Undergraduate

KUPES undergraduates study abroad as exchange students in the latter half of the third year. Equipped with foreign language skills as well as with basic knowledge about European society, politics, and economies, they are expected to gain experience through participation in extra-curricular activities such as internships and fieldwork. Study-abroad experience during undergraduate studies enables them to expand their network with students from all over the world and pave the way to their future.

Double Master’s Degree (DD)

The Double Master’s Degree (DD) scheme is for master’s students to obtain two master’s degrees from a European partner university and Kobe University, by studying at the former for at least one year while enrolled at the latter. As this type of study abroad differs from usual student exchange, KUPES students are required to submit their dissertations at both universities based on interdisciplinary and comparative approaches. Upon fulfilling all course requirements and completing two dissertations, they are awarded two master’s degrees.

This qualification allows students to engage in diverse professional activities both in Japan and abroad with their high level of language proficiency and outstanding overseas experience. Some may go on to pursue doctoral degrees and others have the chance to work in international public organisations or industry. As the EU’s influence is not limited to member states but impacts the world, no matter where KUPES postgraduates work - academia, government agencies, NPOs/NGOs, or the private sector, they are expected to be global leaders who contribute to the betterment of the world, since they possess a deep knowledge of the EU, capabilities, mental toughness and a broad international network.
**Overview**

Kobe University Programme for European Studies (KUPES) is an interdepartmental framework to provide an integrated five-year curriculum for students from 2nd year undergraduate to postgraduate (master's) level, fostering an interdisciplinary understanding of the EU and Europe. KUPES students major in Intercultural Studies, Global Human Sciences, Law or Economics while acquiring specialised knowledge of the EU. They are trained to analyse and research European issues from different angles and are encouraged to critically examine international trends from a comparative perspective. In today’s world, a global perspective and experience are musts, regardless of your path after graduation. KUPES students are expected to obtain high language competency and global understanding through this unique programme.

**Educational Goals**

**Students will be able to:**

- Develop insights into trends in the EU and Europe and its influence in the global community, including Japan
- Analyse and research the structure and challenges faced by the EU from an interdisciplinary perspective, including sociocultural studies, law, politics, and economics
- Foster a deep understanding of different cultures and contribute to strengthening connections with people in European countries by mastering English and one of the other official languages of the EU.

---

**KUPES Curriculum**

**EU-Japan Comparative Seminar**

This compulsory course helps students explore various issues in the EU and Japan from a comparative perspective. Through interactions with international classmates as well as European instructors from the Faculties of Intercultural Studies, Global Human Sciences, Law, and Economics, KUPES students gain strong communication skills in their academic field and prepare for their studies abroad.

**Aspects of EU**

*Culture and Society / Law and Politics / Economics*

This course offers lectures and seminars in English exploring the Culture and Society, Law and Politics, and Economics of the EU. Through obtaining expertise in their field as well as having discussions and delivering presentations, KUPES students deepen their knowledge of each field of the EU.

**Special Lectures by visiting lecturers**

Visiting lecturers from European universities provide several lectures throughout the year. These are important opportunities for KUPES students to familiarise themselves with European-style seminars before studying abroad and gain new insights into Europe.

**EU Fieldwork Course**

This is an extramural study course for the 2nd year undergraduates of KUPES to set their research theme and research questions, with the theme of EU-Japan comparison. In the spring, they travel to Europe as a group to interview experts or to give presentations with students in partner universities.

**Academic Communication/Writing**

*(German/French)*

Students have regular opportunities to enhance their academic communication and writing skills in German or French, which encourages them not only to actively participate in class, but also to take seminars in French or German speaking countries.

**Academic Language Intensive Courses**

*(English/German/French)*

During the summer and spring vacations, students participate in the EU Study Camp and also take academic language intensive courses. These courses help them develop their academic skills and broaden their knowledge of the EU, making their studies abroad successful.

---

**Outline of KUPES five-year programme**

**Curriculum Structure**

**Undergraduate Programme**

- EU-Japan Comparative Seminar I
- EU-Japan Comparative Seminar II
- Aspects of EU (Seminar)
- EU related courses of own faculty/graduate school
- EU Fieldwork Course
- Study abroad exchange students
- Special Lectures by visiting lecturers

**Graduate Programme**

- EU-Japan Comparative Seminar (Advanced)
- Aspects of EU (Advanced lecture)
- EU related courses of own faculty/graduate school
- Study abroad exchange master's degrees

---

**Integrated and structured curriculum**