

# KOBE UNIVERSITY Exchange Program

## Result of Completion Qestionnaire - Fall 2019



1. Helpful reference prior to departure													
1-1	Daily Life (Food, Clothes, Housing, Health, Pabulic Transportation etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kobe University website (<a href="https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/index.html">https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/index.html</a>)</li> <li>• Guidebook by university</li> <li>• References from Home University, previous exchange student</li> <li>• Japantimes</li> <li>• Tutor helped me a lot</li> <li>• ブログ【小红书】</li> <li>• Different youtube videos about Japanese culture and behaviour</li> <li>• <a href="https://wanderweib.de">https://wanderweib.de</a></li> </ul>											
	Procedures (VISA, Residing, National Insurance, Bank etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kobe University Website, Information Pack by email</li> <li>• Guidebook by university</li> <li>• Easy with the help of the tutor if you are a bit lost the first days</li> <li>• Tutor, Academic affairs</li> <li>• Home University</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.ch.emb-japan.go.jp/de/visareise.html">https://www.ch.emb-japan.go.jp/de/visareise.html</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://wanderweib.de">https://wanderweib.de</a></li> <li>• Japan Embassy Website</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.muenchen.de.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_ja/index.html">https://www.muenchen.de.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_ja/index.html</a></li> </ul>											
	Student Life (Academic Procedure, Course, Research, Scholarship etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kobe University website (<a href="https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/index.html">https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/en/index.html</a>)</li> <li>• Intorductory presentation of University</li> <li>• <a href="http://web.cla.kobe-u.ac.jp/graduate">http://web.cla.kobe-u.ac.jp/graduate</a></li> <li>• Home university international exchange platform, where students share their experience of academic mobility</li> <li>• Reports of other students of my home university</li> <li>• <a href="https://wanderweib.de">https://wanderweib.de</a></li> <li>• Youtube-Videos</li> </ul>											
	Tourist Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://wanderweib.de">https://wanderweib.de</a></li> <li>• Books, Journals</li> <li>• Japan guide (<a href="https://www.japan-guide.com">https://www.japan-guide.com</a>)</li> </ul>											
2. Academics/Courses 【Regular Subject Courses】													
2-1	<p>What do you think of regular courses?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courses were fair, we had to do many presentations which was good because it prepares you for your later life better than exams.</li> <li>• Even if I can speak Japanese, at the beginning, it was hard to attend a class entirely taught in Japanese.</li> <li>• 内容的じゃなくて、日本語で行われていたので、聞き取れるのに難しさを感じました。</li> <li>• 地理学の授業で先生の大阪弁で聞くのがちょっと難しかったです。でも今は大分よくなりました。</li> <li>• 授業内容は自分の研究テーマに近い。クラスメートが国際的なので、ディスカッションが面白い。</li> </ul>												
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1.Strongly Agree</td> <td>2.Agree</td> <td>3.Not So Agree</td> <td>4.Disagree</td> <td>5.Not Sure</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>22%</td> <td>65%</td> <td>9%</td> <td>4%</td> <td>0%</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1.Strongly Agree	2.Agree	3.Not So Agree	4.Disagree	5.Not Sure		22%	65%	9%	4%	0%	
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22%	65%	9%	4%	0%									
2-2	<p>Please explain what your purpose was.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving my Japanese</li> <li>• I both wanted to meet a new culture really far from mine, and learn something about my academic field</li> <li>• To learn more about robotics, digitalisation in Japan.</li> <li>• Learn about Japan and Japanese society on basic level</li> <li>• To learn more Japanese, to discover a new culture and work on my thesis for my home university.</li> <li>• To experience the academic environment in Japan</li> <li>• To gain knowledge on my research theme, improve my Japanese</li> <li>• Achieve credits related to my field of study.</li> <li>• Widening my knowledge in Robotics and Manufacturing</li> <li>• My purpose was to find out about entrepreneurship in Japan. Through experiencing the Japanese culture, combined with the courses I took, I definitely learned about how entrepreneurship works in Japan.</li> <li>• To expand my knowledge with different courses, to expand my cultural knowledge about another country</li> <li>• Learning another language and specifying in my fields of study</li> <li>• 語学力をたかめて良い文章を書く</li> <li>• 翻訳理論の学習</li> <li>• 日本式の企業運営方法や考え方の理解、税関や法律など自分の専門と違う分野の知識習得</li> </ul>												
【Japanese Language Courses at the Center for International Education (CIE)】													
2-3	<p>Did you take language courses at the CIE?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1.Yes</td> <td>2.No</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>87%</td> <td>13%</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If no, please explain why.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I was not looking to learn Japanese, as I am not planning to continue working or studying in Japan or with Japanese.</li> <li>• The Japanese courses at my graduate school were enough Japanese language practice for me.</li> <li>• 日本語より専攻の方に力を注ぎたい</li> </ul>	1.Yes	2.No					87%	13%				
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87%	13%												
2-4	<p>What do you think of Japanese Language Courses?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers were great.</li> <li>• I am fully satisfied with language courses. Professors were excellent, there were enough conversation opportunities during class and assessment was fair.</li> <li>• The classes at CIE were perfect, there were assignments but not too long to do, the classes are ideal to study your main classes while still wanting to learn or improve in Japanese.</li> <li>• 高級レベルの先生達全員とも優しい先生です。授業の内容が充実だし、話もおもしろかったです。学生の名前もちゃんと覚えてくれます。</li> <li>• 文法に関する授業が一番難しかったです。</li> </ul>												

2-5	Do you think you have improved your Japanese language ability?	1.Strongly Agree 39%	2.Agree 30%	3.Not So Agree 13%	4.Disagree 4%	5.Not Sure 0%
	Please explain how it has improved or what kind of specific ability improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•I became able to make presentations on a wide variety of familiar topics.</li> <li>•I started from zero, now I can read Hiragana and some Katakana and I learnt some words and expressions</li> <li>•I improved especially understanding and writing.</li> <li>•I was able to have small conversations and to ask questions.</li> <li>•I became able to write academic papers on a variety of topics, both familiar and not.</li> <li>•Especially reading, listening and writing improved.</li> <li>•Taking language classes improved my academic writing skills in Japanese. I have also gained more confidence in speaking the language on a wide variety of topics. Also the kanji class helped me to learn and recognize a lot of kanji in daily life.</li> <li>•I could improve my grammar, speaking and listening comprehension in Japanese a lot and learned 250 Kanjis.</li> <li>•I became better at writing, reading and speaking but mostly at listening.</li> <li>•I started speaking finally, also my listening skills improved. I learned new words and vocabulary.</li> <li>•Since I did not know any Japanese prior to coming to Japan, the acquired language skills especially helped me to manage daily life.</li> <li>•よりレベル高い日本語文章を書けるようになり、もっと深い内容の会話もできました。</li> <li>•一定の専門的な用語がわかるようになった</li> </ul>				

[Research Activities]

2-6	Did you do research at KU?	1.Yes 13%	2.No 87%			
	Please describe your project, challenges you tried and how you were evaluated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Just gained information on my research topic</li> <li>•I conducted field work at different special needs school in the Hyogo prefecture and Tottori prefecture. I also conducted interviews with 6 students at a welfare facility in the Kansai area. This is all part of my MA thesis that I have to submit to my home university.</li> <li>•日中間における異文化要素の翻訳ストラテジー</li> </ul>				

3. Social and Cultural Experience

3-1	Did you make any cultural or social adjustments when you started to live in Japan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•I had to stop eating in public.</li> <li>•I changed my food habits, learned how to behave properly in Japan</li> <li>•I had to change my eating behaviour. I was normally used to eat no animal products.</li> <li>•I never lived in a dorm before so I had to adjust to it.</li> <li>•This was my second time doing a longterm exchange in Japan. It is always necessary to adjust to the country's rules and customs.</li> <li>•At the beginning I had problems appreciating Japanese food that was completely different from the one I was used to.</li> <li>•日本でのマナーに関するルールを守った</li> <li>•アルバイトをした</li> <li>•努力までではないですが、ゴミ分別がとても細かいです。出せる時間も限られているので、困るときもありました。</li> </ul>				
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3-2	Did you have any good experiences with Japanese friends?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•I joined the canoe club and it was very useful for my language skill</li> <li>•Gained a lot of friends in and outside of KU, so I'm happy with that.</li> <li>•The best way to get in touch with Japanese students is to work in a lab and/ or participate in a circle or club</li> <li>•I came in contact with some Japanese by coming to the events held by TRUSS. It is great to join organized day trips or such events and I would have loved to see that even more :)</li> <li>•I loved meeting Japanese students and connecting to them more and thus learning more about Japanese culture.</li> <li>•日本人友達と一緒に勉強をしたり、交流をしたり、食事をしたりした</li> </ul>				
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3-3	Were you involved in extracurricular activities?	1.Yes 43%	2.No 57%								
	What kind of activities?	1.Sport Club 50%	2.Culture club 30%	3.Volunteer 0%	4.Internship 0%	5.Work activities 10%					
	How did you know about it?	<p>10% (Tutor at Italian language classes/アルバイトとインターンシップの両方/KISS/cultural meeting with high school students)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1.Kobe University Website 10%</td> <td>2.SNS(Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.) 10%</td> <td>3.Advertisement(Poster or Flyer) 0%</td> <td>4.Japanese Students 10%</td> <td>5.International Students 30%</td> <td>6.Professors 0%</td> </tr> </table> <p>7. Others 40% (日本人の知り合いから/KooBeeという神戸大学生雑誌/International office/CIE)</p>					1.Kobe University Website 10%	2.SNS(Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.) 10%	3.Advertisement(Poster or Flyer) 0%	4.Japanese Students 10%	5.International Students 30%
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3-3	Please explain details of your activity or your experiences through the activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•I have really enjoyed the time spent with the canoe club: discipline, language and friendship</li> <li>•I participate in a private women's rugby club! Although nobody spoke English and I couldn't speak Japanese, we got along quite well! This was the best Japanese intensive course I could get and a good motivation to practice the language.</li> <li>•I was in the cooking circle, it was a lot of fun.</li> <li>•It was the cooking circle, it was a lot of fun. I joined the second semester, because I was not aware of this circle before. Another international student introduced me.</li> <li>•I joined a football circle in Kobe. This helped me a lot to meet new Japanese students.</li> <li>•I participated in a football circle (FC Rokko)</li> <li>•I did judo with the university club, even though I barely spoke Japanese (only some words), and they for the most of them didn't speak English I was able to make friends. I even participated in a team competition with the university club.</li> <li>•カフェのホールスタッフ、日本料理店のホールスタッフ。接客のマナーや敬語を学んだ</li> <li>•料理サークルでは毎週一回料理教室でみんなで晩ごはんを作ります。日本人学生が無駄にしないように無理にでも必死に食べ物を全部食べ切る姿にびっくりしました。インターンシップは就活のために行きましたが、日本の就活という活動はほんとに学生だけでなく、企業側も人財を取る為に様々な工夫をしていると実感しました。</li> </ul>				
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3-4	What did you do during your free time, at night and on the weekends?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travelling, having fun with friends, looking for an internship</li> <li>• I travelled, had dinner with friends (internationals), hanged out in the city and hiked</li> <li>• I studied, or cooked food with my friends. Over Winterholdiy I made a trip to north Japan.</li> <li>• Went out for dinners with friends, travelled around Kansai, walked around Kobe, watched movies in the residence, had international dinners with friends at the residence, participated in student parties</li> <li>• Studying, joining Hult Prize, joining a rugby club, participating at startup events in Osaka (innovation hub), Karaoke/going out, trying japanese food, participating at university events organised by my faculty and truss (volunteer as cooking teacher etc), traveling, tandem partner, teaching german (visiting german class prof. Martin Schulze) and english, hiking</li> <li>• I went out with friends or stayed home to study or work.</li> <li>• I used to hang out with my friends at the dorm or to explore Kobe, both with friends and by myself.</li> <li>• I had baito (part-time job) on saturdays, met up with friends on the weekdays and weekends, went to party or study together (at shirucafe for example). Went to festivals and conferences. Everything!</li> <li>• I had a baito (part-time job), I went out with friends to izakaya or karaoke.</li> <li>• Study, sightseeing, travel around Japan</li> <li>• In my free time I tried to organize some short trips, discover the Japanese culture. I have made some good friends among other exchange students with whom I could organize some extra activities</li> <li>• On the weekends a did several trips to famous cities in Japan like Kyoto, Osaka, Himeji, Hiroshima. I spent some evenings around Sannomiya.</li> <li>• Traveled through Japan (Kyoto, Osaka, Tokyo, Yakushima, Sapporo, Sendai, Okinawa) , do sports at the university gym, meet friends and have dinner together,</li> <li>• Study, travelling, hanging out with friends, wlaking around city</li> <li>• 日本のドラマを見たり、旅行をしたりした</li> <li>•家で勉強するか友たちと遊ぶ</li> </ul>
3-5	What do you think of Kobe city?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I enjoyed Kobe a lot. I liked the fact that it is not as touristy as Kyoto, for example. It is hard that very few people speak english. And that transportation is so expensive.</li> <li>• Kobe is very Safe, you can easily get around as women but have to take care if you want to go out dancing. There are many cultural events. The attitude towards foreigners is most of the times very welcoming. The location is very good. I loved the sea and the mountains.</li> <li>• The city has a great location and is really pretty.</li> <li>• Kobe is located in a very good position in the Kansai area, also to go to Osaka and Kyoto. I really like the city, for its landscapes and for its rich history.</li> <li>• In Kobe I have visited the main attractions. I lived on Port Island, which is a quiet place, with nice scenery from the shore.</li> <li>• Kobe is a very nice city to live in because it has a lot to offer for exchange students. Both, mountain side and sea side are very interesting places for day trips and the city centers itself in a nice place to be in the evening.</li> <li>• I really liked the atmosphere of Kobe, everyone I met here was really friendly. Also, the size of Kobe is perfect, since you know your way around quite easily. I really appreciated the facebook page of 'Kobe city', as they were displaying in english the events that took place in Kobe every weekend. Most of the flyers you see around here are only in Japanese, so that was a perfect way for us to get to know local events!</li> <li>• I felt very safe and comfortable in Kobe, mostly all the people I have met were friendly and helped me if I needed any help, the accomodation was good (Port Island) although the train was kind of expensive (no discount ticket for students)</li> <li>• Kobe is a great city for foreigners to live in.</li> <li>• The suidosuji shotengai was really nice and local, everybody was really enthusiastic. The local bars were also really nice.</li> <li>• おしゃれで落ち着いた感じ</li> <li>• 賑やかだが、混雑までではないちょうどよく住みやすい街だと思います。ただし坂が多すぎて、歩くのは大変です。大学周辺の治安は特に悪いと思うところはないですが、三宮商店街で携帯が盗まれた経験があったので、油断せずに気をつけた方がいいです。また、携帯などの契約をするときに、できれば日本人を連れて行くほうが絶対いいと思います。たとえ日本語が話せても、外国人だから店員に適当に扱われた例をちょいちょい聞きます。</li> </ul>

4. Housing/Food							
	Where did you live?	1. International Residence 52%	2. Kokui Residence 30%	3. Sumiyoshi International Student House 9%	4. Hakuo Dormitory (Fukae Area) 4%	5. Host family 0%	6. Apartment 4%
4-1	How were you satisfied with the housing you lived?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was kind of small but I had all the necessities I required</li> <li>• Very clean and good standard but to get out of the port island is very expensive with the public transport.</li> <li>• Getting used to the location of Sumiyoshi Dorm at first was hard, but once I learned how to easily access the campus by foot, daily life became easier.</li> <li>• Housing was okay. Unfortunately there is no vending machine in the dorm. But there is a good supermarket close to the residence where you can get everything you need.</li> <li>• 学校にも近くて、三宮にも近い。施設が完備されている。</li> <li>• 周辺の環境がいいし、駅まで歩&lt;5分以内だし、スーパーもコンビニも近くにありますが、24時間管理人がいるので、セキュリティも完璧です。ただ、電車がなくて、他の場所行くのに交通費がかかります。</li> </ul>					
4-2	How did you get your meals?	1. Cooking by yourself 48%	2. Buying prepared food by yourself 30%	3. Eating out 9%	4. Prepared by your housing/host family 4%		
4-3	Did you have any good experiences with your neighborhood and commute?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I had a really great experience with them, especially we decided to meet everynight for dinner and we shared foods from our own countries.</li> <li>• We had parties and good times in the common room eating together or playing games.</li> <li>• Living in the international residence was very nice. Because of the open study and common rooms in each floor it was easy to get in touch with other international students.</li> <li>•一緒に有馬温泉に行った</li> </ul>					

5. Cost							
5-1	Did you receive any scholarships?	1.Yes 96%	2.No 4%				
	Sponsor:	JASSO/ Home University					
5-2	Amount/month (JPY):	Avg: 78,000 Min: 36,000 Max: 80,000					
	How much did you spend for the following items? (JPY)	Airfare (round trip): Avg:122,000 Min:70,000 Max:240,000	Accommodation (per semester, including water, electricity, gas charges): Avg:155,000 Min:75,000 Max:385,000	Food (per semester): Avg:155,000 Min:70,000 Max:365,000	Transportation while in Japan (per semester): Avg:100,000 Min:11,000 Max:270,000	Insurance Fee (per semester): Avg:22,000 Min:5,000 Max:150,000	Mobile bill (Wi-Fi) (per semester): Avg:10,000 Min:2,500 Max:43,000
		Others: Travel/ Shopping/ Leisure Avg:125,000 Min:50,000 Max:300,000					
	Total (JPY:per semester) :	Avg:670,000 Min:370,000 Max:1,330,000					
5-3	Please add any comments/advice for prospective student about managing expenses while at KU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Food is expensive</li> <li>•It is not really an advice but be aware that Japand and especially traveling in Japan is really expensive.</li> <li>•Using an app to track expenses. Not to buy new things for the roon in ikea, better take from the storage room in the residences. Living without sim card is possible.</li> <li>•Plan money for the public transport!</li> <li>•Get a "permission for activities other than those authorized under the visa status" and find baito (part-time job)</li> <li>•When you are home it is better to cook every day otherwise you will spend a whole more.</li> <li>•Life in Japan is expensive, one needs to have sufficient funds to support it.</li> <li>•Vegetables &amp; fruits were expensive, so I usually cooked Japanese food.</li> <li>•I often had dinner at dining hall in University</li> <li>•歩ける距離なら歩くことです。</li> </ul>					

6. Conclusion						
6-1	Has study abroad changed the direction of your life in any way?	1.Strongly Agree 43%	2.Agree 43%	3.Not So Agree 9%	4.Disagree 0%	5.Not Sure 4%
	Please explain how it changed your direction of your life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•I don't think it made the difference from an academic point of view, but I can strongly say that it changed me personally. I got contacts with a completley different culture and this for sure had an impact on my past personality.</li> <li>•I learned about my own preferences, which help me in my further jobsearch.</li> <li>•It courages me to grow up my own business to solve social and environmental issues. My values also got stronger, especially concerning my eating behaviour.</li> <li>•To be more open-minded and autonomous.</li> <li>•Having had the possibility to study in Kobe, I would also like to do my ph.D in Japan and focus on my academic future here.</li> <li>•Became more selfsufficient, confident, and think about moving to Japan</li> <li>•I want to come back to Kobe after graduating</li> <li>•It changed my view on Asian countries and I would love to return to Japan after finishing my Master's programme.</li> <li>•I have gained more self-confidence in speaking Japanese.</li> <li>•I became more open and self confident especially in using other languages.</li> <li>•I made me become a lot more independent and responsible.</li> <li>•Became more open to new people, personally I learned a lot about myself and how to behave in a different environment</li> <li>•I now consider living in Japan in the future. Also a lot of positive changes in my personal life occurred.</li> <li>•視野が広がっている。将来日本に関わる仕事をしたいと思う</li> <li>•国の教育により、私は昔あんまり自分の意見を言わなかつたです。しかし、留学を通じて様々な国の学生を見たら、自分の意見を言うなんて普通に過ぎないことだと気づきました。今はどんどん気軽に発言できるようになりました。</li> </ul>				

We are looking forward to your application for our exchange program!!