



# Application Guidebook

2026

KANSAI MEDICAL UNIVERSITY



# International Postgraduate Program Application Guidelines

## Doctoral Program in Medicine, Graduate School of Medicine, Kansai Medical University

### 1 Purpose and objectives of the International Postgraduate Program

The Doctoral Program in Medicine at the Kansai Medical University (KMU) Graduate School of Medicine started the International Postgraduate Program (IPP) in Autumn 2022 with the aim of fostering leaders able to contribute to medicine and healthcare in various countries and regions including Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe by accepting outstanding international students recommended from partner universities. International graduate students enrolled in this program will not only conduct their own research activities, but also be able to actively participate in a range of cultural and community activities, broadening their knowledge further.

After completing the program, the international graduate students are expected to return to their home countries and contribute to their home countries in the field of highly advanced medicine and healthcare as alumni of our graduate school. They are also expected to contribute directly or indirectly to the improvement of relations between Japan and other countries through various activities not limited to the field of medicine and medical care.

### 2 Educational mission

The Doctoral Program in Medicine at the Kansai Medical University Graduate School of Medicine is designed to provide students with the advanced research skills necessary to become independent medical researchers who can engage in international research activities, and to cultivate their robust academic knowledge and humanity suitable for leadership positions by studying and researching the basic theories of basic life sciences regarding medicine and their application to advanced medical treatment in a highly specialized research field integrating basic, social, and clinical medicine.

- (1) Promotion of medical research: To create a world-class research center to explore the truth of life phenomena and produce world-class medical research results.
- (2) Nurturing medical researchers: To nurture outstanding medical researchers who can conduct original research activities from international perspectives, have ability to guide future generations, and possess rich humanity and broad academic knowledge.
- (3) Cultivation of highly specialized medical professionals: To cultivate medical leaders who have acquired advanced and specialized medical knowledge and skills, and who have the ability to develop clinical research rooted in medical treatment.
- (4) Contribution to society: To apply the results of basic, social, and clinical medical research to healthcare, to contribute to the improvement of human health and welfare, and to use the results as intellectual property to return to society at large.

### 3 Admission Policy, Curriculum Policy, and Diploma Policy

#### Admission Policy

The Graduate School of Medicine admits applicants who;

1. are passionate about creating world-class medical research results.
2. are motivated to work as excellent medical researchers and aspire to pioneering research activities.
3. are motivated to play an active role in the medical field as a leading medical professional.
4. are determined to contribute to the improvement of human health and welfare by applying the results of medical research.

#### Curriculum Policy

1. The program consists of research work in which students receive individual research guidance in each research field, as well as coursework in which students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for medical research in a wide range of fields beyond the boundaries of each research field.
2. In the coursework, in addition to learning the essential knowledge for conducting medical research in the common courses, students participate in one of the required elective courses to broaden their perspectives through regular course meetings and retreats (research camps), and receive guidance for research presentations.
3. In the third year, each required elective course holds a graduate student midterm presentation meeting, and students receive checks and guidance from course faculty members toward their degrees.
4. Students will attend lectures by prominent researchers from Japan and abroad in special seminars and graduate school lecture series.
5. To take full advantage of KMU's well-equipped joint research facilities, students attend workshops on their use and lectures in the Research Techniques Series.

#### Diploma Policy

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Medicine will be conferred to those who successfully complete the Doctoral Program in Medicine at the Kansai Medical University Graduate School of Medicine and are recognized as having met all of the following educational goals.

1. Acquire advanced information gathering and analysis skills, and the ability to interpret data based on a scientific attitude.
2. Acquire a wide range of academic knowledge in medicine and a high level of ethics.
3. Acquire the specialized knowledge and research skills necessary to conduct independent research in one's field of specialty.
4. Acquire the capacity to publish research results and disseminate information globally.

### 4 Degree conferred

Doctor of Philosophy in Medicine (PhD)

## 5 Scholarships

The following two types of scholarships will be called for

- MEXT-SCHOLARSHIP (Japanese Government Scholarships - UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATION) ;

Japanese Government-sponsored international students, through “a special program that provides priority placement for government-sponsored international students (research students)”.

- KMU-SCHOLARSHIP ;

Privately funded students who receive a scholarship from the Graduate School of Medicine, Kansai Medical University.

## 6 Number of students to be accepted

MEXT-SCHOLARSHIP (UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATION): 3

KMU-SCHOLARSHIP: 5

## 7 Enrollment date

September 1, 2026

## 8 Details of the International Postgraduate Program

(1) The programs listed in the table below will be implemented, and will be conducted in Japanese and English.

(2) International graduate students will be provided with the opportunity to study Japanese in the first through third years of their IPPcourse.

	Course work				Research work					
	Common course		Required elective course	IPP course*	Lecture	Seminar	Experiments /Practicum	Research /Dissertation advisorship		
	Lecture Series	Research Techniques Series								
Year 1	1 credit	1 credit	0.5 credits	1 credit	4 credits or more	2 credits or more	16 credits or more	4 credits or more		
Year 2				0.5 credit						
Year 3	(Completed in principle)	(Completed in principle)		1 credit	(Completed in principle)			(Further credits can be reported in year 4)		
Year 4		(Completed in principle)	(Completed in principle)							
Subtotal	2 credits			0.5 credits	1.5 credit or more	4 credits or more	2 credits or more	16 credits or more		
Total	30 credits or more									

\*In years 1 and 2, students are required to take Japanese language courses in the course titled “IPP course.” Students may choose to continue their Japanese language studies in their third year if desired.

## 9 Completion requirements for conferment of the degree.

(1) In principle, students must be enrolled in the Graduate School of Medicine for four years or more, earn 30 credits in prescribed class subjects, receive necessary research guidance, and pass the dissertation review and final examination.

(2) The period of enrollment may be changed to three years for those who have achieved outstanding research results and meet the prescribed requirements.

## 10 Inquiries

Office of Graduate School of Medicine, Kansai Medical University

2-5-1 Shinmachi, Hirakata-shi, Osaka, Japan 573-1010

E-mail: gradumed@hirakata.kmu.ac.jp

**MEXT-SCHOLARSHIP**  
**(Japanese Government Scholarships-UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATION)**  
**Application requirements**

**1** Entrance examination eligibility

Applicants must meet the following requirements (1) or (2), and (3) through (9). \*MEXT may change these requirements.

- (1) Applicants must have completed 18 years of academic education in a foreign country. However, if the last course is a six-year course, less than 18 years is acceptable.
- (2) Academic education in a foreign country as described above, including those who have completed a course of five years or more in the final course of study, awarded by a foreign school that has received an evaluation by a person certified by the government or a related organization of the foreign country, or a course separately designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) as equivalent to this evaluation.
- (3) As a general rule, applicants must have been born on or after April 2, 1991. Exceptions to this age requirement are limited to cases where MEXT determines that the applicant was unable to apply at the time of eligibility due to the system or circumstances of the country of nationality (mandatory military service, loss of educational opportunities due to war, etc.). No personal circumstances will be accepted.
- (4) Applicants must meet one of the following requirements for proficiency in either the Japanese or English languages.

● **Japanese Language**

- i) Applicants who have passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) level N2 or higher by the admission.
- ii) Applicants who have completed an educational course that satisfies the qualifications for admission to a master's or doctoral course at a Japanese graduate school with Japanese as the primary language.
- iii) Applicants whom KMU judges have Japanese language skills equivalent to or higher than those required.

● **English Language**

- i) Applicants must have a score equivalent to or higher than B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) in English.
- ii) Applicants who have completed an educational course that satisfies the qualifications for admission to a master's or doctoral course in Japan, with English as the primary language.
- iii) Applicants whom KMU judges have English language skills equivalent to or higher than those required.

- (5) Applicants must be nationals of one of the following countries and newly arrive from abroad to study in Japan.

Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos

- (6) Applicants whose status of residence is "Student" at the time of admission to KMU. According to MEXT visa requirement, applicants shall, in principle, newly obtain a "Student" visa at the Japanese diplomatic mission located in the applicant's country of nationality, and enter Japan with the residence status of "Student."
- (7) Applicants must be able to guarantee that they will be admitted to KMU if they pass the screening exam.
- (8) As a general rule, applicants must be able to travel to Japan during the two-week period specified by KMU, counting from the date of admission (September 1, 2026).
- (9) Applicants must meet the conditions specified in the "Application Guidelines: Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships."

**2** Examination schedule (based on Japan Standard Time)

Application period for admission	January 2026
Date of examination	February 2026 (Date and time to be arranged separately)
Announcement exam pass results	Late February 2026

KMU will recommend the successful applicants to MEXT with the necessary documents. MEXT will review the documents, and determine the recipients of the scholarship.

### 3 Application procedures

#### (1)Submission

E-mail a complete set of application documents in PDF format to the Office of the Graduate School of Medicine.

(Email to [gradumed@hirakata.kmu.ac.jp](mailto:gradumed@hirakata.kmu.ac.jp) Subject: IPP - Application Documents Submission)

#### (2)The List of application documents

No.	Required documents	Mandatory	Note
1	Application form (Form A-1, A-2)	*	<p>Fill out the dedicated form. On the back side of the application form, please fill in your personal history from the time you entered high school to the present without omissions, according to the year.</p> <p>Submit it in two ways below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The original data of the form in MS Excel</li> <li>• The PDF of the form with your handwritten signature</li> </ul> <p>*MEXT-SCHOLARSHIP applicants must complete another application form prescribed by MEXT. Further information will be provided by the Office of the Graduate School of Medicine.</p>
2	Passport	*	A copy of the photo page
3	Field of Study and Research Plan (Form B)	*	Fill out the dedicated form.
4	Statement of purposes for application	*	<p>Write an essay of 800-1200 words in Japanese or 500-750 words in English (A4 size). The essay should cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational background (Mention your degree or specialization)</li> <li>• Why do you wish to apply to KMU's program? (Mention the research you wish to carry out and its reason.)</li> <li>• What is your future plan after graduation? (Mention your ultimate goals of your research in our university, future career plan, dream, and aspiration.)</li> </ul>
5	Certificate of language exam score	*	<p>Submit (1) or (2) below. The result must be issued within two years prior to the date of application.</p> <p>(1) The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) level N2 or higher (2) Scores of qualifications or examinations equivalent to B2 or higher of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)</p> <p>*If you are unable to submit the scores by the application deadline due to the language exam date, please contact the Office immediately.</p>
6	Recommendation letter	*	A letter of recommendation written in English by President and/or the dean (or equivalent) of the graduate school of your university. Address to the President of Kansai Medical University. Format at applicant's discretion.
7	Photograph	*	<p>Must have been taken within the last three months, and the dimension of the face is measured from the top of your head (including your hair) to the tip of your chin. The applicant must face the camera and cannot wear a hat.</p> <p>Length 4cm x width 3cm. On the back, write your name and the name of the university, institution, etc. in which you are enrolled. Attach it to the designated section of the above application form.</p> <p>Refer to the following URL for more details. <a href="https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/photo_info_00002.html">https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/photo_info_00002.html</a></p>
8	Graduation certificate	*	
9	Certificate of completion		Applicants who have completed a doctoral or master's program should submit this form.
10	Transcripts	*	<p>Transcripts of final education. To be eligible for the IPP, applicants need to have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.3 or higher.</p> <p>(Note)</p> <p>*1. For the calculation of your GPA for the MEXT scholarship, please refer to the calculation formula and requirements of MEXT; <a href="https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/ryugaku/boshu/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2017/12/07/1399198_4_1.pdf">https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/ryugaku/boshu/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2017/12/07/1399198_4_1.pdf</a> (in Japanese only)</p> <p>*2. If the GPA cannot be calculated, the application will be accepted only if the recommendation letter clearly states that the applicant's academic ranking at the university or faculty of the university, or at the graduate school or department of the graduate school is within the top 30%.</p>
11	Copy of medical license		Submit it if you are licensed.
12	Documents proving clinical experience		Applicants with clinical experience should submit these documents.
13	Abstract of your thesis of your previous course		Submit an abstract of thesis or paper.
14	Copy of your thesis		Several major items

#### 4 Selection

Documents screening and online interview

(30 minutes per person for the online interview: interview should be based on statement of purposes for application and other topics related to application documents)

#### 5 Research field

To be selected from among the Research Fields offered in the Doctoral Program, and to be determined after interviewing with the supervising professor in advance. (For details, please refer to the research fields.)

#### 6 Financial support (maximum, 4 years of the standard study period (September 2026-August 2030))

(1) Transportation to Japan: MEXT will stipulate the travel schedule and route, and provide an economy class airline ticket from the international airport nearest to the international student's residence to the international airport used by the university as the normal route in Japan.

(2) Transportation from Japan: Based on the application by the grantee, MEXT will provide an airline ticket by the end of the final month of the period of scholarship designated by MEXT. MEXT shall provide an economy class airline ticket from the international airport in Japan used for the normal route to and from the university to the international airport (in principle, in the country of nationality) nearest to the grantee's residence.

If the student returns home country before the end of the scholarship period due to personal circumstances, MEXT will not pay for the returning travel expenses. If the student continues to stay in Japan after the scholarship period, travel expenses for a temporary return will also not be paid.

(3) Domestic transportation from the airport in Japan to KMU (train, limousine bus from the airport, etc.)

(4) Application fee, admission fee, and tuition fee

(5) Dormitory fees (Kansai Medical University International Student Dormitory)

\* Please note that the KMU dormitory for students is designated for single only. Couples or families are not permitted to move in together.

(6) Scholarship (148,000 yen/month). (However, the amount is subject to change.)

(7) Other expenses as deemed necessary by Kansai Medical University (TBD)

\* In the event that a student is unable to complete the course of study within the standard period of four years, the student will be required to pay the tuition for the fifth and subsequent years.

#### 7 Other conditions

(1) If the GPA at any point in the year falls below 2.30 at KMU, the student will lose eligibility for the MEXT-SCHOLARSHIP (UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATION).

(2) The "Application Guidelines: Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarships" set forth by the MEXT, the granting agency of the MEXT-SCHOLARSHIP (UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATION), has established provisions regarding personal information. This program is envisioned to be used for international student projects implemented by the Japanese government (employment support, support during study abroad, follow-up, and improvement of the international student system) and for public relations to promote the acceptance of international students. These matters are included in the Pledge stipulating rules and regulations which MEXT Scholarship students must comply with and submit when they have been granted the scholarship

(3) While studying in Japan, as human resources who will contribute to the internationalization of Japan, applicants will contribute to mutual understanding between your home country and Japan by participating in a wide range of local school and community activities, and after graduation, applicants will maintain close ties with the university where they studied, cooperate in surveys and other activities after graduation, and after returning to your home country, cooperate in various projects conducted by diplomatic missions abroad, etc. to promote ties between their country and Japan.

# KMU-SCHOLARSHIP

## Application Requirements

### 1 Entrance examination eligibility

Applicants must meet the following requirements (1) or (2), and (3) through (5).

- (1) Applicants must have completed 18 years of academic education (the last course being medicine) in a foreign country. However, if the last course is a six-year course, less than 18 years is acceptable.
- (2) Academic education in a foreign country as described above, including those who have completed a course of five years or more in the final course of study, awarded by a foreign school that has received an evaluation by a person certified by the government or a related organization of the foreign country, or a course separately designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) as equivalent to this evaluation.
- (3) Applicants must have been recommended by the president or dean of the partner university or embassy of the applicant's country, and have graduated from a medical school (Bachelor of Medicine). Those with a medical license are preferred.
- (4) Applicants whose status of residence is "Student" at the time of admission to KMU.
- (5) Applicants must be able to guarantee that they will matriculate to the Doctoral Program of the Graduate School of Medicine, Kansai Medical University if they pass the screening exam.

### 2 Examination schedule (based on Japan Standard Time)

Application period for admission	End of March 2026
Date of examination	Around April 2026 (Date and time to be arranged separately)
Announcement exam pass results	Mid-May 2026

### 3 Application procedures

#### (1) Submission

E-mail a complete set of application documents in PDF format to the Office of the Graduate School of Medicine.

(Email to [gradumed@hirakata.kmu.ac.jp](mailto:gradumed@hirakata.kmu.ac.jp) Subject: IPP - Application Documents Submission)

#### (2) The List of application documents

No.	Required documents	Mandatory	Note
1	Application form (Form A-1, A-2)	*	Fill out the dedicated form. On the back side of the application form, please fill in your personal history from the time you entered high school to the present without omissions, according to the year. Submit it in two ways below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The original data of the form in MS Excel</li><li>• The PDF of the form with your handwritten signature</li></ul>
2	Passport	*	A copy of the photo page
3	Field of Study and Research Plan (Form B)	*	Fill out the dedicated form.
4	Statement of purposes for application	*	Write an essay of 800-1200 words in Japanese or 500-750 words in English (A4 size). The essay should cover the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educational background (Mention your degree or specialization)</li><li>• Why do you wish to apply to KMU's program? (Mention the research you wish to carry out and its reason.)</li><li>• What is your future plan after graduation? (Mention your ultimate goals of your research in our university, future career plan, dream, and aspiration.)</li></ul>
5	Certificate of language exam score	*	Submit (1) or (2) below. The result must be issued within two years prior to the date of application. (1) The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) level N2 or higher (2) Scores of qualifications or examinations equivalent to B2 or higher of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) *If you are unable to submit the scores by the application deadline due to the language exam date, please contact the Office immediately.
6	Recommendation letter	*	A letter of recommendation written in English by President and/or the dean (or equivalent) of the graduate school of your university. Address to the President of Kansai Medical University. Format at applicant's discretion.

7	Photograph	*	Must have been taken within the last three months, and the dimension of the face is measured from the top of your head (including your hair) to the tip of your chin. The applicant must face the camera and cannot wear a hat. Length 4cm x width 3cm. On the back, write your name and the name of the university, institution, etc. in which you are enrolled. Attach it to the designated section of the above application form. Refer to the following URL for more details. <a href="https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/photo_info_00002.html">https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/photo_info_00002.html</a>
8	Graduation certificate	*	
9	Certificate of completion		Applicants who have completed a doctoral or master's program should submit this form.
10	Transcripts	*	Transcripts of final education. To be eligible for the IPP, applicants need to have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.3 or higher. (Note) *1. For the calculation of your GPA for the MEXT scholarship, please refer to the calculation formula and requirements of MEXT; <a href="https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/ryugaku/boshu/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2017/12/07/1399198_4_1.pdf">https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/ryugaku/boshu/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2017/12/07/1399198_4_1.pdf</a> (in Japanese only) *2. If the GPA cannot be calculated, the application will be accepted only if the recommendation letter clearly states that the applicant's academic ranking at the university or faculty of the university, or at the graduate school or department of the graduate school is within the top 30%.
11	Copy of medical license		Submit it if you are licensed.
12	Documents proving clinical experience		Applicants with clinical experience should submit these documents.
13	Abstract of your thesis of your previous course		Submit an abstract of thesis or paper.
14	Copy of your thesis		Several major items

#### 4 Selection

Documents screening and online interview

(30 minutes per person for the online interview: interview should be based on the statement of purposes for application and other topics related to application documents)

#### 5 Research field

To be selected from among the Research Fields offered in the Doctoral Program, and to be determined after interviewing with the supervising professor in advance. (Please see the details of the research fields)

#### 6 Financial support, etc. (maximum, 4 years of the standard study period (September 2026 - August 2030))

(1) Round trip airfare from the country of origin to Japan (economy class)

\*Airfare at the time of enrollment and at the time of returning from Japan upon completion of the program

(2) Domestic transportation from the airport in Japan to KMU (train, limousine bus from the airport, etc.)

(3) Application fee, admission fee, and tuition fee

(4) Dormitory fees (Kansai Medical University International Student Dormitory)

\*Please note that the KMU dormitory for students is designated for single only. Couples or families are not permitted to move in together.

(5) Scholarship (150,000 yen/month)

(6) Other expenses as deemed necessary by KMU.

\*In the event that a student is unable to complete the course of study within the standard period of four years, the student will be required to pay the tuition for the fifth and subsequent years, and airfare at the time of returning from Japan upon completion of/withdrawal from the program.

#### 7 Other conditions

(1) Graduates must promptly return to their home country as soon as possible after completing the International Postgraduate Program, and contribute to their home country in the field of highly specialized medicine and medical care as an alumnus of the graduate school of Kansai Medical University.

(2) Graduates must cooperate with activities required by Kansai Medical University, such as post-graduation surveys, as necessary.



MEMO

Kansai Medical University is selected by the Immigration Services Agency of Japan, as a “zaisekikanriyousyukou(在籍管理優良校)”, which is a recognition for managing the enrollment of international students appropriately.

Please find below for more details:

[https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/nyuukokukanri07\\_00024.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/nyuukokukanri07_00024.html)

#### Contact and Inquiries

Office of Graduate School of Medicine, Kansai Medical University  
2-5-1 Shinmachi, Hirakata-shi, Osaka, Japan 573-1010  
E-mail: [gradumed@hirakata.kmu.ac.jp](mailto:gradumed@hirakata.kmu.ac.jp)



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