

KOBE UNIVERSITY Exchange Program
Result of Completion Questionnaire, Fall 2023



※The percentage may not always add up to 100 due to rounding the decimal places.

1. Helpful Reference Prior to Departure	
Daily Life (Food, Clothes, Housing, Health, Public Transportation etc.)	• I found that the cost of fresh products is higher than in my country, while the dormitory rent is cheaper, and the transportation costs are more or less the same for me.
Procedures (VISA, Residing, National Insurance, Bank etc.)	• The most complicated procedure was opening a Japanese bank account in Japan. Everything else was clearly explained in the pdf given from the University or in the websites.
Student Life (Academic Procedure, Course, Research, Scholarship etc.)	• Guidebook for International Students KOBE UNIVERSITY • My only complain is that the window to register for courses is really narrow, only two weeks if I am not mistaken. It was difficult for me to decide which courses to follow on top of trying to acclimate to the new environment. So I think that I missed some opportunities.
Tourist Information	• Some locations I studied at my home university, but the majority of the information I looked up online
Others	---

2. Academics/Courses [Regular Courses]						
Have you achieved the purpose of your study on the exchange program?	1.Strongly Agree 0%	2.Agree 100%	3.Not So Agree 0%	4.Disagree 0%	5.Not Sure 0%	6. No answers 0%
Please explain what your purpose was.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wanted to improve my Japanese skills and do research on takigi noh. • My purposes are to read more Japanese paper of my major(urban planning) and to learn how to utilize GIS software better. • I wanted to deepen my knowledge of the Japanese language and culture, not only in class but also in real life. I think that I accomplished it. • Further my knowledge in the field of electrical engineering. • 言語学（特に音韻論）と京都方言に対する知識を深めることが目当てでした。 					
If you have any additional comments about the academic aspect of the courses, please describe them.	---					

[Japanese Language Courses at the Global Education Center (GEC)]						
Did you take language courses at the GEC?	1.Yes 80%	2.No 20%				
Which level of courses mainly did you take?	1.Elementary 0%	2.Upper Elementary 20%	3.Intermediate 0%	4.Upper Intermediate 60%	5.Advanced 0%	6. Superior 0%
	7.Japanese Language/ Japanese Studies 0%	8. Intensive intermediate & Upper Intermediate 0%	8.No Answers 20%			
How difficult were courses?	1.Too difficult 6%	2.difficult 6%	3.Adequate 63%	4.Easy 20%	5.Too easy 0%	6 No answers 25%
If you have any experiences of feeling difficulties / easiness in Japanese Language Courses, please describe them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GEC program is really good but the difference of level is difficult. For instance, Intermediate Japanese level was a bit easy for me and the Upper Intermediate level was too difficult, which made me having a hard time succeeding those classes. I was always stressed about the exams and getting a good grade because I was depending on the JASSO scholarship. So I did my best. In addition, the intensive intermediate program has the same level as the regular Upper Intermediate level. So it was a bit odd because I have an intermediate level in France and here, it was much more difficult. 					
Do you think you have improved your Japanese language ability?	1.Strongly Agree 20%	2.Agree 60%	3.Not So Agree 0%	4.Disagree 0%	5.Not Sure 0%	6 No answers 20%
Please explain how it has improved or what kind of specific ability improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I became able to understand kansai-ben to an extent. Furthermore, I am now more self-conscious on my Japanese skills in speaking, reading and translating. • In Japanese language courses, I have opportunity to talk to classmate in Japanese, which improve my conversation skill a lot. Meanwhile, I never wrote script in Japanese before, but in the course, I practice writing which make my grammar and word more accurate. • I feel that I can speak Japanese more freely and that I learned more advanced expressions useful in the daily life and in particular occasions. I think that the most useful course, however, was the written production one. I learned a lot about Japanese language in essay and reports • My Japanese became more "useful" for everyday life including university then before. 					
If you have any additional comments about the academic aspect of the courses, please describe them.	---					

3. Social and Cultural Experience						
Did you have to make any cultural and social adjustments when you started to live in Japan?	1.Yes 40%	2.No 60%				
If yes, please comment your experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most important difference was how difficult doing everything felt for the first month. Part of the reason is that outside of the university, not a lot of people speak English, and it was difficult to adjust and try to set up the necessary things, like transportation pass or insurance, or paying the rent. 土足では室内に入ってはいけないことと、左側通行。 					
If you have any good experiences or difficulties with Japanese friends, please describe them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I join a サークル. In the サークル, I talk with Japanese student face to face twice a month which makes me know more about Japanese culture. I tried to participate in club activities and while the students was very kind and welcoming, the interaction was difficult, because my Japanese is not well enough to speak fluently and they spoke only Japanese (a bit strange for university students, in my opinion, but ok, I survived). 					
Were you involved in extracurricular activities?	1.Yes 60%	2.No 40%				
What kind of activities was it?	1.Sport Club 40%	2.Culture club 20%	3.Volunteer 0%	4.Internship 0%	5.Work activities 0%	6. Others 20%
	7. No answers 20%					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I helped other exchange students regarding translating and grammatical issues on the Japanese language But I went only like one or two times. 					
How did you know about it?	1.Kobe University Website 20%	2.SNS (Facebook, X, Instagram etc.) 0%	3.Advertisement (Poster or Flyer) 0%	4.Japanese Students 0%	5.International Students 40%	6.Proffesors 20%
	7. Others 0%	8. No answers 20%				
Did you feel satisfied with your activities?	1.Fully satisfied 40%	2.Satisfied 40%	3.Not So Satisfied 0%	4.Not Satisfied at all 0%	5. No answers 20%	
Please explain details of your activity or your experiences through the activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I join a sport club. I went to there and chat with friends three times a month. The Japanese students in the club are very kind and feel free to talk. I went to the cultural club, after having participated to the workshop during the International Hour organized by the faculty. It was fun, but I was left basically to my own account. 					
What did you do during your free time, at night and on the weekends? Please explain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read scientific papers, novels and manga. Watch terebi drama to get a better understanding of the Japanese language and its sounds. Travelled to Osaka, Nara, Kyoto many times. Translated noh plays such as "Tomoe" and "Hashi Benkei". Went to cafés and had long talks with friends. I go to club in Kobe University or go to the museum in KOBE. And sometime I have a long trip with my friends. I met with international friends, studied, visited cities near Kobe (Kyoto, Osaka, Nara, ecc.) and further away (Tokyo, Kamakura), explored Kobe and other smaller cities, met with friend from the same home university, went to the cinema, to karaoke. I traveled to see the country. Beautiful views relaxed me from the busy of study. 基本的に寮で研究したり、ゲームしたりしていました。また月に一回ぐらい京都や奈良などの周辺地域に旅行しに行きました。 					
Please add any comments about Kobe city (safety, cultural events, attitudes toward foreigners, location, etc.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kobe may be a smaller city than Osaka, but it is more beautiful in my opinion. It is a safe city and there are many different landscapes to see. If you take the time to travel to Suma, you will see the beautiful sea and there are some nice shrines and temples as well. Many Japanese people seem to be costume to foreigners here, so there were no problems. I think the location of KOBE is very well. You can go to OSAKA or KYOTO easily. And also, I love KOBE jazz a lot, sometimes I go to the club to listen jazz live. I am happy to have chosen Kobe for my exchange, because it is in a central position without be expensive like Kyoto or Osaka. It is very well linked to the other major cities by train or bus, so it was really easy to organize one-day visit to other cities. Kobe is a very safe and international city. Views in the mountains are beautiful. Position is convenient for accessing the most part of Kansai region. 自然環境がよくて、海からも近くて、住み心地よいと思います。 					

4. Housing/Food						
Where did you live?	1.International Residence 40%	2.Kokui Residence 0%	3.Sumiyoshi International Student House 40%	4.Sumiyoshi Residence (men's dormitory) 0%	5.Women's dormitory 0%	6.International House (Fukae Area) 0%
	7.Hakuo Dormitory (Fukae Area) 20%	8.Host family 0%	9.Apartment 0%	10.Others 0%		
How sufficient was your housing?	1.Fully Sufficient 20%	2.Sufficient 80%	3.Not Sufficient enough 0%	4.Insufficient 0%		
Please explain why.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biggest flaw of the dormitory are the old mattresses. Furthermore, exchange students on other floors did not seem to understand they were troubling Japanese students as well as other exchange students while studying or in the nighttime. This may lead to an overall negative image of the exchange students as a whole. • Almost everything I need is prepared by the student house(like ih furnace, air conditioner, etc). And what's more, the price of Sumiyoshi International Student House is not so expensive, so there is nothing have to explain. • I have a single room with kitchen and bathroom. The supermarkets are near and so is the station. But it is expencive to commute, because you can't go by foot, you HAVE to take at least the Portliner. • 全体的にいいと思います。 					
How did you get your meals?	1.Cooking by yourself 80%	2.Buying prepared food by yourself 0%	3.Eating out 20%	4.Prepared by your housing/host family 0%	5.Others 0%	
Did you have contact with your neighborhood and commute?	1.Very often 0%	2.Sometimes 60%	3.A little 0%	4.Rarely 40%		
What kind of people were almost of them?	1.International Students 80%	2.Japanese Students 0%	3.General People 20%	4.Others 0%	5.No Answers 0%	
If you have any good experiences or difficulties with your neighborhood and commute, please describe them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many elderly were eager to help. • To be honest, I almost didn't have any contact with my neighborhood, so I have nothing to say. • It was good, but I didn't really make so much contact. After a day at the University, I need to be alone in a quite place to recharge and relax. I met with my friends at the university or in the city. 					

5. Cost						
Did you receive any scholarships?	1.Yes 60%	2.No 40%				
Sponsor:	Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), Kobe University Fund					
Amount/month:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAAD = JPY240,000- • Kobe Unviersity Fund = JPY50,000- 					
Do you think that the scholarship you received was sufficiently helpful for your program?	1.Fully Sufficient 33%	2.Sufficient 67%	3.Not Sufficient enough 0%	4.Insufficient 0%		
How much did you spend for the following items?	Airfare (round trip): = Asia = about JPY 40,000 = Europe = JPY120,000 ~ 257,000	Accommodation (per month, including water, electricity, gas charges): JPY 8,600 ~ 33,000	Food (per month): JPY 15,000 ~ 90,000	Transportation while in Japan (per month): JPY 10,000 ~ 20,000	Insurance Fee (per month): JPY 24,000 ~ 100,000	Mobile bill (Wi-Fi) (per month): JPY 2,000 ~ 4,000
* These amount was easy to effect by the duration of stay or the exchange rate.	Total:	<1semester> JPY 190,000 ~ JPY 800,000				
Please add any comments/advice for prospective student about managing expenses while at KU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I bought most of my meals and ingredients in the local supermarket. If one would like to go out and eat at a restaurant, the monthly payment for Food will be much higher. Furthermore, the conbini is much more expensive than most supermarkets as well, so have an eye on it, if you live on a budget. • I think it is a good chance to learn how to cook by yourself which will also reduce the cost on food. Because If you eat out in japan, it's a little expensive. • If you can walk to the university, walk. The canteen is good and cheaper that makint lunch and dinner every day. If you need to take bus/train (or you live in Port Island), invest in a commuter pass if you go to the university 4/5 times per week. 					

6. Additional Comments					
Has study abroad changed the direction of your life in any way?	1.Strongly Agree 0%	2.Agree 40%	3.Not So Agree 20%	4.Disagree 0%	5.Not Sure 40%
Please explain how it changed your direction of your life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I became more self-confident and learned a lot about myself, accepting help and mental health. Furthermore, I was able to deepen my interest in premodern Japanese culture as well as in modern popular culture. • I think that this experience helped me to understand better or in new ways what I studied until now. But maybe the strongest impact is on myself, because I understand better myself. • 私は日本語学と言語学の研究をしてまして、神戸での生活のおかげで、関西方言についてよりよく知るようになり、自分の研究に有益だと思えます。 				