

Letters/Humanities

Faculty of Letters

The Faculty of Letters explores the different fields of the humanities. In recent years, the world is undergoing significant changes due to globalization and the IT revolution. However, it is during times like this when the Faculty must stand by its main objective of "humanities" to ceaselessly explore the fundamentals of humans and to be engaged in the creation of new values.

The Faculty has one department (Department of Humanities) consisting of five principal research divisions, which are further divided into fifteen areas. During the first year of the undergraduate course, students take a wide variety of introductory classes. Then they move on to study their major subjects. There is an outstanding student-to-teacher ratio at the Faculty; the number of students in each undergraduate level is approximately 120, and 60 faculty members are assigned to teach them.

Graduate School of Humanities

The five-year curriculum (two years for Master's and 3 years for Doctoral) of the Graduate School is designed to enable its students more in-depth research and study in their fields. Practical courses are offered in both the Master's and Doctoral Degree Programs to cultivate students capable of analyzing the social significance of the humanities and returning the research results to the society.

The Graduate School consists of two departments: Human Cultural Studies and Human Social Dynamics. The former encompasses two divisions: Philosophy and Literature, and the latter three divisions: History, Cognitive Studies and Socio-Cultural Studies. Through this system, students can conduct more detailed research into their areas of expertise.

At a Glance

522 Undergraduates enrolled
204 Graduates enrolled
94 International students enrolled
55 Faculty members

Undergraduate Program

Department	Divisions	Areas
Humanities	Philosophy	Philosophy
		Literature
	History	Japanese Language and Literature
		Chinese Language and Literature
		British and American Literature
		German Literature
		French Literature
	Cognitive Systems	Japanese History
		Asian History
		European and American History
Social Culture	Psychology	
	Linguistics	
	Art Theory	
	Geography	

Doctoral Program (three years) and Master's Program (two years)

Departments	Divisions	Areas
Human Cultural Studies	Philosophy	Philosophy
		Ethics
	Literature	Japanese Language and Literature
		Chinese and Korean Literature
British and American Literature		
Human Social Dynamics	History	European Literature
		Japanese History
		Asian History
	Cognitive Systems	European and American History
		Psychology
		Linguistics
Socio-Cultural Studies	Art Theory	
	Sociology	
	Art History	
	Geography	
		Cultural Resources (Doctoral Course Only)

Courses Offered in English (AY2015)

	Courses	
Undergraduate	Studies in American Literature	
	Seminar in American Literature	
	Seminar in English Literature	
	Studies in English Linguistics	
	Seminar in English Linguistics	
	Studies in Global Humanities	
	Seminar in Global Humanities	
	Seminar in Global Communication	
	Master's Program	Advanced Studies in British and American Literature X, IX
		Seminar in British and American Literature X, IX
Advanced Studies in English Linguistics I, II		
Advanced Studies in Global Humanities		
Seminar in Global Communication I, II		
Academic Writing 2		
Introduction to Japanese Culture and Society		

Message from Faculty

MASUKI Ryusuke
Associate Professor
Japanese and Chinese Art History



I am an art historian with a particular interest in Japanese Buddhist paintings from the tenth to twelfth centuries. My own research seeks to compare Chinese Tang and Sung dynasty paintings with Japanese works. For art historians, the most important process in the study of painting is the careful, direct observation of as many masterpieces as possible. Therefore, during the course of my research, I have often needed to travel around Japan and China in search of paintings. In our teaching program within the Art History Department at Kobe University, we offer our students numerous opportunities to directly observe major works of art. Thanks to the close proximity of our university to two of the ancient capitals of Japan, Nara and Kyoto, students enjoy regular study visits to important temples and museums. If you are interested in Japanese art, I am confident that the Faculty of Letters at Kobe University is the ideal place to pursue this line of research.

Student's Voice



Altria Lauren Victoria
International Student
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

As a student at The Faculty of Letters and a member of the Kobe-Oxford Japanese Studies Program, I participate in both intensive Japanese language classes and supplementary lecture classes. Over the past academic terms I have studied a range of interesting subjects, including Japanese literature, philosophy, and manga, while dramatically improving my Japanese language skills. The Faculty of Letters has facilitated my studies by providing many social events and cultural trips, assisting with personal or bureaucratic issues, and offering a diverse environment with many Japanese and international students. It has been an immensely enjoyable year in Japan!



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