

2025 Admission

International Students Entrance Examination Graduate School of Economics

Application Guidelines

Note 1: Common items of all graduate schools are published in separate files. Please check together.

Note 2: The application guidelines are for the International Students Entrance Examination for Japanese-based programs.

Note 3: All application forms designated by Kansai University are in Japanese.

**Kansai University
Graduate School**

II Admission Policy

Master's Degree Program

At the Graduate School of Economics, a wide range of students are accepted through various entrance examination systems. In order to be able to receive education based on the policy for awarding degrees and the policy for organizing and implementing curriculum, those students are required to have knowledge and skills, thinking ability, judgment, and expression ability with a proactive attitude.

1. Applicants have acquired specialized knowledge related to economics, in which they majored in the bachelor's course.
2. It is desirable to have the ability to respond to modern society, where globalization is progressing, and to have acquired a broad perspective of foreign language proficiency, which serves as the basis for research.
3. To have a strong desire to proactively learn cutting-edge economics.

Ph.D. Degree Program

At the Graduate School of Economics, a wide range of students are accepted through various entrance examination systems, and in order to be able to receive education based on the policy for awarding degrees and the policy for organizing and implementing curriculum, students are required to have knowledge and skills, thinking ability, judgment, and expression ability with a proactive attitude.

1. Applicants have acquired specialized knowledge and skills related to economics, in which they graduated in their bachelor's and master's programs.
2. Students are equipped with the ability to respond to modern society, where globalization is progressing, and have excellent foreign language proficiency, which provides a more multifaceted and broader perspective basis for research.
3. To have a strong desire to independently learn cutting-edge economics with an attitude of proactively tackling economics and real economic issues.

V Application Requirements

Graduate School of Economics (Master's Degree Program)

Graduate School, Major, Program and Enrollment Capacity

Graduate School	Major	Program	Enrollment Capacity
Graduate School of Economics	Economics Major	Graduate Program for Professional Development	35
		Graduate Program for Academic Development	

Note: The Graduate School of Economics has not established separate enrollment capacity for each type of entrance examination.

- **The Graduate Program for Professional Development** prepares students to master advanced and, specialized knowledge in economics, and to put together a Master's Thesis or Research Report on a topic of the student's choosing. The program develops the skills needed to perform research, analysis, and management in companies, government agencies, etc. In addition, students may advance to the Ph.D. Degree Program after passing an examination.
- **The Graduate Program for Academic Development** is open to applicants who have already studied economics, and prepares students to develop research skills in the various fields of economics at the Master's Degree Program, and to put together a Master's Thesis on a topic of the student's choosing. After completing the Master's Degree Program, students are expected to advance to the Ph.D. Degree Program.
- **Program structure (applies to both programs)**
 Students must earn at least 32 credits, of which a total of 12 must come from lectures, seminars, and thesis advice offered by their respective faculty advisors.
 ※ Lectures and seminars are divided into five theme-based groups as followings :

Economist Field — Students will develop advanced, specialized knowledge and skills in economic research and analysis as specialists with thorough knowledge of the theories and statistical techniques of contemporary economics.

Public Policy Field — Students will develop advanced, specialized knowledge and skills they will need to pursue careers in various positions within the public sector, including in public policy analysis, fiscal policy, and local government management.

Regional and International Economy Field — Students will develop advanced, specialized knowledge and skills they will need to analyze and understand the contemporary economy from a regional and international perspective.

History and Society Field — Students will develop advanced, specialized knowledge and skills they will need to understand topics such as the history of the development of capitalism, social and economic thought, and socio-economic systems.

Business Economics and Finance Field — Students will develop advanced, specialized knowledge and skills they will need to understand complex issues related to management, labor, and finance in contemporary industrial and corporate contexts.

Master's Degree Program : International Students Entrance Examination (October Examination and February Examination)

1. Qualification

Graduate Program for Professional Development: Applicants under condition (1)

Graduate Program for Academic Development: Applicants under condition (1) and (2)

(1) Applicants shall satisfy one of the following ア~オ conditions:

(including applicants who are expected to satisfy one of the following ア~エ conditions before enrolling at the Graduate School)

ア Applicants who have completed a regular 16-year program of school education outside Japan (Note 1).

イ Applicants who have graduated from Japanese universities as international students.

ウ Persons who have completed a 3-year program or a program of more than 3 years and have been awarded a degree by an overseas university or school (Note 2) which is recognized as being equivalent to a bachelor's degree.

(the 2016 ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, No. 19)

エ Applicants who have completed Specialized Course at Japanese special training schools after the designated date by the minister of MEXT[†] as international students. The training schools must satisfy the conditions designated by MEXT including that the length of term required for graduation be at least four years.

[†] MEXT; Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

オ Applicants who are recognized as having scholastic abilities equivalent or superior to the graduates of university through Pre-qualification Individual Screening for Entrance Examination of the Graduate School. (This requirement shall not apply to the foreigners who are recognized as having received Japanese regular school education program.)

Note 1: Those enrolled in the following schools are considered to be the same as application qualification (1), as long as the period is less than four years in total.

- Elementary school, junior high school, high school etc. based on Japanese school education law
- Foreign school in Japan
- Overseas educational facilities accredited or designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Note 2: The university or the school shall be evaluated by an organization approved by a relevant official institution in the country for their education and research activities or recognized as so by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

(2) Applicants shall satisfy one of the following ア~ウ conditions:

ア Score of 61 or better on a TOEFL iBT[®] test (including My Best[™] Scores)

イ Score of 503 points or better on a TOEFL[®] PBT test

ウ Score of 600 or better on a TOEIC[®] L&R test (excluding IP tests)

[IMPORTANT] Notes regarding Pre-qualification Individual Screening for Entrance Examination

1. Subjects:

Applicants under qualification (1) – オ

2. Application Procedures and Deadline:

Refer to 'Pre-qualification Individual Screening' (in the separate file "Common Items of all Graduate Schools" p.4).

(Note 1) Graduates (or those expected to graduate) from less than 16-year program of school education can also apply. In this case, please contact the Graduate School Admissions Division by the submission deadline of the documents for the screening as soon as possible.

(Note 2) Applicants who have received (or are expected to receive) the degrees in their home countries equivalent to those of Japanese universities can also apply. In this case, please inquire to the Graduate School Admissions Division as soon as possible.

2. Application Documents

After you have paid the application fee of ¥35,000, submit the documents listed below.

Review [Cautionary Note](#) published at the end of the Application Guidelines (Japanese Version), and carefully check your application documents before submitting them.

Please submit the 'Application Document List (Checklist)' as well as the application documents.

Document to be Submitted [Document Number]	Remarks
Application Form (for submission) 【①】	Print out and submit after finalizing your online application.
Statement of Reason for Applying (in Japanese) 【②】	Use the form designated by the University. ★Must be hand-written by the applicant.
Original transcript from previously universities and / or other institutions 【③】	<p>Submit original transcripts. If you cannot submit original transcripts, please submit transcripts that have been notarized by an embassy or other public institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If you are currently enrolled, you should submit the latest transcript (original) when applying. ◦ If you have transferred from other universities to your current university, you also should submit transcripts (original) from the previous universities and / or other institutions as well. ◦ If you studied abroad during your enrollment period and credits have been approved, but the credits are not listed on the academic transcript of the university you are enrolled in, or the credits have not been approved after studying abroad, you also should submit the academic transcript (original) from the university where you studied abroad as well. ◦ If you participated in a DD (Dual Degree/Double Degree) program during your enrollment period, but the credits have been approved are not listed on your academic transcript of the university you are enrolled in, or if credits are recognized in a lump sum, you also should submit the transcript (original) from the university where you participated in the program as well. <p>Note 1) If the certificate has multiple pages, the seal of the university or the signature of the person in charge of issuing the certificate is required on all pages.</p> <p>Note 2) If you did not take any courses during your enrollment period, or if there is a blank period on your transcript due to studying abroad, please prepare a statement of reasons for that period (free format) and submit it together (School seal is not required).</p>
Original certificate of (expected) graduation from previously universities and / or other institutions 【④】	<p>Both of the entrance and (expected) graduation dates must be listed.</p> <p>If the above information is listed on the Application Document ③, this certificate does not need to be submitted.</p> <p>Submit an original certificate of (expected) graduation. If you cannot submit an original certificate, please submit a certificate of (expected) graduation that has been notarized by an embassy or other public institutions.</p> <p>Note) Applicants with Qualification (1) – ウ are required to submit a bachelor's degree certificate in addition to the graduation certificate.</p>

Research Plan (in Japanese) 【⑤】	About 1,000 words in length. Submit 1 original and 3 copies. Draft an overview of your proposed research plan on a computer using A4-size paper (horizontal text with 40 words per row and 40 rows per page).
TOEIC or TOEFL Score Certificate 【⑪】 ★Graduate Program for Academic Development only	Please submit the original score certificate. (Note 1) Score certificates for the TOEIC® L&R test (IP) and the TOEFL ITP® test or other Institutional Program test will not be accepted. (Note 2) The Digital Official Score Certificate of the TOEIC® L&R test will not be accepted.
Copy of Residence Card or Passport 【⑫】	For a residence card, submit a copy showing both sides. For a passport, submit a copy of pages showing your name, date of birth, photograph, expiration date, residence status, and the most recent period of stay.
Two Photographs	Affix a photograph taken within the last 3 months to the application form (for submission) and to the reason of application. Your photographs should not be retouched or edited. (The photograph affixed to your Application Form will be used on the student ID issued after enrollment, should you be admitted.)

3. Screening Method

The Graduate School will determine whether or not to admit applicants based on a comprehensive evaluation of document screening, written examination and oral examination.

4. Examination Components

Written Examination Specialized Subjects (100 points)	Oral Examination (100 points)
10:00 ~ 11:30 (90 minutes)	Held after the written examination
Examination for major and related field of your applying advisor	

Note : More information about the oral examination will be provided on the day of the written examination.

Note: Please select an academic advisor on applying.

If you select an academic advisor marked ※, please contact the Kansai University Graduate School Admissions Division in advance, because there is a semester or two in which they do not teach the subjects are they engage in research, at home or abroad.

The subject and academic advisors may change as needed.

If it changes, we will notify applicants via posting a notice (Japanese Version) on our website.

Please check our website before applying.

<https://www.kansai-u.ac.jp/Gr_sch/>

(2024/4)

Graduate School of Economics : List of Seminar and Thesis Guidance Academic Advisors for 2025 Academic Year (Master's Degree Program)

Economics Major

Seminar and Thesis Guidance Academic Advisors		
Economist Field		
Microeconomics (A) I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kobe University	*NAGAHISA, Ryo-ichi
Microeconomics (B) I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Osaka University	SAKANE, Hirokazu
Macroeconomics (A) I · II		AKIOKA, Hiroki
Economic Fluctuation I · II	Ph.D. Australian National University	SUZUKI, Tomoya
Economic Growth I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kobe University	※DOI, Junko
Economic Statistics I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kyoto University	UTSUNOMIYA, Kiyohito
Mathematical Statistics I · II	Ph.D. (Engineering), Osaka University	*MATSUO, Akihiko
Econometrics (B) I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Hitotsubashi University	KATAYAMA, Naoya
Theory of Information Processing I · II	Ph.D. (Science), University of Electro-Communications	TANIDA, Noriyuki
Labor Economics I · II	Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison	NOSAKA, Hiromi
Behavioral Economics I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), University of Tokyo	OKANO, Yoshitaka
Public Policy Field		
Economic Policy I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), University of Tokyo	MOTONISHI, Taizo
Public Finance I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kwansei Gakuin University	*HAYASHI, Hiroaki
Tax Policy I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Osaka University	HASHIMOTO, Kyoji
Social Security I · II	Ph.D. (International Public Policy), Osaka University	SATO, Masayo
Public Economics I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Osaka University	MAEKAWA, Satoko
Regional and International Economy Field		
Regional Economics I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Tohoku University	SAKAKIBARA, Yuichirou
International Economics I · II	Ph.D. State University of New York	SUGETA, Hajime
International Monetary Economics I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Osaka University	KASUGA, Hidefumi
International Political Economy I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kyoto University	OKADA, Keisuke
Economic Development I · II	Ph.D. (Area Studies), Kyoto University	GOTO, Kenta
Environmental Economics I · II	Ph.D. (Human and Environmental Studies), Kyoto University	SHINKUMA, Takayoshi
Asian Economic Development I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kansai University	KITABA, Michiko
Chinese Economy I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Ritsumeikan University	KAI, Nariaki
EU Economy I · II	Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University	KONOE, Sara
History and Sociology Field		
Economic History of Japan (A) I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Keio University	KITAHARA, Satoshi
Economic History of Japan (B) I · II	Ph.D. (Law), Keio University	KASHIHARA, Hiroki
Economic History of Asia I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Osaka University	NISHIMURA, Takeshi
History of Political Economy I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kyoto University	NAKAZAWA, Nobuhiko
History of Modern Economic Thought I · II		SATO, Masanobu

Seminar and Thesis Guidance Academic Advisors

Business and Finance Field

Industrial Organization I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Gakushuin University	ISHII, Akira
Problems of Small Business I · II		KOGA, Tadahisa
Economics of Commercial Distribution I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kansai University	SASAKI, Yasuyuki
Monetary Economics I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kyoto University	NAKAGAWA, Ryuichi
Organization Economics I · II	Ph.D. (Business Administration), Kobe University	KOBAYASHI, Hajime

Note : The academic advisor marked with * means that the applicants must change to another academic advisor if they wish to continue their Ph.D. Degree Program after completing the Master's Degree Program.

Graduate School of Economics (Ph.D. Degree Program)

Graduate School, Major and Enrollment Capacity

Graduate School	Major	Enrollment Capacity
Graduate School of Economics	Economics Major	5

Note: The Graduate School of Economics has not established separate enrollment capacity for each type of entrance examination.

Ph.D. Degree Program : International Students Entrance Examination (February Examination)

1. Qualification

Applicants shall satisfy one of the following (1)~(5) conditions:

(including applicants who are expected to satisfy one of the following (1)~(3) conditions before enrolling at the Graduate School)

- (1) Applicants who have received a master's or professional degree at the graduate schools outside Japan.
- (2) Applicants who have received a master's or professional degree from Japanese graduate schools as international students.
- (3) Applicants who have completed programs and received degrees equivalent to a master's degree from the United Nations University*.

*United Nations University; established by the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 11, 1972, as stipulated in Article 1 Paragraph 2 of the Act on Special Measures incidental to Enforcement of the Agreement between the United Nations and Japan regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations University.

- (4) Applicants designated by the minister of MEXT†. (Bulletin No. 118 of 1989)
† MEXT; Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
- (5) Applicants who are recognized as having degrees equivalent or superior to a master's degree by our graduate school and have reached the age of 24 (before enrolling at the Graduate School). This requirement shall not apply to the foreigners who are recognized as having received Japanese regular school education program..

【IMPORTANT】 Notes regarding Pre-qualification Individual Screening for Entrance Examination

1. Subjects:
Applicants under qualification (4) or (5)
2. Application Procedures and Deadline:
Refer to 'Pre-qualification Individual Screening' (in the separate file "Common Items of all Graduate Schools" p.4).

2. Application Documents

After you have paid the application fee of ¥35,000, submit the documents listed below.

Review Cautionary Note published at the end of the Application Guidelines (Japanese Version), and carefully check your application documents before submitting them.

Please submit the 'Application Document List (Checklist)' as well as the application documents.

Document to be Submitted 【Document Number】	Remarks
Application Form (for submission) 【①】	Print out and submit after finalizing your online application.
Statement of Reason for Applying (in Japanese) 【②】	Use the form designated by the University. ★Must be hand-written by the applicant.

Original transcript from previously graduate school 【③】	<p>Submit original transcripts. If you cannot submit original transcripts, please submit transcripts that have been notarized by an embassy or other public institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If you are currently enrolled, you should submit the latest transcript (original) when applying. ◦ If you studied abroad during your enrollment period and credits have been approved, but the credits are not listed on the academic transcript of the graduate school you are enrolled in, or the credits have not been approved after studying abroad, you also should submit the academic transcript (original) from the graduate school where you studied abroad as well. ◦ If you participated in a DD (Dual Degree/Double Degree) program during your enrollment period, but the credits have been approved are not listed on your academic transcript of the graduate school you are enrolled in, or if credits are recognized in a lump sum, you also should submit the transcript (original) from the graduate school where you participated in the program as well. <p>Note 1) If the certificate has multiple pages, the seal of the university or the signature of the person in charge of issuing the certificate is required on all pages.</p> <p>Note 2) If you did not take any courses during your enrollment period, or if there is a blank period on your transcript due to studying abroad, please prepare a statement of reasons for that period (free format) and submit it together (School seal is not required).</p>
Original certificate of (expected) completion from previously attended graduate school, or a notarized document certifying (expected) completion 【④】	<p>Both of the entrance and (expected) completion dates must be listed.</p> <p>If the above information is listed on the Application Document ③, this certificate does not need to be submitted.</p> <p>Submit an original certificate of (expected) completion. If you cannot submit an original certificate, please submit a certificate of (expected) completion that has been notarized by an embassy or other public institutions.</p>
Research Plan (in Japanese) 【⑤】	<p>About 1,000 words in length. Submit 1 original and 3 copies. Draft an overview of your proposed research plan on a computer using A4-size paper (horizontal text with 40 words per row and 40 rows per page).</p>
TOEIC or TOEFL Score Certificate 【⑩】 ★If applicable	<p>Submit only if you satisfy the conditions for exemption from the foreign language subject written examination (refer to Note 2 in “4. Examination Components” below).</p> <p>Submit an original and 1 copy. The submitted original document will be returned on the day of the examination.</p> <p>(Note 1) Score certificates for the TOEIC® L&R test (IP) and the TOEFL ITP® test or other Institutional Program test will not be accepted.</p> <p>(Note 2) The Digital Official Score Certificate of the TOEIC® L&R test will not be accepted.</p>

Copy of Residence Card or Passport 【12】	For a residence card, submit a copy showing both sides. For a passport, submit a copy of pages showing your name, date of birth, photograph, expiration date, residence status, and the most recent period of stay.
Two Photographs	Affix a photograph taken within the last 3 months to the application form (for submission) and to the statement of reason for applying. Your photographs should not be retouched or edited. (The photograph affixed to your application form will be used on the student ID issued after enrollment, should you be admitted.)

3. Screening Method

The Graduate School will determine whether or not to admit applicants based on a comprehensive evaluation of document screening, written examination and oral examination.

4. Examination Components

Written Examination		Oral Examination (100 points)
Specialized Subjects (100 points)	Foreign Language (100 points) (Graduate Program for Academic Development only)	Held after the written examination
10:00 ~ 11:30 (90 minutes)	13:00 ~ 14:30 (90 minutes)	
Examination for major and related field of your applying advisor	English	

Note 1: You will be allowed to refer to a dictionary provided by the University during the foreign language examination.

Note 2: If you satisfy any of the following conditions, you are exempt from the foreign language (English) examination.

- Score of 61 or better on a TOEFL iBT® test (including My Best™ Scores)
- Score of 503 points or better on a TOEFL® PBT test
- Score of 600 or better on a TOEIC® L&R test (excluding IP tests)

Note 3: More information about the oral examination will be provided on the day of the written examination.

Note: Please select an academic advisor on applying.

If you select an academic advisor marked ※, please contact the Kansai University Graduate School Admissions Division in advance, because there is a semester or two in which they do not teach the subjects are they engage in research, at home or abroad.

The subject and academic advisors may change as needed.

If it changes, we will notify applicants via posting a notice (Japanese Version) on our website.

Please check our website before applying.

<https://www.kansai-u.ac.jp/Gr_sch/>

(2024/4)

Graduate School of Economics : List of Seminar and Thesis Guidance Academic Advisors for 2025 Academic Year (Ph. D. Degree Program)

Economics Major

Seminar and Thesis Guidance Academic Advisors		
Area: Economic Theory, Statistics, and Public Policy		
Special Study in Microeconomics (A) I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kobe University	NAGAHISA, Ryo-ichi
Special Study in Microeconomics (B) I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Osaka University	SAKANE, Hirokazu
Special Study in Macroeconomics (A) I · II		AKIOKA, Hiroki
Special Study in Economic Fluctuation I · II	Ph.D. Australian National University	SUZUKI, Tomoya
Special Study in Economic Growth I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kobe University	※DOI, Junko
Special Study in Statistics(A) I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kyoto University	UTSUNOMIYA, Kiyohito
Special Study in Econometrics (B) I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Hitotsubashi University	KATAYAMA, Naoya
Special Study in Theory of Information Processing I · II	Ph.D. (Science), University of Electro-Communications	TANIDA, Noriyuki
Special Study in Labor Economics I · II	Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison	NOSAKA, Hiromi
Special Study in Economic Policy I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), University of Tokyo	MOTONISHI, Taizo
Special Study in Public Finance I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kwansai Gakuin University	HAYASHI, Hiroaki
Special Study in Tax Policy I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Osaka University	HASHIMOTO, Kyoji
Special Study in Social Security I · II	Ph.D. (International Public Policy), Osaka University	SATO, Masayo
Special Study in Public Economics I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Osaka University	MAEKAWA, Satoko
Area: Industrial, Regional, and International Economics		
Special Study in Regional Economics I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Tohoku University	SAKAKIBARA, Yuichirou
Special Study in International Economics I · II	Ph.D. State University of New York	SUGETA, Hajime
Special Study in International Monetary Economics I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Osaka University	KASUGA, Hidefumi
Special Study in International Political Economy I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kyoto University	OKADA, Keisuke
Special Study in Economic Development I · II	Ph.D. (Area Studies), Kyoto University	GOTO, Kenta
Special Study in Environmental Economics I · II	Ph.D. (Human and Environmental Studies), Kyoto University	SHINKUMA, Takayoshi
Special Study in Asian Economic Development I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kansai University	KITABA, Michiko
Special Study in Chinese Economy I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Ritsumeikan University	KAI, Nariaki
Special Study in EU Economy I · II	Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University	KONOE, Sara

Seminar and Thesis Guidance Academic Advisors		
Special Study in Industrial Organization I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Gakushuin University	ISHII, Akira
Special Study in Problems of Small Business I · II		KOGA, Tadahisa
Special Study in Economics of Commercial Distribution I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kansai University	SASAKI, Yasuyuki
Special Study in Monetary Economics I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kyoto University	NAKAGAWA, Ryuichi
Special Study in Organizational Economics I · II	Ph.D. (Business Administration), Kobe University	KOBAYASHI, Hajime
Area: History, Economic Thought, and Sociology		
Special Study in Economic History of Japan (A) I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Keio University	KITAHARA, Satoshi
Special Study in Economic History of Japan (B) I · II	Ph.D. (Law), Keio University	KASHIHARA, Hiroki
Special Study in Economic History of Asia I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Osaka University	NISHIMURA, Takeshi
Special Study in History of Political Economy I · II	Ph.D. (Economics), Kyoto University	NAKAZAWA, Nobuhiko
Special Study in History of Modern Economic Thought I · II		SATO, Masanobu