

2026 Admission

International Students Entrance Examination Graduate School of Letters

Application Guidelines

Note 1: Common items of all graduate schools are published in separate files. Please check together.

Note 2: The application guidelines are for the International Students Entrance Examination for Japanese-based programs.

Note 3: All application forms designated by Kansai University are in Japanese.

**Kansai University
Graduate School**

II Admission Policy

Master's Degree Program

The Graduate School of Letters aims to foster those who will become either scholars with rich academic knowledge and research abilities or professionals with a high level of expertise, and those who will play an active role in society with training in a specific field of humanities and with an interdisciplinary perspective. The School awards a master's degree (Arts) to those who have completed the course of study in accordance with the Curriculum Policy of the Graduate School, and have acquired the following abilities in their graduate studies:

1. Knowledge and Skills

Ability to solve problems by utilizing the knowledge and skills expected of scholars or professionals with a high level of expertise.

2. Abilities of Thinking, Judgment, and Expression

Ability to take a global perspective, to identify and analyze problems from various angles, using insights and methodologies available in the field of humanities studies. One should be able to reach conclusions, and describe one's thought process clearly and logically.

3. A Proactive Attitude

Ability to identify and diligently pursue a problem independently in the academic field concerned.

Ph.D. Degree Program

The Graduate School of Letters aims to foster those who will become either scholars with rich academic knowledge and research abilities or professionals with a high level of expertise, and those who will play an active role in society with a training in a specific field of humanities and with an interdisciplinary perspective. The School awards a doctoral degree to those who have completed the course of study and the dissertation, in accordance with the Curriculum Policy of the School, and have acquired the following abilities in their graduate studies:

1. Knowledge and Skills

Ability to contribute to the progress of an academic discipline by utilizing the knowledge and skills expected of scholars and professionals with a high level of expertise.

2. Abilities of Thinking, Judgement, and Expression

Ability to locate one's research topic in a global setting, pursue the topic in depth using insights and methodologies available in the humanities, reach a conclusion, and describe one's theory clearly and logically.

3. Independence

Ability to actively address hitherto unsolved problems and to play a leading role in arriving at solutions, thereby contributing to the further development of the academic legacy inherited from one's predecessors and to passing it on to the next generation.

V Application Requirements

Graduate School of Letters (Master's Degree Program)

Graduate School, Major, Course and Enrollment Capacity

Graduate School	Major	Course	Enrollment Capacity
Graduate School of Letters	General Humanities Major	English Linguistics and Literature	92
		American and British Cultural Studies	
		Japanese Language and Literature	
		Philosophy	
		Art Theory, Art History and Aesthetics	
		Japanese History	
		World History	
		German Studies	
		French Studies	
		Geography	
		Education	
		Cultural Symbiotics	
		Film and Media Studies	

Note: The Graduate School of Letters has not established separate enrollment capacity for each type of entrance examination.

Master's Degree Program : International Students Entrance Examination (Spring Enrollment: October Examination and February Examination/Fall Enrollment: July Examination)

1. Qualification

Applicants who have obtained Level N2 (previously Level 2) or higher on the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) or scored 240 points or higher on the subject of Japanese as a Foreign Language (including the writing score) in the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) which the valid period specified by the issuing institution of the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) includes the application start date for the Examination Month, and who shall satisfy one of the following (1)~(5) conditions:

(including applicants who are expected to satisfy one the following (1)~(4) conditions before enrolling at the Graduate School.)

- (1) Applicants who have completed a regular 16-year program of school education outside Japan (Note 1).
- (2) Applicants who have graduated from Japanese universities as international students.
- (3) Persons who have completed a 3-year program or a program of more than 3 years and have been awarded a degree by an overseas university or school (Note 2) which is recognized as being equivalent to a bachelor's degree.
(the 2016 ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, No. 19)
- (4) Applicants who have completed Specialized Course at Japanese special training schools after the designated date by the minister of MEXT[†] as international students. The training schools must satisfy the conditions designated by MEXT including that the length of term required for graduation be at least four years.
[†] MEXT; Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
- (5) Applicants who are recognized as having scholastic abilities equivalent or superior to the graduates of university through Pre-qualification Individual Screening for Entrance Examination of the Graduate School. (This requirement shall not apply to the foreigners who are recognized as having received Japanese regular school education program.)

Note 1: Those enrolled in the following schools are considered to be the same as application qualification (1), as long as the period is less than four years in total.

- Elementary school, junior high school, high school etc. based on Japanese school education law
- Foreign school in Japan
- Overseas educational facilities accredited or designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Note 2: The university or the school shall be evaluated by an organization approved by a relevant official institution in the country for their education and research activities or recognized as so by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

[IMPORTANT] Notes regarding Pre-qualification Individual Screening for Entrance Examination

1. Subjects:
Applicants under qualification (5)
 2. Application Procedures and Deadline:
Refer to 'Pre-qualification Individual Screening' (in the separate file "Common Items of all Graduate Schools" p.4).
- (Note 1) Graduates (or those expected to graduate) from less than 16-year program of school education can also apply. In this case, please inquire to the Graduate School Admissions Division by the submission deadline of the documents required for the screening as soon as possible.
- (Note 2) Applicants who have received (or are expected to receive) the degrees in their home countries equivalent to those of Japanese universities can also apply. In this case, please inquire to the Graduate School Admissions Division as soon as possible.

2. Application Documents

After you have paid the application fee of ¥35,000, submit the documents listed below.

Review Cautionary Note published at the end of the Application Guidelines (Japanese Version), and carefully check your application documents before submitting them.

Please submit the 'Application Document List (Checklist)' as well as the application documents.

Document to be Submitted [Document Number]	Remarks
Application Form (for submission) 【①】	Print out and submit after finalizing your online application.
Statement of Reason for Applying in Japanese 【②】	Use the form designated by the University.
Original transcript from previous universities and/or other institutions 【③】	Submit original transcripts. If you cannot submit original transcripts, please submit transcripts that have been notarized by an embassy or other public institutions. ◦ If you are currently enrolled, you should submit the latest transcript (original) when applying. ◦ If you have transferred from other universities to your current university, you also should submit transcripts (original) from the previous universities and/or other institutions as well. ◦ If you studied abroad during your enrollment period and credits have been approved, but the credits are not listed on the academic transcript of the university you are enrolled in, or the credits have not been approved after studying abroad, you also should submit the academic transcript (original) from the university where you studied abroad as well. ◦ If you participated in a DD (Dual Degree/Double Degree) program during your enrollment period, but the credits have been approved are not listed on your academic transcript of the university you are enrolled in, or if credits are recognized in a lump sum, you also should submit the transcript (original) from the university where you participated in the program as well. Note 1 : If the certificate has multiple pages, the seal of the university or the signature of the person in charge of issuing the certificate is required on all pages. Note 2 : If you did not take any courses during your enrollment period, or if there is a blank period on your transcript due to studying abroad, please prepare a statement of reasons for that period (free format) and submit it together (School seal is not required).

Original certificate of (expected) graduation from previous universities and/or other institutions 【④】	Both of the entrance and (expected) graduation dates must be listed. If the above information is listed on the Application Document ③, this certificate does not need to be submitted. Submit an original certificate of (expected) graduation. If you cannot submit an original certificate, please submit a certificate of (expected) graduation that has been notarized by an embassy or other public institutions. Note : Applicants with Qualification (3) are required to submit a bachelor's degree certificate in addition to the graduation certificate.
Research Plan in Japanese 【⑤】	About 1,000 words in length. Submit 1 original and 3 copies. Draft an overview of your proposed research plan on a computer using A4-size paper (horizontal text with 40 words per row and 40 rows per page).
Certification for Japanese Language Proficiency 【⑭】	In case of Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) The original of 'Test Result' or 'Certificate of Result and Score' certifying that you have passed Level N2 (Level 2 of Former Test) or higher. ★Be sure to submit the original certificate. In case of Examination for Japanese University Admission (EJU) The Online Certificate 'Score Confirmation Report' certifying that you have acquired 240 or higher points (including the writing score) in Japanese language as a Foreign Language. Please print out the certificate on A4 paper.
Copy of Residence Card or Passport 【⑮】	For a residence card, submit a copy showing both sides. For a passport, submit a copy of pages showing your name, date of birth, photograph, expiration date, residence status, and the most recent period of stay.
Two Photographs	Affix a photograph taken within the last three months to the application form (for submission) and to the statement of reason for applying. Your photographs should not be retouched or edited. (The photograph affixed to your application form will be used on the student ID issued after enrollment, should you be admitted.)

3. Screening Method

The Graduate School will determine whether or not to admit applicants based on a comprehensive evaluation of document screening, written examination, and oral examination.

4. The Pass/Fail Criteria

Pass/Fail will be determined by the higher total score on the written and oral examinations, in descending order.

In order to examine and screen the necessary erudition to study in the Graduate School of Letters, the number of successful applicants may not reach the enrollment capacity.

5. Examination Components

Written Examination		Oral Examination
Specialized Subject	Foreign Language	
None	10:00 ~ 11:30 (90 minutes)	Held after the written examination

Note: More information about the oral examination will be provided on the day of the written examination.

6. Written Examination Subjects and Allocation of Points (300 Points Total)

Major	Specialized	Written Examination (Foreign Language※)	Oral Examination (Specialized Subject)
		100 Points	200 Points
General Humanities	English Linguistics and Literature	Japanese	For the oral examination (specialized subject): (1) Basic specialist knowledge on the major subject (2) Research topic and methods after enrollment (3) Details of previous research (February Examination : details of graduation thesis)
	American and British Cultural Studies		
	Japanese Language and Literature		
	Philosophy		
	Art Theory, Art History and Aesthetics		
	Japanese History		
	World History		
	German Studies		
	French Studies		
	Geography	Japanese or English	
	Education	Japanese	
	Cultural Symbiotics		
	Film and Media Studies		

※You will not be allowed to refer to a dictionary during the foreign language subject examination.

Note: Please select a major subject and an academic advisor on applying.

If you will select an academic advisor marked ※, please contact the Kansai University Graduate School Admissions Division in advance.

The major subjects and academic advisors may change as needed.

If it changes, we will notify applicants via posting a notice (Japanese Version) on our website, please check our website before applying.

<https://www.kansai-u.ac.jp/Gr_sch/>

(2025/4)

Graduate School of Letters: List of Major Subjects and Academic Advisor for 2026 Academic Year (Master's Degree Program)

General Humanities Major

Major Subject and Academic Advisor				
English Linguistics and Literature				
English Literature	Professor	Ph.D.	TAKAHASHI, Miho	English Poetry from Pre-Romanticism to Present
American Literature	Associate Professor	Ph.D.	DONOVAN, Richard	Translation Studies, Literature of English-speaking Countries, and Comparative Literature
English Linguistics	Professor	Ph.D.	IWATA, Seiji	Lexical Semantics, Construction Grammar
	Professor	Ph.D.	※NABESHIMA, Kojiro	Cognitive Linguistics, Metaphor
	Associate Professor	Ph.D.	NONOMIYA, Ayumi	History of the English Language
American and British Cultural Studies				
Cross-Cultural Studies I	Professor	Ph.D.	KIRWAN, James Francis Edmund	Aesthetics, History of Criticism, Literary Theory
Cross-Cultural Studies II	Professor	Ph.D.	MELI, Mark	Ecocriticism, Environmental Philosophy, Comparative Culture
Japanese Language and Literature				
Japanese Literature (Ancient)	Professor	Ph.D.	MURATA, Migifumi	Study of Waka Poetry and Tales
Japanese Literature (Early Modern)	Professor	Ph.D.	KISHIMOTO, Rie	Study of Waka Poetry and Tales
	Professor	Ph.D.	MATSUMOTO, Oki	Heian Period Literature : Cultural study of the Tale of Genji
Japanese Literature (Later Medieval)	Professor	Ph.D.	OHSHIMA, Kaoru	Study of Japanese Culture
Japanese Literature (Early Modern)	Professor	Ph.D.	※YAMAMOTO, Takashi	Study of Early Modern Novels
Japanese Literature (Later Modern and Contemporary)	Professor	Ph.D.	※SEKI, Hajime	Study of Modern Japanese Literature
	Professor	Ph.D.	MASUDA, Chikako	Study of Modern Japanese Literature
Japanese Philology	Professor	Ph.D.	※INUI, Yoshihiko	Study of Japanese Writing and Letters
	Professor	Ph.D.	HIDAKA, Mizuho	Study of Japanese Dialects
	Professor	Ph.D.	MORI, Yuta	Study of Japanese Writing and Letters, History of Honorifics

Philosophy				
Philosophy and History of Philosophy	Professor	Ph.D.	USUI, Naoki	Contemporary Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind
	Professor	Ph.D.	MIMURA, Naohiko	Phenomenology, Contemporary Philosophy
Philosophy and Ethics	Professor	Ph.D.	※SHINAGAWA, Tetsuhiko	Contemporary Philosophy, Ethics, and Applied Ethics
	Professor	Ph.D.	NAKAZAWA, Tsutomu	Greek Philosophy, Applied Ethics
	Associate Professor	Ph.D.	HIRADE, Kiyoe	Modern Philosophy, Ethics, and Bioethics
History of Religions	Professor	Ph.D.	SAKAI, Masamichi	Buddhist Studies, Indian Philosophy
	Professor	Ph.D.	MIZUNO, Tomoharu	Japanese Philosophy, Japanese History of Ideas, and Comparative Philosophy
Art Theory, Art History and Aesthetics				
Western Art History and Aesthetics	Professor	Ph.D.	WAKABAYASHI, Masaya	Aesthetics and Drama Theory
Japanese and Eastern Art History	Professor	Ph.D.	※HIRAI, Shoichi	Japanese and European Modern Art History, Contemporary Art
Japanese History				
Japanese History (Ancient and Medieval)	Professor	Ph.D.	※HARADA, Masatoshi	Medieval History
	Associate Professor	Ph.D.	SAKRAGI, Jun	Ancient Japanese History
Japanese History (Modern and Contemporary)	Professor	Ph.D.	OGURA, Takashi	Early Modern History, Political History
	Professor	Ph.D.	KANDA, Akifumi	Modern History, Political History
Japanese Archaeology	Professor	Ph.D.	INOUE, Chikara	Archaeology of Japan and Korea
Japanese Folklore	Professor	Ph.D.	※KURODA, Kazumitsu	Japanese Festival (matsuri) and Traditional Occasions
Studies on Cultural Heritage in Japan	Professor	Ph.D.	TAKAKU, Tomohiro	Cultural Heritage Study, Museum Study, History of the Restoration at the End of the Tokugawa Shogunate
	Professor	Ph.D.	MURAMOTO, Ken'ichi	Cultural Heritage Study, Museum Study, History of Japanese and Chinese capitals
World History				
Oriental History	Professor	Ph.D.	MORIBE, Yutaka	Study of Sogdian Activity in China
	Professor	Ph.D.	HASHIZUME, Retsu	Study of the Abbasid History
Western History	Professor	Ph.D.	SHIMANAKA, Hiroaki	Western Modern History, French History, History of Historical Sciences
	Professor	Ph.D.	※NAKAMURA, Hitoshi	History of the Russian Empire
	Professor	Ph.D.	MORIMOTO, Keita	Western Modern and Contemporary History, Central European History, History of Switzerland
German Studies				
German Literature and Culture	Professor	Dr.phil.	※WITTKAMP, Robert F	German Culture, Cultural Studies
	Associate Professor	Ph.D.	HAYASHI, Hideya	German literature
German Philology	Professor	Ph.D.	※KUDO, Yasuhiro	History of German Language
French Studies				
French Literature	Professor	Ph.D.	TOMOTANI, Tomoki	French seventeenth-century Theatre
French Linguistics	Professor		OKUBO, Tomonori	French Linguistics, General Linguistics

Geography				
Physical Geography	Professor	Ph.D.	KUROKI, Takahito	Physical Geography
Human Geography	Professor	Ph.D.	TSUCHIYA, Jun	Economic Geography Urban Geography
Historical Geography	Associate Professor	Ph.D.	MATSUI, Koichi	Historical Geography Settlement Geography
Regional Geography and Geographic Education	Professor	Ph.D.	TSUTSUI, Yukino	Rural Geography, Regional Geography, Geographic Education
Education				
Education and Culture	Professor	Ph.D.	※AKAO, Katsumi	Lifelong Learning, Adult Education
	Professor	Ph.D.	TAGA, Futoshi	Sociology of Education, Gender Studies
	Professor	Ph.D.	TANAKA, Junichi	Philosophy of Education
	Professor		HIROSE, Yoshinori	Educational System and Organization, Educational Administration
	Professor	Ph.D.	YAMANOUCHI, Yuko	Educational Intercultural Education, Anthropology
	Professor	Ph.D.	WAKATSUKI, Ken	Citizenship Education
School Education	Professor	Ph.D.	※ISHII, Yasuhiro	Arithmetic Education
	Professor	Ph.D.	YAMAZUMI, Katsuhiro	Learning and Instruction, Activity Theory
	Associate Professor	Ph.D.	※YAMADA, Naoyuki	History and Philosophy of Education
Cultural Symbiotics				
Cultural Symbiotics	Professor	Ph.D.	※SAWAI, Kazuaki	History of the Mediterranean World, Islamic Area Studies
	Professor	Ph.D.	MIZOI, Yuichi	European Cultural History, German Folklore, History of Human-Animal Relationships
	Professor	Dr.phil.	MORI, Takashi	German Cultural Studies, Pop Culture Studies, European Travelogues
	Associate Professor	Ph.D.	AOKI, Kei	Cultural Anthropology, Lusophone Area Studies
Film and Media Studies				
Film and Media Studies	Professor	Ph.D.	KADOBAYASHI, Takeshi	Media Studies, Critical Theory
	Professor	Ph.D.	SASAGAWA, Keiko	Early Motion Picture Industry, Japanese Film History
	Professor	Ph.D.	SUGAWARA, Yoshino	History of Chinese Language Cinema
	Professor		HORI, Junji	French Cinema, Film Theory
	Associate Professor	Ph.D.	※MA, Jung-Yeon	Contemporary Art and Image Media

Extended Enrollment System

In order to better meet the diverse needs of enrollees and expand opportunities for graduate-level learning and research, the Graduate Schools of Law, Letters, Informatics, Foreign Language Education and Research, Psychology (Psychology Major), East Asian Cultures, Governance, Health and Well-being offer a three-year course, in addition to the standard two-year Master's Degree Program. This program offers the following characteristics.

(1) Annual Course Credit Limits

Under this program the limit of annual credit is as follows:

【Graduate Schools of Law, Informatics, Psychology (Psychology Major), Governance】

Course	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Two-year Course	28	28	—
Three-year Course	20	20	20

【Graduate Schools of Letters, Foreign Language Education and Research, East Asian Cultures, Health and Well-being】

Course	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Two-year Course	30	30	—
Three-year Course	20	20	20

(2) Assignment of Classes by Year for the Three-year Course

Graduate School of Law	Seminar (1)A and (1)B, a major subject in the Legal and Political Studies Course is assigned to first- and second-year students. Seminar (2)A and (2)B is assigned to third-year students. Seminar in the Business Law Course and Public Policy Course are assigned to third-year students.
Graduate School of Letters	Seminar (1)A and (1)B is assigned to as a research guidance class for their master's thesis; while Seminar (2)A and (2)B is assigned to third-year students. The master's thesis is submittal in the third-year.
Graduate School of Informatics	A research guidance class for students' master's thesis is assigned to third-year students. Submission of master's thesis is in the third-year.
Graduate School of Foreign Language Education and Research	The classes taught by the student's faculty advisor as well as the Master's Degree Program Seminars 1a and 1b are assigned to first-year students. Master's Program Seminars 2a and 2b are assigned to third-year students.
Graduate School of Psychology (Psychology Major)	Seminar of Psychology (1)A and (1)B is assigned to first-year students, while Seminar of Psychology (2)A and (2)B is assigned to third-year students. Submission of master's thesis is in the third-year.
Graduate School of East Asian Cultures	Seminar (1)A and (1)B is assigned to as a research guidance class for their master's thesis; while Seminar (2)A and (2)B is assigned to third-year students. The master's thesis is submittal in the third-year.
Graduate School of Governance	Seminar of Governance I and II is assigned to first-year students, while Seminar of Governance III and IV, a research guidance class that focuses on a specific topic, is assigned to third-year students. Submission of master's thesis or a report on a specific theme of research is in the third-year.
Graduate School of Health and Well-being	Seminar of Health and Well-being (1)A and (1)B is assigned to as a research guidance class for their master's thesis; while Seminar of Health and Well-being (2)A and (2)B is assigned to third-year students. The master's thesis is submittal in the third-year.

(3) Changing Courses after Enrollment

At the time enrollees become second-year students, they can request to switch from the three-year course to the two-year course if they satisfy the following conditions as designated by each Graduate School. If they do so, at the Graduate Schools of Law, Informatics, Psychology (Psychology Major), Governance, the course limit

of their second-year will be 28 credits, and at the Graduate Schools of Letters, Foreign Language Education and Research, East Asian Cultures, Health and Well-being, the course limit of their second-year will be 30 credits.

Eligible students will be notified during the fall semester of their first-year (Enrollees from the fall semester: spring semester of their first-year) by the University's Information System. Please note that it is impossible to switch from the two-year course to the three-year course.

Graduate School of Law	The student must have earned 20 credits, which is the requirement for submitting a master's thesis, as of the end of his or her first-year.
Graduate School of Letters	
Graduate School of Foreign Language Education and Research	
Graduate School of Psychology (Psychology Major)	
Graduate School of East Asian Cultures	
Graduate School of Health and Well-being	The student must have earned 16 credits, which is the requirement for submitting a master's thesis, as of the end of his or her first-year.
Graduate School of Informatics	
Graduate School of Governance	The student must have earned 20 credits, which is the requirement for submitting a master's thesis or a report on a specific theme of research, as of the end of his or her first-year.

(4) Limit of Years Enrolled

Limit of years enrolled for both the two-year course and three-year course is 4 years.

(5) Graduation Requirements

The graduate requirements are the same for both the two-year and three-year courses. Students enrolled in the three-year course shall take three years to complete the same requirements as students enrolled in the two-year course. For more information, please refer to the Kansai University student handbook 'KAN-CAN!'.

(6) School Fees

As for School fees, refer to 'School Fees and Other Fees for 2026' (in the separate file "Common Items of all Graduate Schools" p.23).

If applicants change their course from the three-year program to the two-year program, the total amount of school fees and other fees will be adjusted to match the amount required for the two-year program.

Please confirm the exact amount of school fees and other fees at the time of the course change procedure.

If you wish to apply for the three-year course under the Extended Enrollment System, select "Three-year Course" for the "Extended Enrollment" field on the Online Application. Your selection of either course will have no effect on the admission decision.

If you wish to switch courses after being admitted, inform the Graduate School Admissions Division by Spring enrollment: January 9 (Fri), 2026, Fall enrollment: July 24 (Fri), 2026.

Please note that applicants admitted under the University's February Examination are not able to switch courses prior to their enrollment.

Graduate School of Letters (Ph.D. Degree Program)

Graduate School, Major, Course and Enrollment Capacity

Graduate School	Major	Course	Enrollment Capacity
Graduate School of Letters	General Humanities Major	English Linguistics and Literature	19
		Japanese Language and Literature	
		Philosophy	
		History	
		German Studies	
		French Studies	
		Geography	
		Education	
		Film and Media Studies	

Note: The Graduate School of Letters has not established separate enrollment capacity for each type of entrance examination.

Ph.D. Degree Program: International Students Entrance Examination **(Spring Enrollment: October Examination and February Examination/Fall Enrollment: July Examination)**

1. Qualification

[October Examination]

Applicants who have obtained Level N2 (previously Level 2) or higher on the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) or scored 240 points or higher on the subject of Japanese as a Foreign Language (including the writing score) in the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) which the valid period specified by the issuing institution of the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) includes the application start date for the Examination Month, and who shall satisfy one of the following (1)~(5) conditions:

- (1) Applicants who have received a master's or professional degree at the graduate schools outside Japan by before enrolling at the Graduate School.
- (2) Applicants who have received a master's or professional degree from Japanese graduate schools as international students.
- (3) Applicants who have completed programs and received degrees equivalent to a master's degree from the United Nations University*.

*United Nations University; established by the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 11, 1972, as stipulated in Article 1 Paragraph 2 of the Act on Special Measures incidental to Enforcement of the Agreement between the United Nations and Japan regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations University.

- (4) Applicants designated by the minister of MEXT†. (Bulletin No. 118 of 1989)
† MEXT; Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
- (5) Applicants who are recognized as having degrees equivalent or superior to a master's degree by our graduate school and have reached the age of 24 (before enrolling at the Graduate School). This requirement shall not apply to the foreigners who are recognized as having received Japanese regular school education program.

[February Examination] [July Examination]

Applicants who have obtained Level N2 (previously Level 2) or higher on the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) or scored 240 points or higher on the subject of Japanese as a Foreign Language (including the writing score) in the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) which the valid period specified by the issuing institution of the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU) includes the application start date for the Examination Month, and who shall satisfy one of the following (1)~(5) conditions:

(including applicants who are expected to satisfy one of the following (1)~(3) conditions before enrolling at the Graduate School.)

- (1) Applicants who have received a master's or professional degree at graduate schools outside Japan.
- (2) Applicants who have received a master's or professional degree from Japanese graduate schools as international students.
- (3) Applicants who have completed programs and received degrees equivalent to a master's degree from the United Nations University*.

*United Nations University; established by the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 11, 1972, as stipulated in Article 1 Paragraph 2 of the Act on Special Measures incidental to Enforcement of the Agreement between the United Nations and Japan regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations University.

- (4) Applicants designated by the minister of MEXT†. (Bulletin No. 118 of 1989)
† MEXT; Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
- (5) Applicants who are recognized as having degrees equivalent or superior to a master's degree by our graduate school and have reached the age of 24 (before enrolling at the Graduate School). This requirement shall not apply to the foreigners who are recognized as having received Japanese regular school education program.

[IMPORTANT] Notes regarding Pre-qualification Individual Screening for Entrance Examination

1. Subjects:
Applicants under qualification (4) or (5)
2. Application Procedures and Deadline:
Refer to 'Pre-qualification Individual Screening' (in the separate file "Common Items of all Graduate Schools" p.4).

2. Application Documents

After you have paid the application fee of ¥35,000, submit the documents listed below.

Review Cautionary Note published at the end of the Application Guidelines (Japanese Version), and carefully check your application documents before submitting them.

Please submit the 'Application Document List (Checklist)' as well as the application documents.

Document to be Submitted [Document Number]	Remarks
Documents to be submitted by all applicants	
Application Form (for submission) 【①】	Print out and submit after finalizing your online application.
Statement of Reason for Applying in Japanese 【②】	Use the form designated by the University.
Original transcript from previous graduate school 【③】	Submit original transcripts. If you cannot submit original transcripts, please submit transcripts that have been notarized by an embassy or other public institutions. ◦ If you are currently enrolled, you should submit the latest transcript (original) when applying. ◦ If you studied abroad during your enrollment period and credits have been approved, but the credits are not listed on the academic transcript of the graduate school you are enrolled in, or the credits have not been approved after studying abroad, you also should submit the academic transcript (original) from the graduate school where you studied abroad as well. ◦ If you participated in a DD (Dual Degree/Double Degree) program during your enrollment period, but the credits have been approved are not listed on your academic transcript of the graduate school you are enrolled in, or if credits are recognized in a lump sum, you also should submit the transcript (original) from the graduate school where you participated in the program as well. Note 1) If the certificate has multiple pages, the seal of the university or the signature of the person in charge of issuing the certificate is required on all pages. Note 2) If you did not take any courses during your enrollment period, or if there is a blank period on your transcript due to studying abroad, please prepare a statement of reasons for that period (free format) and submit it together (School seal is not required).

Document to be Submitted 【Document Number】	Remarks
Documents to be submitted by all applicants	
Original certificate of (expected) completion from previous graduate school, or a notarized document certifying (expected) completion 【④】	Both of the entrance and (expected) completion dates must be listed. If the above information is listed on the Application Document ③, this certificate does not need to be submitted. Submit an original certificate of (expected) completion. If you cannot submit an original certificate, please submit a certificate of (expected) completion that has been notarized by an embassy or other public institutions.
Research Plan in Japanese 【⑤】	About 1,000 words in length. Submit 1 original and 3 copies. Draft an overview of your proposed research plan on a computer using A4-size paper (horizontal text with 40 words per row and 36 rows per page). If you already have published research results, such as a thesis, please fill in the title of the thesis/journals, the published date, and the number of pages at the end of your research plan.
Certification for Japanese Language Proficiency 【⑭】	In case of Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) ‘Test Result’ or ‘Certificate of Result and Score’ certifying that you have passed Level N2 (Level 2 of Former Test) or higher. ★Be sure to submit the original certificate. In case of Examination for Japanese University Admission (EJU) The Online Certificate ‘Score Confirmation Report’ certifying that you have acquired 240 or higher points (including the writing score) in Japanese language as a Foreign Language. Please print out the certificate on A4 paper.
Copy of Residence Card or Passport 【⑮】	For a residence card, submit a copy showing both sides. For a passport, submit a copy of pages showing your name, date of birth, photograph, expiration date, residence status, and the most recent period of stay.
Two Photographs	Affix a photograph taken within the last 3 months to the application form (for submission) and to the statement of reason for applying. Your photographs should not be retouched or edited. (The photograph affixed to your application form will be used on the student ID issued after enrollment, should you be admitted.)
Applicants who meet one of qualifications (1)~(3) and have already submitted a master’s thesis	
Outline of master’s thesis 【⑥】※	About 2,000 words in length. Submit 1 original and 3 copies. Draft on a computer using A4-size paper (horizontal text with 40 words per row and 36 rows per page).
Copy of master’s thesis 【⑦】※	4 copies
Applicants who meet one of qualifications (1)-(3) and expect to submit a master’s thesis	
Outline of thesis intended to be submitted as a master’s thesis 【⑥】※	About 2,000 words in length. Submit 1 original and 3 copies. Draft on a computer using A4-size paper (horizontal text with 40 words per row and 36 rows per page).
A thesis intended to submit as a master’s thesis or a copy of master’s thesis draft 【⑦】※	4 copies

Document to be Submitted 【Document Number】	Remarks
Applicants who meet the qualification (4) or (5), or who have or are expected to have a professional degree without having written a master's thesis	
Results Report 【⑧】	About 2,000 words in length. Submit 1 original and 3 copies. Draft an overview of your research results or your research activities on a computer using A4-size paper (horizontal text with 40 words per row and 36 rows per page).
Offprint or Copy of Research Results 【⑨】	Offprint or copy of academic papers, academic conference presentation or research reports 4 copies

※ Applicants who are expected to complete their master's degree by March 2026 and intend to apply for the February Examination are permitted to submit only the following documents by Friday, January 16, 2026: the outline of master's thesis【⑥】 and a copy of master's thesis【⑦】.

All other required application documents must be submitted within the application period.

If, by Friday, January 16, 2026, the applicant is unable to submit the outline and copy of the master's thesis, they must instead submit, during the application period, the outline of the thesis intended for submission as the master's thesis 【⑥】 and a thesis intended to submit as a master's thesis or a copy of master's thesis draft 【⑦】.

3. Screening Components

The Graduate School will determine whether or not to admit applicants based on a comprehensive evaluation of document screening, written examination and oral examination.

4. The Pass/Fail Criteria

Pass/Fail will be determined by the higher total score on the written and oral examinations, in descending order.

In order to examine and screen the necessary erudition to study in the Graduate School of Letters, the number of successful applicants may not reach the enrollment capacity.

5. Examination Subjects

Written Examination		Oral Examination
Specialized Subject	Foreign Language	
None	10:00 ~ 11:30 (90 minutes)	Held after the written examination

Note: More information about the oral examination will be provided on the day of the written examination.

6. Written Examination Subjects and Allocation of Points (300 Points total)

Major	Specialized	Written Examination (Foreign Language ※2)	Oral Examination (Specialized Subject)
		100 Points	200 Points
General Humanities	English Linguistics and Literature	Select one from ※1	Topics for the oral examination (specialized subject): (1) Specialized knowledge on the major subject (2) Research topic and methods after enrollment (3) Details of master's thesis
	Japanese Language and Literature	Japanese	
	Philosophy	Select one from ※1	
	History	Select one from ※1	
	German Studies	Select one from ※1	
	French Studies	Select one from ※1	
	Geography	Japanese or English	
	Education	Select one from ※1	
	Film and Media Studies	Select one from ※1	

※1 English, German, French, Chinese, Russian, Spanish or Korean

※2 You will not be allowed to refer to a dictionary during the foreign language subject examination.

Note: Please select a major subject and an academic advisor on applying.

If you will select an academic advisor marked ※, please contact the Kansai University Graduate School Admissions Division in advance.

The major subjects and academic advisors may change as needed.

If it changes, we will notify applicants via posting a notice (Japanese Version) on our website, please check our website before applying.

<https://www.kansai-u.ac.jp/Gr_sch/>

(2025/4)

Graduate School of Letters: List of Major Subjects and Academic Advisors for 2026 Academic Year (Ph.D. Degree Program)

General Humanities Major

Major Subject and Academic Advisor				
English Linguistics and Literature				
English and American Literature	Professor	Ph.D.	KIRWAN, James Francis Edmund	Literary Theory, Aesthetics
	Professor	Ph.D.	TAKAHASHI, Miho	English Poetry from Pre-Romanticism to Present
	Associate Professor	Ph.D.	DONOVAN, Richard	Translation Studies, Literature of English-speaking Countries, and Comparative Literature
English Linguistics	Professor	Ph.D.	IWATA, Seiji	Lexical Semantics, Construction Grammar
	Professor	Ph.D.	※NABESHIMA, Kojiro	Cognitive Linguistics, Metaphor
Japanese Language and Literature				
Japanese Literature (Ancient)	Professor	Ph.D.	MURATA, Migifumi	Study of Waka Poetry and Tales
Japanese Literature (Early Modern)	Professor	Ph.D.	KISHIMOTO, Rie	Study of Waka Poetry and Tales
	Professor	Ph.D.	MATSUMOTO, Oki	Study of the Heian Period literature
Japanese Literature (Later Medieval)	Professor	Ph.D.	OHSHIMA, Kaoru	Study of Japanese Culture
Japanese Literature (Early Modern)	Professor	Ph.D.	※YAMAMOTO, Takashi	Study of Early Modern Novels
Japanese Literature (Later Modern and Contemporary)	Professor	Ph.D.	※SEKI, Hajime	Study of Modern Japanese Literature
	Professor	Ph.D.	MASUDA, Chikako	Study of Modern Japanese Literature
Japanese Philology	Professor	Ph.D.	※INUI, Yoshihiko	Study of Japanese Writing and Letters
	Professor	Ph.D.	HIDAKA, Mizuho	Study of Japanese Dialects
	Professor	Ph.D.	MORI, Yuta	Study of Japanese Writing and Letters, History of Honorifics
Philosophy				
Philosophy and History of Philosophy	Professor	Ph.D.	MIMURA, Naohiko	Phenomenology, Contemporary Philosophy
Philosophy and Ethics	Professor	Ph.D.	※SHINAGAWA, Tetsuhiko	Contemporary Philosophy, Ethics, and Applied Ethics
	Professor	Ph.D.	NAKAZAWA, Tsutomu	Greek Philosophy, Applied Ethics
History of Religions	Professor	Ph.D.	SAKAI, Masamichi	Buddhist Studies, Indian Philosophy
	Professor	Ph.D.	MIZUNO, Tomoharu	Japanese Philosophy, Japanese History of Ideas, and Comparative Philosophy

Aesthetics and Art History	Professor	Ph.D.	※HIRAI, Shoichi	Japanese and European Modern Art History, Contemporary Art
	Professor	Ph.D.	WAKABAYASHI, Masaya	Aesthetics and Drama Theory
History				
Japanese History (Ancient and Medieval)	Professor	Ph.D.	※HARADA, Masatoshi	Medieval History
Japanese History (Modern and Contemporary)	Professor	Ph.D.	OGURA, Takashi	Early Modern History, Political History
	Professor	Ph.D.	KANDA, Akifumi	Modern History, Political History
Japanese Archaeology	Professor	Ph.D.	INOUE, Chikara	Japanese and Korean Archaeology. Archaeology of Ancient Japan-Korea exchange.
Japanese Folklore	Professor	Ph.D.	※KURODA, Kazumitsu	Japanese Festival (matsuri) and Traditional Occasions
Oriental History	Professor	Ph.D.	MORIBE, Yutaka	Study of Sogdian Activity in China
Western History	Professor	Ph.D.	SHIMANAKA, Hiroaki	History of Early Modern Europe, French History, History of Literary Phenomena
	Professor	Ph.D.	※NAKAMURA, Hitoshi	History of the Russian Empire
German Studies				
German Culture	Professor	Dr.phil.	※WITTKAMP, Robert F	German Culture, Cultural Studies
German Linguistics	Professor	Ph.D.	※KUDO, Yasuhiro	History of German Language
French Studies				
French early modern Literature	Professor	Ph.D.	TOMOTANI, Tomoki	French Seventeenth-century Theatre
Geography				
Physical Geography	Professor	Ph.D.	KUROKI, Takahito	Physical Geography
Human Geography	Professor	Ph.D.	TSUCHIYA, Jun	Economic Geography Urban Geography
Historical Geography	Associate Professor	Ph.D.	MATSUI, Koichi	Historical Geography, Settlement Geography
Education				
Education and Culture	Professor	Ph.D.	※AKAO, Katsumi	Lifelong Learning, Adult Education
	Professor	Ph.D.	TAGA, Futoshi	Sociology of Education, Gender Studies
	Professor	Ph.D.	TANAKA, Junichi	Philosophy of Education
	Professor	Ph.D.	WAKATSUKI, Ken	Citizenship Education
School Education	Professor	Ph.D.	※ISHII, Yasuhiro	Arithmetic Education
	Professor	Ph.D.	YAMAZUMI, Katsuhiro	Learning and Instruction, Activity Theory
Film and Media Studies				
Film and Media Studies	Professor	Ph.D.	KADOBAYASHI, Takeshi	Media Studies, Critical Theory
	Professor	Ph.D.	SASAGAWA, Keiko	Early Motion Picture Industry, Japanese Film History
	Professor	Ph.D.	SUGAWARA, Yoshino	History of Chinese Language Cinema