

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**between**  
**Graduate School of Intercultural Studies**  
**Kobe University**  
**and**  
**University of Naples "L'Orientale"**

**For collaboration on the**  
**Implementation of a Double-Degree Master's Programme**

**RECITALS**

The dean of the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University (hereinafter abbreviated as "KU"), Prof. UMEYA Kiyoshi and the rector of University of Naples "L'Orientale" (hereinafter abbreviated as "UNIOR"), Prof. Roberto Tottoli, hereby agree to renew the Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration on the implementation of a Double Degree Master's Programme, concluded on May 12, 2023, and to the following terms and conditions for governing the implementation of a Double-Degree Master's Programme and for Academic Co-operation between KU and UNIOR.

**ARTICLE 1. PURPOSE**

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a Double-Degree Master's Programme between both universities, based on the principles of mutual equality and reciprocity of benefits and thereby partially implement the ideals expressed in the Agreement on Academic Linkage and Collaboration between the two parties, originally concluded on 19 May 2014 and last renewed on 12 May 2023.

**ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS**

In this Memorandum of Understanding, unless otherwise specified, 'Double-Degree Master's Programme' shall mean the programme in which students will be awarded two (2) master's degrees; 'Double-Degree student' shall refer to a student participating in the programme implemented herein; 'home university' shall mean the university at which a student intends to complete the master's course; 'host university' shall mean the university which has agreed to receive students from the home university. The equivalence of 'credits' defined in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and Japanese credits (JCS) is defined as follows. Credits obtained by KU students during two years at KU are considered equivalent to the total number of ECTS of two years of the master's programme at UNIOR. Credits obtained by UNIOR students during two years at UNIOR are considered equivalent to the total number of Japanese credits of two years of the master's programme at KU.

### **ARTICLE 3. NATURE OF PROGRAMME**

1. Each university will collaborate to ensure that the students are able to pursue two (2) degrees.
2. Students who meet all the requirements of the designated programme of study in each university will be awarded two (2) master's degrees: one from KU and another from UNIOR.
3. The academic degree awarded by KU will be Master of Arts.
4. The academic degree awarded by UNIOR will be "Laurea magistrale in Relazioni e istituzioni dell'Asia e dell'Africa" (Master's degree in Asian and African Relations and Institutions).
5. Each university may send a maximum of two (2) students each year. However, the universities will sincerely collaborate to balance the number of students to be sent and accepted to and from both sides over the period of three (3) years. In this respect, changing the number of exchange students is subject to negotiation between the two universities as necessary.

### **ARTICLE 4. ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

1. The commencement of the academic year at KU is in April; however, UNIOR students in the Double-Degree Master's programme enroll in October.
2. The commencement of the academic year at UNIOR is in October; students enroll in October.

### **ARTICLE 5. TUITION AND FEES**

1. Each Double-Degree student shall pay tuition, examination and enrollment fees to his/her home university. Tuition and other relevant fees shall therefore be waived at the host university.
2. Double-Degree students must cover the following costs themselves:
  - Transportation to and from the host university
  - Textbooks, commodities, and all other personal expenses
  - Medical and accident insurance
  - Accommodation and other related fees
  - Passport and visa costs
  - All other debt incurred during the course of the year
3. At KU, students selected by UNIOR must obtain the National Health Insurance as well as additionally required insurances as designated by KU.

4. At UNIOR, students selected by KU must pay the regional study fee and a stamp duty of 16 euros, as established by the relevant regional and national legislation.
5. The students will have access to all facilities available to local students at the host university. KU students will have access to intensive Italian language courses arranged by the University Center for Language Studies (CLAOR) at UNIOR. UNIOR students will have access to Japanese courses arranged by KU.

#### **ARTICLE 6. ENROLLMENT**

1. The home university will be responsible for screening and selecting students of good standing to participate in the Double-Degree Master's Programme.
2. For enrollment in the host university, each university will recommend candidates who will apply for the Double-Degree Master's Programme, three (3) months prior to expected time of enrollment.
3. Each university will provide the other with all necessary information required from students for admissions by the host university.
4. All the students must meet the admission requirements of the host university before starting the mobility period, as detailed below:
  - at least 56 ECTS obtained for UNIOR students before departure;
  - a satisfactory English language proficiency for KU students and a satisfactory Japanese language proficiency in the case of UNIOR students.

#### **ARTICLE 7. CURRICULUM AND CREDITS REQUIREMENTS**

1. The parties have jointly developed an integrated study plan to ensure that the curriculum aligns with each party's semester study pattern. The study plan is included in ANNEX 1 and 2 of this Memorandum of Understanding and forms an integral part thereof. Any changes to ANNEX 1 and 2 due to updates in the educational offerings do not affect this Memorandum of Understanding.
2. In the event of changes to the educational offerings resulting in a different assignment of the names of activities in the curriculum (ANNEX 1 and 2), it shall be updated annually.
3. Credits completed at the host university during the mobility period shall be transferred to the home university in accordance with the study plan (ANNEX 1 and 2).
4. In order to receive a master's degree at KU, each student must attend the KU full-time for a minimum of one academic year, complete at least twenty Japanese credit units (20 JCS) in accordance with the study plan (ANNEX 1 and 2) and submit a master's thesis and pass the thesis qualifying examinations at KU. The total number of credits required for the two-year master's degree at KU is thirty Japanese credits (30 JCS). KU may recognize up to 15 credits earned at UNIOR toward the requirements for the master's degree.
5. In order to receive a master's degree at UNIOR, each student must attend the UNIOR full-time for a minimum of one academic year, complete 120 credits in accordance with the study plan (Annexes 1 and 2)

and submit a master's thesis and pass the thesis qualifying examinations at UNIOR. The total number of credits required for the two-year master's degree at UNIOR is 120 credits (120 ECTS).

6. The host university will provide the student with the Transcript of Records detailing the courses undertaken, the grades obtained, and the JCS/ECTS credits awarded.

7. The grades and credits obtained at KU will be recognized by UNIOR based on the grade conversion table (ANNEX 3).

#### **ARTICLE 8. ATTAINMENT OF THE DEGREE**

1. Upon completion of the required JCS/ECTS, Double-Degree students may apply for graduation at the host university and must adhere to the host university's procedures for appointing graduation examiners and conducting the final examination.

2. Double-Degree students must submit a master's thesis and pass the thesis qualifying examinations in accordance with the regulations of each university.

3. Double-Degree students are required to follow the graduation procedures and deadlines of both universities.

4. Double-Degree students shall conduct the final examinations required for the attainment of the degree at both KU and UNIOR.

#### **ARTICLE 9. REGULATIONS**

Each Double-Degree student will be subject to the same regulations as those pertaining to the students of the host university. If a student fails to observe the host university's rules or regulations, the student must take full responsibility for their behavior. This may further lead to reconsidering this student's admission to this Double-Degree Master's Programme.

#### **ARTICLE 10. ACCOMMODATION**

If university accommodation is not available, each university will provide the students with assistance in making room arrangements for the period of exchange. However, room charges will be the responsibility of the students.

#### **ARTICLE 11. CONTACT PERSONS**

For KU

The academic coordinator of the Double-Degree Master's Programme is Prof. HAYASHI Ryoko,

The administrative contact person is SHIBA Ayami, Section Head of the Academic Affairs Section, Graduate School of Intercultural Studies.

For UNIOR

The academic coordinator of the Double-Degree Master's Programme is Prof. Noemi Lanna,

The administrative contact person is Noemi Corbelli, Head of the International Relations and Student Mobility Office.

#### **ARTICLE 12. TERMINATION**

1. This Memorandum of Understanding will be effective for a period of six (6) years, commencing on the date of signing by both universities (the date being that of the final signature). The period of validity will be extended by consent of both parties in writing.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated, with twelve (12) months advance written notice to the other party, without prejudice to the completion of ongoing Double-Degree Master's Programme.
3. In case of a dispute, the parties will try to reach an amicable solution. If such attempts are unsuccessful, the dispute shall be referred to an arbitration panel consisting of one (1) member designated by each party and an additional member chosen by mutual agreement, in accordance with the laws of both countries.

#### **ARTICLE 13. AUTHENTICITY**

This Memorandum of Understanding is written in English, and both parties retain one copy each of the authentic text.

#### **ARTICLE 14. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA**

All personal data will be processed in full compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation 679/2016 (GDPR) and the national legislation of the parties.

SIGNED FOR AND BEHALF OF  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF  
INTERCULTURAL STUDIES  
KOBE UNIVERSITY

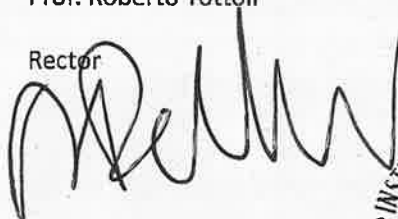
Prof. UMEYA Kiyoshi  
Dean



Date 24/04/2026

SIGNED FOR AND BEHALF OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES  
"L'ORIENTALE"

Prof. Roberto Tottoli  
Rector



Date 07/05/2026

**ANNEX 1. STUDY PLAN**

**OUTGOING DOUBLE-DEGREE UNIOR STUDENTS**

**1<sup>st</sup> year: UNIOR → 2<sup>nd</sup> year: KU**

- Students enrolled at the 1<sup>st</sup> year at UNIOR take the following exams at UNIOR in the 1<sup>st</sup> year (October to September):

	TAF	Typology of disciplinary area	SSD	UNIOR Course	ECTS	Corresponding KU Course	JCS
1	C	legal area	IUS/13	IUS/13 The Law of International Organizations	9	Two courses listed under Legal Area in Table A	4
2	C	economic area	SECS-P/02	SECS-P/02 Design and evaluation of development policies	9	Two courses listed under Economic Area in Table A	4
3	A	historical international area / political studies	SPS/04 SPS/06	An exam to be chosen from: SPS/04 Regional and local governance SPS/06 History of international politics	9	Two courses listed under Historical International Area in Table A	4
4	C	historical international area (area studies)	L-OR/23 SPS/14	An exam to be chosen from: L-OR/23 Global history of East Asia SPS/14 The rise of East Asia in the world economy SPS/14 History of Sino-European relations since 1949	9	Two courses listed under Historical International Area in Table A	4
5	C	historical international area (area studies)	L-OR/17 L-OR/23 SPS/14	An exam to be chosen from: L-OR/17 Societies and Cultures of Central Asia L-OR/23 Contemporary history of Korea SPS/14 Politics and governance in contemporary India SPS/14 Domestic governance of the People's Republic of China SPS/14 Politics and institutions of contemporary Japan	9	Two courses listed under Historical International Area in Table A	4
6	A	language-related		A language to be chosen from: L-OR/13 Turkish I; L-OR/15 Persian I; L-OR/18 Tibetan I; L-	9	Two courses listed under Language-related in Table A	4

				OR/19 Hindi I; L-OR/19 Urdu I; LOR/21 Chinese I; L-OR/21 Indonesian I (basic or advanced); L-OR/21 Vietnamese I (basic or advanced); L-OR/22 Korean I; L-OR/22 Japanese I			
				Workshop	2		-
				Total ECTS (1 <sup>st</sup> Year)	54 + 2		

- Students enrolled at the 2<sup>nd</sup> year at UNIOR take the following exams at KU in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year (from October to September):

	KU Course	JCS	TAF	Typology of disciplinary area	Corresponding SSD UNIOR	ECTS
7	One course listed under Legal Area in Table A	2	C	legal area	IUS/21	6
8	One course listed under Economic Area in Table A	2	A	economic-statistical area	SECS-S/01 SECS-P/08	6
9	One course listed under Sociological Area in Table A	2	C	sociological area	SPS/07 SPS/09	6
10	One course listed under Historical International Area in Table A	2	C	historical international area (area studies)	SPS/14 L-OR/23	6
11	Two courses listed under Language-related in Table A	4	A	language-related		9
12	Two courses listed in Table A	4		free choice exam		9
13	Research Seminar I and II (if not already fulfilled as free-choice credits)	4		—		—
14	One course listed as an Academic skills course in Table A (if applicable: for students enrolled in the Career Up Program and not already counted toward another disciplinary area)	2		—		—
	—	—		external traineeship or internship		6
	thesis	—		thesis		16
				Total ECTS (2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)		64
				Total ECTS (1 <sup>st</sup> +2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)		120

TAF = Types of Learning Activities

SSD = Scientific-Disciplinary Sectors

C [in Italian “caratterizzante”] = core course

A [in Italian “affine”] = complementary course

JCS = Japanese Credits

**OUTGOING DOUBLE-DEGREE KU STUDENTS**

First semester of the 1<sup>st</sup> year and second semester of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year: KU

→Second semester of the 1<sup>st</sup> year and first semester of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year: UNIOR

- KU Students take the following exams at KU in the first semester of the 1<sup>st</sup> year and in the second semester of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year:

	KU Course	JCS	Typology of disciplinary area	Corresponding SSD UNIOR	ECTS	TAF
1	Two courses listed under Legal Area in Table A	4	legal area	IUS/13	9	C
2	Two courses listed under Economic Area in Table A	4	economic-statistical area	SECS-P/02	9	C
3	Two courses listed under Historical International Area in Table A	4	historical international area / political studies	SPS/04 SPS/06	9	A
4	Two courses listed under Historical International Area in Table A	4	historical international area (area studies)	L-OR/23 SPS/14	9	C
5	Two courses listed under Historical International Area in Table A	4	historical international area (area studies)	L-OR/17 L-OR/23 SPS/14	9	C
6	Two courses listed under Language-related in Table A	4	language-related		9	A
	Research Seminar I	2	laboratory		2	
			Total ECTS (1 <sup>st</sup> Year)		54+2	

- **KU Students take the following exams at UNIOR in the second semester of the 1<sup>st</sup> year and in the first semester of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year:**

	TAF	Typology of disciplinary area	SSD	UNIOR Course	ECTS	Corresponding KU Course	JCS
7	C	sociological area	SPS/07 SPS/09	An exam to be chosen from: Social knowledge in Asia, Africa and the Middle East (SPS/07) International development cooperation (SPS/09)	6	One course listed under Sociological Area in Table A	2
8	C	historical international area (area studies)	SPS/14 L-OR/23	An exam to be chosen from: History, politics and international relations of contemporary India (SPS/14) China's growth strategies (SPS/14) Japan and the International system (L-OR/23)	6	One course listed under Historical International Area in Table A	2
9	C	legal area	IUS/21	Compared law systems and fundamental rights (IUS/21)	6	One course listed under Legal Area in Table A	2
10	A	economic-statistical area	SECS-S/01 SECS-P/06 SEC-P/08	Poverty, well-being, and Social Networks Analysis (SECS-S/01) International trade and global value chains (SECS-P/06) International management (SEC-P/08)	6	One course listed under Economic Area in Table A	2
11	A	language-related		"Cultural dynamics in contemporary Southeast Asia", or a language to be chosen from: L-OR/13 Turkish I; L-OR/15 Persian I; L-OR/18 Tibetan I; L-OR/19 Hindi I; L-OR/19 Urdu I; LOR/21 Chinese I; L-OR/21 Indonesian I (basic or advanced); L-OR/21 Vietnamese I (basic or advanced); L-OR/22 Korean I; L-OR/22 Japanese I	9	Two courses listed under Language-related in Table A	4
12		free choice exam			9	Two courses listed in Table A	4
		external traineeship or internship			6		—

	thesis	16	thesis	—
	Total ECTS (2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)	64		
	Total ECTS (1 <sup>st</sup> + 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year)	120		

**ANNEX 2. TABLE A**

<b>KU Course</b>	<b>JCS</b>	<b>Typology of disciplinary area</b>
Society and Economy in China	2	Economic area
Science, Technology and Society	2	Economic area
Trans-border Culture and Society	2	Economic area
History of Trans-border Societies	2	Economic area
Traditional Japanese Arts	2	Historical international area
Japanese Visual Arts	2	Historical international area
Seminar in Japanology	2	Historical international area
Seminar in Asia-Pacific Culture Studies	2	Historical international area
Seminar in European and American Culture Studies	2	Historical international area
Literary and Visual Culture in North America	2	Historical international area
Latin America and Global History	2	Historical international area
Culture and Society in Europe	2	Historical international area
Culture and Society in Britain	2	Historical international area
Modernism in Art	2	Historical international area
Modern and Contemporary Art Studies	2	Historical international area
Japanese Language and Culture	2	Language related
Trans-border Literature	2	Language related
Seminar in Linguistics and Communication Studies	2	Language related
Comparative and Contrastive Linguistics	2	Language related
Usage-based Linguistic Typology	2	Language related
Rhetorical Communication	2	Language related
Second Language Acquisition	2	Language related
Teaching Japanese as a Second Language (Method)	2	Language related
Teaching Japanese as a Second Language (Content)	2	Language related
Teaching Japanese as a Second Language (Practical application)	2	Language related
Seminar in Human Communication	2	Language related
Interactional Grammar	2	Language related
Neurolinguistics	2	Language related
Neuropsychology and Communication	2	Language related
Nonverbal Communication	2	Language related
Introduction to the Structure of Communication	2	Language related
Seminar in Computers and Communication	2	Language related
Computer Communication Systems	2	Language related
Computer Simulation	2	Language related

Information Systems and Databases	2	Language related
Applied Computer Science	2	Language related
Bioinformatics	2	Language related
Information and Systems in Education	2	Language related
Seminar in Systems of Second Language Education	2	Language related
Contrastive Linguistics and Cognition	2	Language related
Psycholinguistics and Language Teaching	2	Language related
Language Learning Environments	2	Language related
Language and Culture I	2	Language related
Language and Culture II	2	Language related
Language and Cultural Representation	2	Language related
Seminar in Contents in Second Language Education	2	Language related
Contemporary Japanese Society	2	Legal area
Japanese Society and Culture	2	Legal area
Culture and Society in East Asia	2	Legal area
Migration and Regional Management	2	Legal area
Comparative Politics	2	Legal area
Regional Politics	2	Legal area
Contemporary Politics	2	Legal area
Modern Social Thought	2	Legal area
Modern Political Thought	2	Legal area
Modern Thought and Culture	2	Legal area
Modern Ethics	2	Legal area
Norms and Cultures	2	Legal area
Contemporary Jurisprudence	2	Legal area
Culture and Society in Southeast Asia	2	Sociological area
National Integration in Southeast Asia	2	Sociological area
Culture and Society in Oceania	2	Sociological area
Seminar in Intercultural Relations	2	Sociological area
Social Anthropology	2	Sociological area
Cultural Anthropology	2	Sociological area
Contemporary Cultural Anthropology	2	Sociological area
Ethnology	2	Sociological area
Ethnographic Research	2	Sociological area
Seminar in Transcultural Studies	2	Sociological area
Transculture and Conviviality	2	Sociological area
Seminar in International Politics and Societies	2	Sociological area

International Relations	2	Sociological area
Politics in Multicultural Society	2	Sociological area
Seminar in Modernity Studies	2	Sociological area
Modern Philosophy of Science	2	Sociological area
Seminar in Contemporary Social Issues	2	Sociological area
Contemporary Social Theory	2	Sociological area
Gender and Society	2	Sociological area
Media and Cultural Studies	2	Sociological area
Seminar in Art, Culture and Society	2	Sociological area
Contemporary Cultural Policy	2	Sociological area
Art in Contemporary Society	2	Sociological area
Contemporary Art Theory	2	Sociological area
Seminar in Japanology	2	
Seminar in Asia-Pacific Culture Studies	2	
Seminar in European and American Culture Studies	2	
Seminar in Intercultural Relations	2	
Seminar in Transcultural Studies	2	
Seminar in International Politics and Societies	2	
Seminar in Modernity Studies	2	
Seminar in Contemporary Social Issues	2	
Seminar in Art, Culture and Society	2	
Seminar in Linguistics and Communication Studies	2	
Seminar in Human Communication	2	
Seminar in Computers and Communication	2	
Seminar in Systems of Second Language Education	2	
Seminar in Contents in Second Language Education	2	
Computer Skills Development*	2	
Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences*	2	
Ethnographic Fieldwork*	2	Sociological area
Social Research Methods*	2	Sociological area
Academic Communication (English)*	2	Language related
Academic Writing (English)*	2	Language related
Academic Writing (Japanese)*	2	Language related

※Courses marked with an asterisk (\*) are Academic Skills courses.

### ANNEX 3. CONVERSION TABLE

#### GRADES FOR EXAMS

KU (Grades)	ECTS scale (to be completed if the partner country's grade distribution table is not available)	UNIOR (Grades)
S 100-90	A (excellent cum laude)	30/30; 30/30 e lode
A 89-80	B	29-28
B 79-70	C	27-26
C 69-60	D	25-22
	E	21-18
F 59-0	F (fail)	<18/30

In the Italian university system, grades are expressed on a scale of 30. The minimum passing grade is 18/30 and the maximum is 30/30.

In the Japanese university system, grades are typically expressed on a scale of 100. The minimum passing grade is usually 60/100 and the maximum is 100/100.

#### FINAL GRADE (GRADUATION GRADE)

At KU, there is no final grade (graduation grade).

In the Italian university system, the final grade is expressed on a scale ranging from 66 to 110.

Grade	Definition	Evaluation in ECTS
110/110 e lode	Excellent cum laude	A
		B
		C
		D
		E
		F