

Studying Abroad

Undergraduate

In the latter half of their third year (B3), KUPES undergraduates study abroad as exchange students. Equipped with language skills in English, French, German or other European languages as well as with basic knowledge about European society, politics and economics, they are expected to successfully complete several courses in English or other European languages at their host university. Studying in Europe also helps them encounter new values and experiences which promote their personal development.

In order to fully appreciate the culture, history and social background of their host country, students are expected to start learning the language of the host institution, and to acquire relevant local knowledge while still in Japan. Abroad, they try to take part in local activities such as volunteering, student clubs, and international societies.

By providing the opportunity to meet with other foreign students from all around the world, KUPES hopes to build a global network of friends and mentors, from which students can also benefit professionally.

Double Master's Degree

KUPES master's students complete the full programme at a European partner university for at least one year while enrolled at Kobe University. Students receive tutorials following an interdisciplinary and comparative approach from both universities during their master's period while conducting their research. Upon passing all course requirements and two dissertations, a master's degree will be awarded both by the European institution and Kobe University. KUPES differs from traditional exchange programmes in that the double master's degree programme requires students to research and submit a thesis both in Kobe and at their European university. The double degree enables students to engage in diverse professional activities both in Japan and abroad.

Our double master's degree emphasises the core values of KUPES: interdisciplinary studies, critical analysis, independent research and international experience, which all contribute to the unique 5-year study experience KUPES promises.

Double Degree Student Voices

It is a massive yet rewarding challenge to obtain a master's degree abroad. Acquiring double degrees equipped me with international and interdisciplinary knowledge and perspectives, broadened my future career potential and increased my chances of working abroad.

The requirement to complete a master's degree abroad is very challenging. However, interacting with my classmates from all over the world inspired me and encouraged me to gain more skills and experience. Having two supervisors and staff support both from home and host universities was also beneficial.

Kobe University

With more than 110 years of academic tradition, Kobe University can look back on decades of intense exchange of students and researchers and has developed strong ties with European universities.

During the over ten years of activities of the EU Institute in Japan, Kansai (EUIJ-Kansai), part of which has been continued by the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence since 2016, Kobe University has strengthened its expertise on EU matters. The University's EU-focus culminated in the establishment of the Kobe University Programme for European Studies (KUPES), which not only educates both undergraduate and postgraduate students, but also promotes collaborative research with European institutions.



The City of Kobe

Kobe City is known as a cosmopolitan port city. The multicultural atmosphere as well as numerous facilities and amenities for foreign residents enable incoming students and researchers to settle in quickly and to enjoy Kobe's unique nature, culture and educational facilities.



Kobe University Brussels European Centre (KUBEC)



Since its opening in September 2010, KUBEC has played a key role as a research and education hub in the centre of Europe. In July 2015, KUBEC moved to the premises of Free University Brussels, Belgium, where it continues to advance international collaboration and exchange between students, academics, EU representatives and the business community.

Kobe University Liaison Office in Kraków

With support from Jagiellonian University, Poland, a liaison office was opened in October 2015, offering research and study exchange opportunities at the heart of Eastern Europe and disseminating information on higher education and research.



Kobe University Programme for European Studies (KUPES)

Faculty of Intercultural Studies
Graduate School of Intercultural Studies
Faculty of Law
Graduate School of Law
Faculty of Economics
Graduate School of Economics



Center for International Education
Program Coordination Section

<http://www.ejce.kobe-u.ac.jp/english/>

Frontier Hall for Social Sciences 6F, Kobe University,
2-1, Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe, Japan



Overview

Kobe University Programme for European Studies (KUPES) provides an integrated curriculum for students from B2 (2nd year bachelor) to master's level, fostering an interdisciplinary understanding of the EU and its relations with Japan. KUPES students major in Economics, Law or Intercultural Studies while acquiring specialised knowledge of the EU and its social issues in both Japanese and English. They are trained to analyse and research European issues from multifaceted viewpoints, and are encouraged to critically examine international trends from a comparative perspective.

As part of the structured curriculum, KUPES students attend special lectures, seminars and guest speaker events on the history of the EU, as well as its society, politics and economics. The interdisciplinary classes cover a wide range of issues such as migration, identity, labour, agriculture, environment, and welfare.

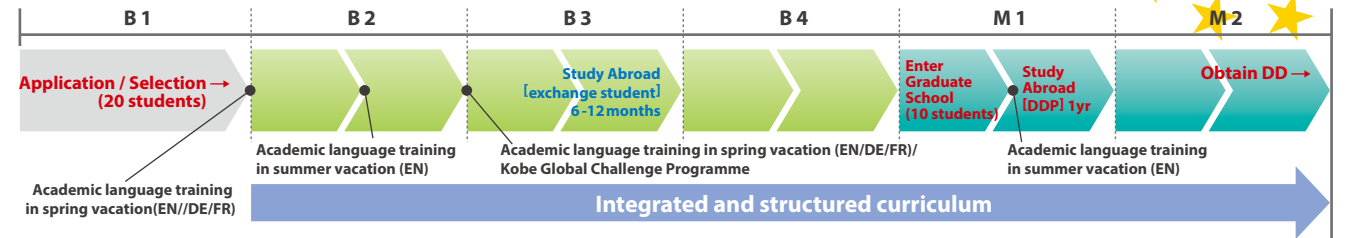
To foster a global perspective, bachelor (B3) students have to spend at least one term studying abroad. Unique to KUPES, our master's students receive a double degree from both Kobe University and our European partner institutions after completing at least 2 years of full-time postgraduate study in both Japan and Europe.



Educational Goals

- To develop insights and analyse trends in the EU and its influence over the international community, including Japan
- To analyse and research the structure and challenges faced by the EU from an interdisciplinary perspective, including law, politics, economics and sociocultural studies
- To foster a deep understanding of different cultures
- To liaise and collaborate with people in the EU using high-level communication skills in reading, conversation and writing in English and another official language of the EU (French or German).

Outline of KUPES Five Year Programme



KUPES Courses

★ EU-Japan Comparative Seminar



The KUPES course helps students explore various issues in the EU and Japan from comparative perspectives. Through interactions with international classmates as well as European instructors from three faculties (Intercultural Studies, Law & Economics), KUPES students gain strong communication skills in their academic field and prepare for studies abroad.

★ Aspects of EU Culture and Society/Law and Politics/Economies

This course offers lectures and seminars in English exploring the Culture & Society, Law, Politics and Economics of the EU. Discussions and presentations enable KUPES students to deepen their knowledge and expand their perspectives outside their major.



★ Special Lectures by Visiting Lecturers

Each semester, visiting lecturers from Europe provide new insights on the EU, and help students acquire specialised knowledge. These intimate special courses provide ample room for discussions and debates, and prepare students for European-style seminars that focus on critical thinking and deliberation.

★ Academic Communication/Writing (German/French)

Students have regular opportunities to enhance their academic communication and writing skills in German and French, which encourages them not only to actively participate in class, but also to take seminars in the host institution's native language.

★ Academic Language Training (English/German/French)

During the summer and spring vacation, students take intensive classes on Academic Skills, which helps them to develop their writing, presentation and communication skills and prepares them for their studies abroad.



★ EU Lectures

KUPES students regularly have the chance to hear Ambassadors and General Consuls from EU countries share their position on the importance of the EU for their country.

Curriculum Structure [Outline]

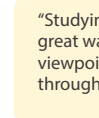
Common Courses for All students	Kobe University Programme for European Studies [KUPES]				
	Undergraduate Programme			Graduate Programme	
General Course I (EU Basics)	EU-Japan Comparative Seminar I	EU-Japan Comparative Seminar II	EU-Japan Comparative Seminar III	EU-Japan Comparative Seminar (Advanced)	
Global Common Courses	Aspects of EU (Lecture) (ICS - Law - Econ)	Aspects of EU (Seminar) (ICS - Law - Econ)		Lectures by English-speaking Lecturers at Kobe U (EN) (ICS - Law - Econ)	
	Special Lectures by Visiting lecturers			Special lectures for KUPES by visiting professors	
Global English Course (GEC)	EU related courses of other faculties				
Liberal Arts Basics 2nd foreign language ICT Basics, etc.	Academic Communication (DE - FR)		Academic Writing (DE - FR)	EU related courses of other graduate schools	
	Kobe Global Challenge Programme	Study abroad as exchange students		Study abroad for double master's degrees	
	Academic language training in summer/spring vacation (EN/DE/FR)				
Specialised Courses of three faculties/graduate schools	Intercultural Studies (Culture & Society)		Law (Law & Politics)	Economics (Economics)	
	B 1	B 2	B 3	B 4	M 1

Voice of KUPES Students



"I joined this programme to be able to study Europe in English. I am surprised how much I have learned not only about the EU, but also about Japan. I am excited to study abroad and I really appreciate all the support we students get."

- Yuki Hirohata, Faculty of Law



"Studying together with students from other faculties is a great way to think about big issues from different viewpoints. I learn a lot from other students in my cohort through discussions with them."

- Yoshio Kataoka, Faculty of Intercultural Studies



"Thanks to KUPES, I can discuss my academic progress and ask for advice on my study plan. On top of the actual help I receive, I also appreciate the many opportunities for discussion with international students."

- Kosuke Doi, Faculty of Economics