide range of intricate, longer texts, and be able to recognize implicit meanings.
- ▶ Write clear, smoothly flowing, detailed texts on complex subjects using an effective and logical structure.

3. Academic Calendar

The schedule is subject to change. Please check our website for updates.

Fall 2024(Sept.-Feb.)

- Accommodation Move-in Date (Sept. 5)
- Post-arrival Orientation (Sept. 6)
- Placement Test (Sept. 10)
- Opening Ceremony (Sept. 11)
- Individual Counseling (Sept. 12, 13)
- Classes start (Sept. 20)
- Winter Break (Dec. 21-Jan. 5)
- Closing Ceremony (Feb.3)
- Spring Vacation

*Exams of regular course subjects will be finished by February 10 in the fall semester.



Opening Ceremony



Field Trip to Tottori



Field Trip to Okayama



Spring 2025(Mar.-Aug.)

- Accommodation Move-in Date (Late March)
- Post-arrival Orientation (Late March)
- Placement Test, Opening Ceremony (Early April)
- Individual Counseling (Early April)
- Classes start (Mid-April)
- Closing Ceremony (Late July-Early August)
- Summer Vacation (August-September)

* The regular course subjects' exam period for the Spring Semester will be finished by the second week of August.

* Details for the Spring 2025 will be published on our website in August, 2024.



Tea Ceremony

Making traditional Japanese sweets



4. Student life

Student Support

International Office/JLP Instructors

The International Office is open from Monday to Friday and all staff is readily available to support you in English. The students are welcome to come in at any time and talk to the staff for any requests or concerns during their student life at KCUFS. Also, students are welcome to consult their instructors on their Japanese studies outside class hours as well.



JLP Partners

JLP partners are KCUFS students who provide personal support and friendship to JLP students helping them successfully adjust to the new culture and environment of Japan. 2-3 KCUFS students are paired with each JLP student. JLP partners contact the newcomer JLP students before they arrive to Japan, helping them with all the necessary information and answering their questions and concerns about their arrival.



GAIDAI Chat

GAIDAI Chat is a student activity where international students can enjoy a friendly and relaxed conversation with a group of KCUFS students in their native language. This is a great opportunity for the JLP students to introduce their country and culture as well as making many KCUFS friends!



Club Activities

KCUFS has a wide range of club activities including sports, culture, language, music, and volunteering. Join a club and take up a new hobby while having fun with KCUFS students!

Karate / Japanese Archery / Kendo / Tennis / Soccer / Baseball / Swimming / Dance / Basketball / Badminton / Volleyball / Rugby / Lacrosse / Tea Ceremony / Choir / Folk Music / Flamenco etc



Accommodation

KCUFS will provide furnished individual accommodations for each exchange student and give them all the necessary information on their housing before they arrive to Japan.

Manabigaoka College Heights

- Apartment size: 25 m²
- 6 minutes by bus (2.2 km from KCUFS)



Gakuen-Nishi College Heights

- Apartment size: 18 m²
- Approx. a 15 minute on foot (1.2 km from KCUFS)



5. Student Voices



DROUIN Lena Clemence Amandine
(University of Orleans, France)

After two years of pandemic measures, I was finally able to come to KCUFS for my exchange year. The university has many assets that I wouldn't have been able to dream of elsewhere. The system of JLP partners is a great chance for us to meet and talk with Japanese people, even if our level of Japanese is not the best. I am truly thankful for the teachers during this year who took time to help each one of us individually. They also took great time with the international office to organise one field trip per semester in which we discovered hidden parts of Japan, such as Okayama and Tottori. I also have to say that the apartments provided by the university are great. As a student living in Gakuen-nishi, I was delighted to have my own washing machine!

Once again, thank you so much for making this year in Japan such a great experience!

I am going to keep this year at KFUCS in my heart. Going abroad alone is never easy but even when being so far away from home I have never felt alone in Japan. Everyone was very welcoming here and I am really thankful for this amazing experience. If you want to improve your Japanese drastically then this programme is the best way to do it. You will have many opportunities to get better and to get to know Japanese culture. Kobe is close to many iconic places: Osaka, Kyoto, Himeji or Nara so you will easily enjoy many beautiful spots. I have many memories of my year in Japan, most of them are with the friends I made here and who became like family to me. I am very grateful to everyone and I hope this is not a goodbye to Japan but a "see you next time".



SERON GUTIERREZ Iguazel
(University of Zaragoza, Spain)



SCHWARZ Aaron David Leonard
(Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany)

I was lucky enough to start my exchange year in Kobe right as the Covid restrictions in Japan were being lifted. Looking back at it, I can definitely say that it was the best year of my life so far. All the JLP teachers are very supportive whenever you run into any kind of problem and their classes are also fun and informative. Whatever Japanese level you are currently at, there will be a class suitable for you. The campus being so small made it easier to connect with other Japanese students, since you won't feel overwhelmed compared to other universities. If you are looking to make Japanese friends, I would recommend one of the many circles, be that a sports circle or a culture circle. All in all, I can say that Kobe is one of the best cities to do your exchange year in Japan, so come and see for yourself.

I really loved my time here at KCUFS and would encourage everybody to apply to the JLP! The teaching is fantastic and I feel that I've improved greatly in Japanese since arriving here. The staff are also very friendly and helpful - you can ask them anything! I had enough free time to visit many places in Japan, so I was able to make the most of my year here. My favourite thing was that I made friends from all over the world, who I would never have met otherwise. We got to explore Japan and learn about the language and culture together, which made this probably the most precious experience of my life. Surrounded by so many amazing and supportive people, I grew as a person and had the pleasure of watching them grow too. I hope you will do the same!



PARSONS Ella Francesca
(Newcastle University, U.K.)

6. Kobe City

Blessed with a beautiful nature landscape of mountains and sea, Kobe is a very popular city to live in Japan. It has a population of 1.5 million and is the 7th largest city in Japan. Having established itself historically as a trading port, Kobe has a vibrant culture which flourished thanks to a diverse population of foreign residents and their communities. Located in the both historic and cosmopolitan Kansai area, Kobe is an ideal hub to enjoy a day trip to Japan's old capitals Kyoto and Nara as well as Osaka or other famous cities. All these places are just a short train ride away. Please access the page below for some more beautiful sights of Kobe: <http://feel-kobe.jp/en/>



7. Application Procedures

	Fall Semester 2024	Spring Semester 2025
Nomination Deadline	March 1, 2024	August 31, 2024
Submission of Application Deadlines	April 15, 2024	October 15, 2024
Acceptance Notification	the end of May, 2024	the end of November, 2024
Arrival to Japan	September, 2024	March, 2025

*Application information available at:
https://www.kobe-cufs.ac.jp/english/international_students/study_at_kcufs/jlp/index.html

7-1. Eligible Students

- Exchange students (tuition waived) / Fee-paying students (tuition: 267,900JPY/semester) from partner universities.
- Students who have a Japanese language competence equivalent to the JLPT level N4 or above. (Upper Elementary to Advanced levels)
- Students who have an English language proficiency of CEFR B1, IELTS 4.5, TOEFL iBT 60 or equivalent.

[Notes]

- * Students must be enrolled in undergraduate/graduate courses at the time of applying for and finishing the JLP program.
- * Reapplications to this program will not be accepted.
- * There is no lower elementary level course (corresponding approximately to the JLPT N5 level).

7-2. Scholarships

Students from partner universities might be eligible for scholarships.

7-4. Contact Us

International Office

Kobe City University of Foreign Studies

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 651-2187, JAPAN

TEL: +81-78-794-8171

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Email: JLP@office.kobe-cufs.ac.jp

Website: <https://www.kobe-cufs.ac.jp/english/>

7-3. Access

