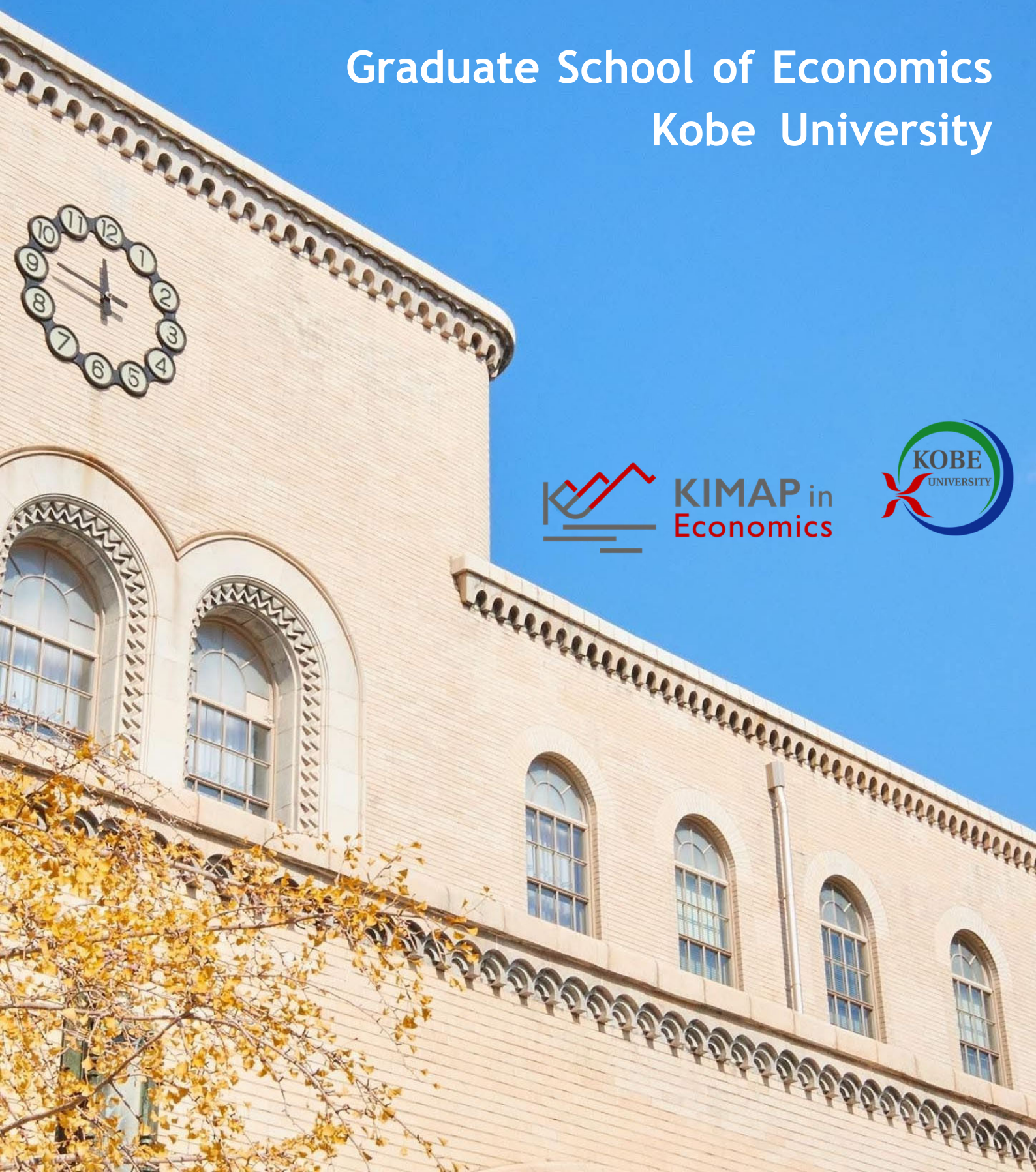


# KIMAP Entrance Examination October 2026 Application Guide

Graduate School of Economics  
Kobe University



**KIMAP** in  
Economics



## IMPORTANT DATES

Application period:

[Online]

March 16, 2026, at 0:00 a.m. – April 10, 2026 at 4:59 p.m. (JST)

[By Mail]

March 16, 2026 – April 10, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. (JST)

Notification of the document screening result: May 22, 2026

Online exam: June 3, 2026

Notification of acceptance: June 19, 2026

Date of enrollment: October 1, 2026

## 1. Application Procedure

### 1.1. How to Apply

- **Please complete both application processes**, through the Kobe University Graduate School Online Application system (<https://e-apply.jp/ds/kobe-u/>) and by mail, within the application period. Mail your application documents via registered express mail.
- When entering your application information on the Online Application system, the following fields are mandatory and must be completed. All other items are optional.

Fields
Face Photo
Full Name (Kana, Kanji, English letters)
Gender
Date of Birth
E-mail Address
Student ID (For Kobe University Students Only)
Nationality
Type of Current Visa (if applicable)
Scholarship Information (For International Students Only)

Current Address (For Document Delivery)
Emergency Contact (in Japan)
University Information (Undergraduate program)
Application Information
Academic Background
Certificate of Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship (if applicable)
Upload files 1, 2, 3, and 4
Privacy Policy

- After completing your application registration and paying the entrance examination fee through the Kobe University Graduate School Online Application system, print the “Application Address Label” on page 3 of your application form, as displayed on your “My Page”, in color. Attach it to a standard-size (Kaku 2) envelope and mail it along with the documents specified as [By Mail] in the Section 1.2 “Required Documents.” Please note that it is not required to mail the first and second pages of your application form.
- Application documents designated for mailing will be accepted only by mail: **hand delivery is not accepted.**
- After your application documents have been accepted, please download your Entrance Examination Admission Ticket and other materials from your “My Page” on the Online Application system (<https://e-apply.jp/ds/kobe-u/>). An e-mail notification will be sent to the e-mail address you registered on the Online Application system once the materials are available for download. If you have not received this e-mail by Friday, May 8, 2026, please contact the Academic Affairs Office of the Graduate School.

## 1.2. Required Documents

- **The following documents must be prepared by the applicant. Note that incomplete documents may not be accepted.**

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- **Application documents will not be returned to the applicant.**
  - Application documents must be completed in black ballpoint pen (Never use an erasable ballpoint pen.) or typed in a word processor.
- i. Application Address Label (By Mail)**
- After completing your application registration and paying the entrance examination fee through the Kobe University Graduate School Online Application system, print the “Application Address Label” on page 3 of your application form, as displayed on your “My Page”, in color. Attach it to a standard-size (Kaku 2) envelope and mail it along with the documents specified as [By Mail] in the Section 1.2 “Required Documents.” Please note that it is not required to mail the first and second pages of your application form.
  - When sending [By Mail] in the Section 5.4 “Application Documents” from overseas, please do not attach this label to the envelope. Instead, place it inside the envelope together with the other documents and then send them by post.
- ii. Research Proposal [Online: Upload 1]**
- Please fill out the designated form provided by the Graduate School and submit it as a PDF file.
  - Research proposals may be up to 2 pages in length but no longer.
  - Use an easy-to-read font (about 12pt for word processors).
  - Proposals should be written **in English**.
- iii. Graduation Certificate and Certificate of Degree from the University the Applicant Graduated from (original) [By Mail]**
- Submit original certificates issued by the university director or the dean of the university. For graduation certificates that

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are in a language other than English or Japanese, you have to attach a Japanese translation certified by an official organization such as the Japanese government or an embassy/consulate of a foreign country.

- Certificate of degree is not needed if the degree obtained is clearly stated on the graduation certificate.
- If you have graduated from or are expected to graduate from multiple universities, submit all university certificates.
- If you have enrolled in a Japanese language school or vocational school after graduating from high school, please submit a transcript of your grades from that school as well.
- Applicants who have already graduated (or received a degree) by the time of application should submit a certificate of graduation (or degree), not a certificate of expected graduation (or degree).

**iv. Academic Transcript from the University the Applicant Graduated from (original) [By Mail]**

- Submit sealed academic transcripts (original) created by the university director or the dean of the university. For academic transcripts prepared in a language other than English or Japanese, you have to attach a Japanese translation certified by an official organization such as the Japanese government or an embassy/consulate of a foreign country.
- If you have graduated from or are expected to graduate from multiple universities, submit all university certificates.
- If you transferred during your studies, you must also submit an original academic transcript from the university you previously attended before transferring.

**v. Score Sheets for Foreign Language Examinations**

※ This applies to individuals whose native language or official language is not English, and for those who have not graduated

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from a university or graduate school where English is the language of instruction.

※ Those who have graduated from a university where English is the language of instruction (excluding online/distance learning programs) must submit a document that proves this. However, if this information is clearly stated on your graduation certificate or academic transcript, no additional documents are required.

※ If English is your native language but not an official language in your nationality, please contact before the application period with the Academic Affairs Office.

Only test scores from May 1, 2024 and onwards will be accepted.

Applicants may submit multiple score reports if desired. **When submitting multiple score sheets via the online application, please combine them into a single PDF.**

No score sheets will be accepted outside the application period. If you need to request the score sheet, please do so well in advance.

We do not accept test scores from TOEFL-ITP, TOEIC-IP, or TOEIC (specifically scores from the speaking & writing section), or IELTS General Training.

- TOEIC [Online: Upload 2]
  - The TOEIC Digital Official Score Certificate must be submitted through the Kobe University Graduate School Online Application system via the PDF. Please make sure the QR code is clear.
- TOEFL [Online: Upload 2]
  - Applicants who wish to submit their scores through the Kobe University Graduate School Online Application system should upload a PDF of their scores and request electronic submission via the ETS Data Manager. The Designated Institution Code (DI Code)

for Kobe University Faculty of Economics / Graduate School of Economics is “6999”.

- TOEFL iBT Home Edition scores are also accepted.
- IELTS [Online: Upload 2]
  - Those who wish to submit scores through the the Kobe University Graduate School Online Application system should upload a PDF of their scores and request electronic submission via **IELTS Results Verification Service**.
- vi. **Digital Photograph of Your Face [Online]**

Please upload a face photo in JPEG, PNG, BPM, or HEIC format. The photo should be a clear image of your upper body, with no hat, facing forward, and with a plain background, taken within three months prior to submission.

Please note that the face photo data will be used on the Entrance Examination Admission Ticket and will be verified against your appearance during the exam. Altering or modifying the face photo data is strictly prohibited. **If the photo has been altered or modified to the extent that your identity cannot be confirmed, you may not be permitted to take the exam.**
- vii. **Entrance Examination Fee [Online]**
  - 30,000 JPY
  - Please pay the Entrance Examination fee through the Online Application system. Any fees incurred during payment must be borne by the payer.
- viii. **Certificate Stating the Status of Residency and the Period of Stay as a Foreigner**

This applies to applicants with a non-Japanese nationality only.

  - Applicants who are residing in Japan at the time of application must submit a certificate of residence (original) by postal mail. This certificate must be issued within 30 days prior to the date of when your application is submitted. A copy of the residence card will not be accepted. **[By Mail]**
  - Applicants who are not residing in Japan at the time of application must submit a copy of passport (photo

page) through the Kobe University Graduate School  
Online Application system. **[Online: Upload 3]**

**ix. Letter of Recommendation (optional) [To be prepared and sent by the faculty member via e-mail]**

- The submitted recommendation letter will be used as reference material during the oral examination and will be treated as an important document that will influence the evaluation of the oral examination.
- A letter of recommendation should be written by an academic advisor or a class instructor. Letters written by vocational schools or universities where the applicant was enrolled as a non-degree student will not be accepted. The potential supervisor who prepared the letter must submit it from their institutional e-mail address to the designated recommendation e-mail address ([econ-admission@edu.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:econ-admission@edu.kobe-u.ac.jp)) during the application period. Letters of recommendation sent from free e-mail addresses will not be accepted.
- Please ensure that the letter is written in English or Japanese.

**x. Copy of Graduation Thesis, etc. (optional) [Online: Upload 4]**

- One of the following will be treated as a graduation thesis: 1) a bachelor's thesis or master's thesis, 2) a thesis or report prepared in class (if there is no thesis), or 3) an externally published thesis, white paper, or report prepared by the company for which you work if there is no thesis.

## **2. Admission Process**

### **2.1. Document Screening**

During the document screening process, applicants will be selected based on the submitted documents and an overall assessment. The results of the document screening will be posted on the Graduate

School's website (<https://www.econ.kobe-u.ac.jp>) at **2:00 p.m. on May 22, 2026 (JST)**.

## **2.2. Online Oral Examination**

Applicants who pass the document screening will be individually notified by email about the oral examination schedule. The online oral examination is scheduled for **June 3, 2026 (JST)**. If the applicant has not joined the online interview within 10 minutes after the scheduled start time and has not contacted us by e-mail or phone, he/she will be considered to have declined to take the entrance examination, regardless of any internet problems. In principle, the examination will be conducted in English, focusing on the content of the research plan and other documents related to the research theme of your choice. A part of the examination will be conducted in Japanese.

## **3. Notification of Acceptance**

On **June 19, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. (JST)**, we will post the results on the Graduate School's website (<https://www.econ.kobe-u.ac.jp>) and send notification of acceptance by mail to successful applicants. We do not respond to any inquiries regarding pass/fail.

## **4. Date of Enrollment**

October 1, 2026

## **5. Admission Procedure**

Admission procedures for October 2026 applicants will be mailed in early September 2026. If the admission procedures are not completed by the due date, the applicant will not be admitted. Please note that the admission

fee paid at the time of the admission procedure is non-refundable for any reason, including subsequent refusal of admission.

## 6. Number of Students to be Accepted

83 students (This number includes all students who have been accepted into any master's degree program offered by the Graduate School of Economics)

## 7. Fees

The entrance and tuition fees are outlined below. If tuition fees change while enrolled at Kobe University, the applicant will be required to pay the revised fee.

### 7.1. Entrance Fee

282,000 JPY. Please pay the entrance fee during the admission procedure.

### 7.2. Tuition Fee

535,800 JPY/year, or 267,900 JPY/semester. Please pay the tuition fee after completing the prescribed procedures and after enrollment (the first term is due in April, the second term in October)

## 8. Eligibility

**Applicants must meet at least one of the following requirements:**

- Applicants who have or are expected to complete a bachelor's degree by September 30, 2026.
- Applicants who have been granted, or are expected to be granted by September 30, 2026, a bachelor's degree under the provisions of Article 104, Paragraph 7 of the School Education Act.
- Applicants who have or are expected to complete 16 years of schooling

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within a foreign country by September 30, 2026.

- Applicants who have or are expected to complete by September 30, 2026, 16 years of formal education by taking correspondence courses offered by a foreign school while in Japan.
- Applicants who have completed or are expected to complete by September 30, 2026, 16 years of formal education at a foreign educational institution in Japan that is recognized as having university-level courses and is designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- Applicants who completed a vocational school's specialized curriculum specified by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, after the date specified by the Minister; the curriculum must be of at least four years and fulfill the criteria stipulated by the Minister.
- Applicants who are nominated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (under Public Notice by the Ministry of Education, No.5, 1953).

### **Important Notes**

If any of the following apply to you, you must verify that you meet the eligibility requirements before submitting your documents. Please do so by contacting the Academic/Student Affairs Office by Friday, February 27, 2026. Contact information can be found at the end of this application guide.

- Those who have graduated or will graduate by September 30, 2026, from a university of 3 years or less.
- Those who have graduated from university without earning a degree, and those who are expected to graduate by September 30, 2026, without earning a degree.
- Applicants who were admitted into a graduate program on the basis of Article 102, Paragraph 2 of the School Education Act and who are recognized by our graduate school as having academic ability worth receiving education at our graduate school.
- Applicants who will be 22 years old by September 30, 2026, and are

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recognized, as a result of individual screening by our graduate school, as having academic ability of a university graduate.

- Applicants who meet at least one of the requirements listed below, and are recognized as having earned enough credits with good grades as designated by our graduate school:
  - Applicants who are enrolled in university for 3 years or more as of September 30, 2026.
  - Applicants who have or are expected to complete by September 30, 2026, 15 years of schooling within a foreign country.
  - Applicants who have or are expected to complete by September 30, 2026, 15 years of formal education in a foreign country by taking correspondence courses provided by a foreign country in Japan.
  - Applicants who have or are expected to complete by September 30, 2026, a course of study at a university in a foreign country (limited to those in which the graduates are considered to have completed 15 years of school education in the relevant foreign country), which is separately designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- Applicants who have obtained or are expected to obtain a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree by completing a course of three years or more at a foreign university or foreign schools (limited to schools that have been assessed by the foreign government or accreditation organizations of such country or are specified as an equivalent educational institution by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports and Science and Technology). The completion of the courses includes completion of correspondence courses in Japan provided by foreign educational institutions and completion of formal education at a foreign educational institution in Japan that is recognized as having university-level courses and is designated separately by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

## 9. Special Notes

- Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicant for any reason.
- No changes or additions to the information provided in the application will be accepted.
- No inquiries regarding the confirmation of the arrival of the application documents will be handled.
- The examination fee is non-refundable.
- If any falsehoods are found in the application documents or if any irregularities are discovered during the examination, the acceptance and admission may be revoked.
- For details other than those listed in this application guide, please refer to the Test Information Bulletin sent together with the Test Taker Identification Card.
- After submitting your application, we may contact you at the contact information you provided in your application. If you are contacted, please respond as soon as possible.

## 10. Offered Programs and Admission Policy

### 10.1. Overview

Graduate School of Economics offers two types of two-year master courses, a general course in Japanese and an international collaborative master course in English. The latter option is referred to as the Kobe University Interdisciplinary Master Program or KIMAP.

### 10.2. Admission Policy

<https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/academics/admissions/policy/graduate/econ/>

## 11. Privacy Policy at Kobe University

- Kobe University will keep personal information confidential according to guidelines such as the “Guidelines on the Management of Personal Information Held by Kobe University” and strictly comply with laws such as the “Act on the Protection of Personal Information (Act No. 57 of 2003)” etc.
- Personal information such as grades on the entrance examination will be used for the admission procedure (such as the selection of applicants), the announcement of successful applicants, enrollment procedures, and for the purpose of improving the admission procedure in the future.
- For students who enroll, the personal information provided in the application documents will be used for assisting students (e.g., health management, tuition exemption, and scholarship application), as well as for various educational purposes such as academic guidance, tuition-related operations, and other related operations.
- Kobe University entrusts some parts of its administrative procedures to third parties. In such cases, we will give them the minimum information necessary and instruct them to strictly comply with the personal information confidentiality regulations.

## 12. Other Notes

- Applicants with physical disabilities who require special consideration when taking the examination must notify us before submitting their application.
- For further inquiry, please contact the Academic/Student Affairs Office of the Graduate School of Economics.

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### Contact information:

The Academic/Student Affairs Office

TEL: +81-78-803-7247

FAX: +81-78-803-7289

E-mail: [econ-kyomu@office.kobe-u.ac.jp](mailto:econ-kyomu@office.kobe-u.ac.jp)

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