

Master's Program



The Master's Program aims to train future researchers, educators, and other professionals who wish to work in a professional field by making use of their high-level knowledge. Students will master their fields of study with a broad outlook and flexible thinking to achieve this goal.

In the Master's Program, fields of study include English Studies, Russian Studies, Chinese Studies, Spanish Studies, International Relations Studies, and Japanese and Asian Language and Cultural Studies. And in 2004, English Language Education and Research Course was established, a field which targets incumbent teachers.

In the Master's Program, students will develop their research independently and creatively, based on the advice of their professors. A master's degree will be given to those who finish the two-year program and have their master's thesis accepted.

In association with other universities, a credit exchange program with the Graduate School of Humanities at Kobe University is offered.

English Language Education and Research Course — Weekend Recurrent Education Graduate School.

As a result of rapid globalization and the development of information technologies such as the Internet, the role of English is now becoming more important than ever in Japanese society, and it is an especially indispensable tool of communication for children who will be living in the 21st century. Additionally, it has become apparent that the conventional English teacher training program aimed mainly at cultivating researchers does not work anymore.

The Graduate School of English Language Education and Research Course of KCUFS is a place where people who are experienced as incumbent teachers aim not only at improving their already high-level English skills and expanding special educational knowledge, but also at reforming themselves as educators by allowing them to improve their English-teaching skills for themselves and for their students. The basic attitude of this course is for college professors and elementary, middle, and high school teachers to learn theory and practice from each other, and to share information that can be utilized in the classroom.

Doctoral Program

The Doctoral Program provides students with a choice of three courses: the Language Course, the Culture Course and the International Society Course. Students study the interchange, contact, friction and coexistence of cultures, all common to their fields of study, while they are engaged in research in their respective areas of specialization. This curriculum gives students the opportunity to be original and creative, and it aims to foster those who can reshape conventional and closed fields of study into highly interdisciplinary new ones.

Students who complete this curriculum and whose dissertations are accepted by a screening committee composed of scholars, including at least one invited from outside this university, can receive a doctor's degree.

• Language Course

Human history is not only the history of cross-cultural exchange and contact, but also the history of linguistic exchange and contact. For example, Western civilization, Chinese civilization, and Buddhism originating in India, have all influenced one another. At the same time, the languages of those countries which neighbor each other have also been greatly influenced through mutual contact. This course aims at providing comprehensive language studies by focusing on Japanese and its neighboring languages, observing prospects for language exchange and contact in the future, studying each individual language, and comparing various languages in terms of time, space and geographical features.

• Culture Course

While civilizations spread outward, overriding the boundaries of nations and races, "culture" is characterized by its individuality and regionality. However, each individual culture is not exclusive. It can be reborn by shedding obsolete aspects and activating cross-cultural exchange and contact. In this course, students study regionality and individuality as one core. At the same time, however, the program also offers students the opportunity to look at new aspects emerging from exchange and contact so that they acquire pluralistic postures toward homeostasis and transformation, both essential features of culture. Overall, the course aims at surefooted and creative studies under the four divisions of a cultural framework: Asia including Japan, Russia, Europe and the Americas combined, and the Islamic sphere, instead of the traditional divisions based on political structure.

• International Society Course

In the 21st century, international society is seeking a new political-economic order. It is not certain that the U.S. will lose its supremacy. Rising nations with remarkable economic growth, led by China, have lately attracted the world's attention in terms of international political economic systems, but at the same time international society is confronted with many problems such as the intensification of regional disputes, the gap between rich and poor nations caused by economic globalization, and global environmental issues. In this course, we provide a variety of programs in three fields based on our university's long tradition as a foreign language educational institution: Law and Politics, Economics and Management, and Area Studies. We also aim at producing scholars who can elucidate issues by approaching them in a diverse and interdisciplinary way.