

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.

Message from Faculty



NAKA Mao
Associate Professor
Philosophy, Ethics

My most recent interests in philosophical and ethical studies are focused on the theme of the "Other" based on the work of Emmanuel Levinas. I emphasize the "Otherness of human reproduction" as an essential part of our existence, through which we are exposed to the corporeality and relationality of the "Other," such as the opposite sex, a newborn child or the totality of our offspring. In this way, the "Other" means what transcends our attempts to understand and control it. The "Other" is essential to our point of view when engaging across cultures and opening up to it can offer us an opportunity to challenge our preconceptions.

Student's Voice



Eleanor Ruth Summers
International Student
U.K.

I am a member of the Kobe-Oxford Japanese Studies Programme, in which second year students of Japanese Studies at Oxford University study for a year at Kobe University within the Faculty of Letters. Alongside intensive language classes, we attend seminars on a variety of interesting subjects. Outside of lessons, regularly scheduled events with other students of the Faculty provide an informal setting for both language and cultural exchange, which has been highly enjoyable as well as enriching. The staff have provided an excellent support system, helping our year go smoothly so we could both further our studies and enjoy life in Japan.

At a Glance

516 Undergraduates enrolled
178 Graduates enrolled
80 International students enrolled
58 Faculty members



Undergraduate Program

Department	Divisions	Areas
Humanities	Philosophy	Philosophy
		Literature
	History	Japanese History
		Asian History
		European and American History
	Cognitive Studies	Psychology
		Linguistics
		Art Theory
	Social Culture	Sociology
		Art History
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	Japanese History
		Asian History
		European and American History
	Cognitive Studies	Psychology
		Linguistics
		Art Theory
	Socio-Cultural Studies	Sociology
Art History		
Geography		
Cultural Resources		

Courses Offered in English (AY2014)

	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
	Introduction to Japanese Culture and Society
	Master's Program
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	



Information
E-mail: kouhou@lit.kobe-u.ac.jp
<http://www.lit.kobe-u.ac.jp/english/index.html>