

2027 UNHCR-Refugee Higher Education Program (RHEP)

Kansai University (Kansai)

Requirements for Refugees Applying for RHEP at the Graduate School of Law,

Graduate School of Business and Commerce,

Graduate School of Science and Engineering, and Graduate School of Societal Safety Sciences

(For candidates with sufficient language skills for **pursuing a degree in English**)

1. UNHCR Refugee Higher Education Program: RHEP

UNHCR Refugee Higher Education Program (RHEP) is a program implemented by partner universities and coordinated by UNHCR Representation in Japan and RHEP Alliance (hereinafter referred to as “the RHEP Secretariat”).

2. Details of Application

We will select those who are eligible for the UNHCR Refugee Higher Education Program conducted in collaboration with Kansai University and recommend them to the Kansai University Graduate School.

1) 【Spring Semester 2027 Admission】 (English course) :

Graduate School	Master's Degree Program		Ph.D Degree Program	
	Major	Field	Major	Field
Graduate School of Law	Law and Politics major	- Global Cooperation Course		
Graduate School of Business and Commerce			Business and Commerce Major	—
Graduate School of Science and Engineering	Engineering Science Major	- Mathematics - Electrical, Electronic and Information Engineering	Integrated Science and Engineering Major	- Mathematics - Electrical, Electronic and Information Engineering
	Environmental and Urban Engineering Major	- Chemical, Energy and Environmental Engineering		- Chemical, Energy and Environmental Engineering
	Chemistry, Materials and Bioengineering Major	- Life Science and Biotechnology		- Life Science and Biotechnology
Graduate School of Societal Safety Sciences			Disaster Prevention and Reduction Major	—

2) Number of refugee candidates to be recommended : **maximum two***

* 1 of the 2 candidates was accepted as a scholarship student of the UNHCR Refugee Higher Education Program (RHEP) in the master's program of the Kansai University Graduate School and have completed the course (those who are expected to complete in March 2027) and wish to continue to the second half of the doctoral course at Kansai University Graduate School, and is recommended by the graduate school.

3) Eligibility criteria : **the candidate must -**

- be a refugee or a person in need of international protection with a residency permit granted by the Japanese authorities (excluding Japanese nationals);
- have no other means of support for university studies;
- understand that the objective of the program is for the selected candidate to commit to their studies diligently;

- d) have sufficient academic capacity to pursue studies at either Master or Doctorate course;
- e) have English language skills sufficient for pursuing a graduate degree from any of Kansai's schools that offer a curriculum in English; and
- f) meet other criteria for applicants as stipulated by Kansai University.*

*Please see the application guideline of Kansai University for details.

Please contact the Secretariat of UNHCR Refugee Higher Education Program during the application period (Friday, July 3, 2026 to Monday, August 3, 2026) if the candidate is required to undergo the pre-screening.* *

* * Pre-screening: In cases where it is difficult to submit the required documentation and/or to certify the abovementioned criteria including but not only "those who have completed 16 years of formal schooling in a foreign country,".

4) Scholarship:

Kansai will waive the student's tuition and other admission related fees.

In addition, a monthly stipend (for daily subsistence) will be provided in the amount decided by the university until the completion of the course, within the study period allowed for the course.

5) Schedule:

Process for selection of candidates to be recommended for admission by UNHCR and RHEP Alliance:

- Application period for RHEP From 3 July (Fri) to 3 August (Mon) 2026
- Written test RHEP will assess candidates' English written proficiency with English test scores.
- Interview 22 Aug (Sat) and 29 Aug (Sat) 2026
- Selection of candidates for recommendation to Kansai The beginning of September 2026

Process for selection of candidates for admission by Kansai University Graduate School :

For more information, please see the application guideline by Kansai University

- Dates for submission of application documents* From 18 December (Fri) 2026 to 8 January (Fri) 2027
- Date of entrance examination 20 February (Sat) 2027
- Date of announcement of results * * 26 February (Sat) 2027

* After confirming the application documents, the Secretariat of UNHCR Refugee

Higher Education Program will submit the application documents to the Kansai University Graduate School.

* * The program selects candidates for recommendation to Kansai, but the final decision as to which candidates are successful is made solely at Kansai's discretion.

3. How to Apply

1) Required Documents : Please submit all documents listed below A. through H.

If you belong to Kansai University or Kansai University Graduate School and have gotten a recommendation from your faculty or graduate school, please submit H. documents.

(Note) At Kansai University Graduate School, to avoid a mismatch between the applicant's research plan and the professor's specialized field / academic field after admission, we recommend you to have a contact with the professor whom you would like to have as your academic supervisor in advance before applying for this program.

When contacting the professor, please refer to "Search of Faculty information

(<https://kansai-gradsch.kansai-u.ac.jp/en/tc/>)" on the Kansai University Graduate School Entrance

Examination Information Website. Based on the field or theme you are interested in, search for a professor whose current work closely matches your own research, and contact him or her via E-mail directly.

Professors' E-mail address are listed in the "Introduction / Educational Research Contents" websites on each graduate school homepages, "Kansai University Graduate School Information" etc.

If there is no E-mail address listed, please contact him or her by letter (mail) before applying.

A. RHEP Application Form	The link to the application will be available on the webpage of Refugee Higher Education Program (https://rhepalliance.org/en_application) from 3 July (Fri) 2026 . Forms may change each year , so those who have previously applied to RHEP will need to send a new application with updated information using the forms specifically designed for the year of application.
B. Passport Photo	Please affix a passport photo to the first page of the RHEP Application Form.
C. Certificate of (expected) graduation/degree and academic transcript	Certificate of (expected) graduation/degree and official transcript from the formal educational institution of your last enrollment. If you are unable to submit an official transcript, please submit a statement of facts describing your educational background.
D. Proof of English language proficiency (Mandatory)	Official proof of language proficiency (e.g. the results of TOEFL, IELTS or TOEIC scores for English).
E. One Letter of Recommendation	The letter should be about 1 to 2 pages (A4 size). Please have the referee enclose the letter in an envelope with his/her signature on the seal of the envelope. On the surface of the envelope, please have the referee write the name of the applicant and "Recommendation Letter for the RHEP Application" and hand it to the refugee applicant. The referee must not be a relative of the applicant.
F. Proof of Legal Status	(Note: Please DO NOT send originals. Send only copies.) Applicants must submit BOTH documents a) and b), as well as ONE of the documents listed below from c) to e). a) Documents certifying your residency status; and b) Residency card or resident registration form (juminhyo) which indicates the whole family unit; and c) Certificate of Refugee Status; or d) The Certificate of Settlement Record by the Refugee Assistance Headquarters (for Indo-Chinese refugees); or e) Proof of Refugee Status a) Other documents certifying refugee-like status (for asylum seekers who were granted special permission to stay on the bases of humanitarian considerations, a letter from your lawyer, NGO or other third party who supported you or your family member with the refugee-like status (e.g. your parent) during the time of the refugee application, outlining the application history and describing the reasoning for the result of your/your family's refugee application). b) For those (explicitly or implicitly) provided international protection and never had applied for asylum in Japan: official certificate from a government agency; identity documents; or documents certifying the need of international protection issued by NGO, lawyer or other third party who supported you and your family members at the time of arrival to Japan or at the time of processing residency in Japan, describing the reasoning for your/your family's need for international protection. Additional certificate/document may be requested in cases where the submitted documents do not fulfil the requirements. c) Certificate of Complementary Protection

G. Proof of Family's Financial Situation	Applicants must submit documents indicating all the income of members of the family who contribute to the household finances, including his/her father, mother, and him/herself (e.g. tax-income certificate, statement of earnings, etc.). This should be based on earnings from the year before the application. Applicants should indicate the amount of financial support they receive from persons under a duty to support such as relatives (allowance etc.), and if relevant, the amount of scholarship, fellowship, private support, livelihood protection and/or social security payments being received.
H. Letter of Recommendation by the president of the dean of your faculty or graduate school *Use the form designated by the University.	Those who studying in Kansai University or Kansai University Graduate School and who can receive recommendations from their faculty or graduate school. The letter must bear the signature (including the position/ name) and seal of the dean of your faculty or graduate school. When applying, please consult with your academic supervisor if you can get a recommendation from your faculty or graduate school.

- Please send the required documents to the following address by simplified registration (*kani-kakitome*). On the front of the envelope, please write in red "RHEP Application Enclosed".
- Application packages should be postmarked on or before 3 August (Mon). Application packages that are postmarked later than the 3 August (Mon) will, in principle, not be accepted. Interested candidates are advised to send the package well in advance to avoid late applications.
- Note that application packages will not be returned.
- Please refrain from sending numerous applications.

2) **Application Deadline : 3 August (Mon) 2026 (postmarked)**

3) Please submit applications by simplified registration (*kani-kakitome*) to:

c/o RHEP Alliance
 Secretariat of UNHCR Refugee Higher Education Program
 Bancho-Heim #431, 1-2 Nibancho, Chiyoda-ku,
 Tokyo 102-0084

4. Selection of candidates to be recommended to Kansai

The process for the selection of candidates to be recommended will include screening of application materials and interview.

(Note) Persons who studying in Kansai University or Kansai University Graduate School and are recommended by their faculty or graduate school, and meet both application qualifications listed in the above and listed in the Application Guidelines of Kansai University Graduate School will be screened based on application documents and interview. Persons whose results meet the RHEP recommendation qualifications will be preferentially recommended.

1) Application Screening :

Applications will be accepted between : **3 July (Fri) and 3 August (Mon) 2026**

Please note that applications that arrive after the due date will in principle not be accepted.

A notification letter, indicating whether or not they have been short listed, will be sent by RHEP Secretariat by the middle of August via mail.

2) Written test

RHEP will assess candidates' English written proficiency with English test scores.

3) Interview :

Date: **22 August (Sat) and 29 August (Sat) 2026**

Location: Online (For details, see the admission ticket for examination that will be distributed to applicants who have passed the document screening.)

The interview date stated above is yet to be confirmed. For the exact date, please refer to the convocation letter and the admission ticket for examination.

The final results are scheduled to be available at the beginning of September via mail.

- Inquiries as to the result will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- The final decision as to the candidate who is to be recommended to Kansai will be made by the selection committee, consisting of UNHCR and RHEP Alliance staff, individuals with educational backgrounds/NGO staff and affiliates from language schools. (TBC)
- Based on the discretion of the selection committee, regardless of the number of applicants, not all places may be filled.

5. Recommendation to Kansai and selection by Kansai

Information regarding the selection process by Kansai will be provided to the selected candidate of RHEP at a later date. The final decision as to which candidate is successful is solely at Kansai's discretion.

Accepted students will be asked to fulfill their commitment and responsibilities set by UNHCR as RHEP scholarship students. The students will be required:

- ① to submit progress reports to RHEP Secretariat twice a year;
- ② to regularly participate in follow-up meetings and interviews after graduating from the university; and
- ③ to undertake at least one RHEP project (e.g. participate in a seminar as a speaker) during the time of their studies.

*Details of the abovementioned-reports/assignments will be provided by RHEP Secretariat after students are accepted by the university.

6. Notice and Disclaimer

For the purposes of equity, UNHCR / RHEP Alliance and the selection committee will not respond to inquiries about the application screening process, the content of the examination, and matters relating directly to the result. Furthermore, as the RHEP selection is undertaken by UNHCR and RHEP Alliance, please do not contact Kansai University regarding the program and selection process. On the other hand, please make sure to contact professors at the university of your choice in advance, to confirm that you will be able to study the research theme of your choice.

For candidates who have applied for a university located far from your residence, you may need to move at your own cost from your current place of residence at the time of application. In addition, depending on the academic year and desired school or faculty, the location of your campus may change. Please consult carefully with your family (especially if you are a minor) and/or employer when choosing a university and academic program before applying to this program.

UNHCR and RHEP Alliance will protect personal information in conformity with the relevant confidentiality policies. UNHCR and RHEP Alliance will only refer to the applicants' personal information when it is necessary for carrying out operations, including reviewing the program and its outcomes, and gathering statistical data for conducting publicity activities. Applicants' personal information will only be shared with partner universities as and when it is necessary, in order for candidates' recommendation to the relevant university.

*From 2025, the program is coordinated by UNHCR Representation in Japan and RHEP Alliance.