



神戸大学

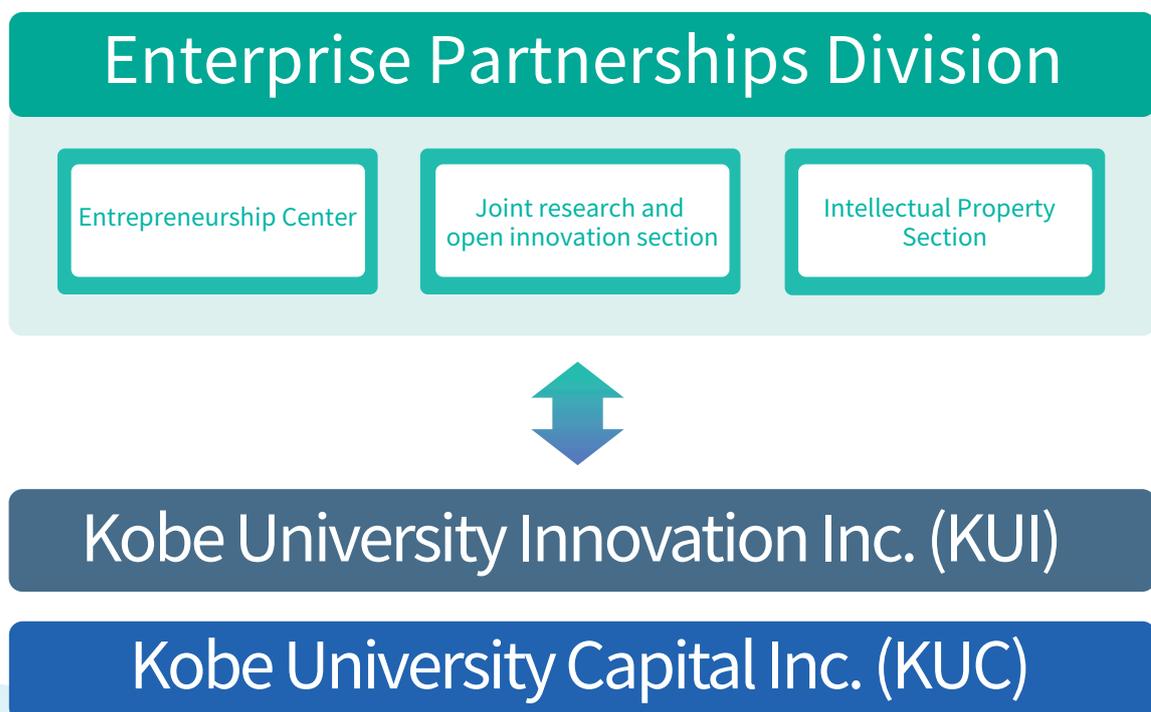
KOBE UNIVERSITY

Enterprise Partnerships Division

About the Enterprise Partnerships Division

The Enterprise Partnerships Division functions as an innovation liaison for interdisciplinary co-creation in cooperation with industry, local governments, and researchers from across the university through joint-research development that proposes optimal research seeds based on industry needs, the promotion of open innovation that brings multiple companies and researchers together as a team for the creation of innovation, and the management and utilization of intellectual property to turn researcher inventions into intellectual property rights that companies can use, as well as through the Entrepreneurship Center where the development of startups fosters an entrepreneurial spirit and promotes use in society through startup ventures and entrepreneurship education exists to train startup professionals, led by a team of instructors with professional management experience.

■ Organizational chart



KUI
Kobe University Innovation

Kobe University Innovation Inc.

Kobe University has established Kobe University Innovation Inc. (KUI), an external corporation certified by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry as an approved Technology Licensing Organization (TLO), to promote collaboration between industry, government, and academia in a more flexible and efficient manner.

Industry, Government, and Academia Collaborations

Collaborations between companies and universities are available in a variety of forms, from individual consultations to institutional collaborations. The Enterprise Partnerships Division and KUI promote collaborations between industry and academia by surveying the needs of companies and researchers and matching them with partners.

▮ Academic Consulting and Guidance, Seeds Collection

Researchers can consult on technical issues for companies. The Seeds Collection can be searched to find researchers, while inquiries can also be made through the website. Consulting and guidance are available from a few days to a several months, after which a topic is identified and developed into joint research.

▮ Joint Research

Research is conducted on a yearly basis on the set topic. KUI matches researchers and consults on scheduling and research funding.

▮ Collaborative Research Project

These are a form of large-scale joint research for which an organizational structure is established at the university, and which can even involve students. Exchanges of human resources, such as inviting researchers from a company to the university, are also conducted.

▮ Comprehensive Collaboration

A company and the university may enter into a collaboration agreement to conduct joint research and exchanges of human resources in a variety of fields. Both parties investigate topics and share their progress to enable synergistic research development and perform various activities, including re-skilling, with the goal of maximizing the resources of the company and the university in pursuit of mutual growth.

Inventions and Intellectual Property

Having companies use the results of the university's research in business is an effective way for the university to contribute back to society. To that end, a researcher's employee inventions are transferred to the university and treated as intellectual property rights, such as patent rights. Those rights are then licensed to the joint research partners and startups for their use. Licensing fees received from companies are returned to inventors and used to strengthen the research infrastructure. The Enterprise Partnerships Division, in collaboration with KUI, manages the university's intellectual property fully, from invention consultation to evaluation, patent application, and licensing.

For Companies

Our database of university intellectual property is publicly available for your use.

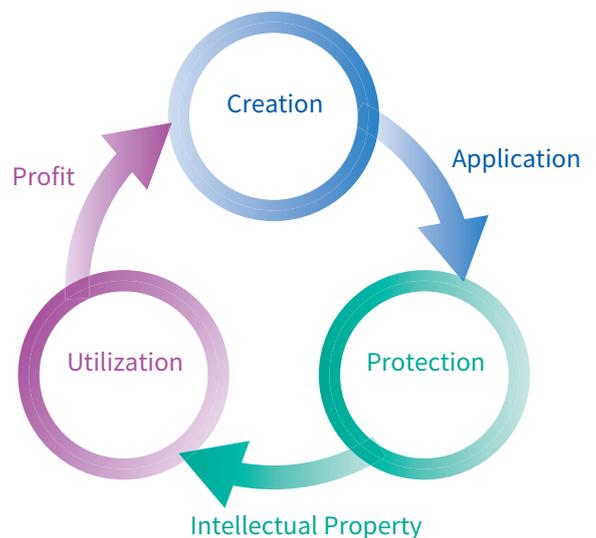
→ Website



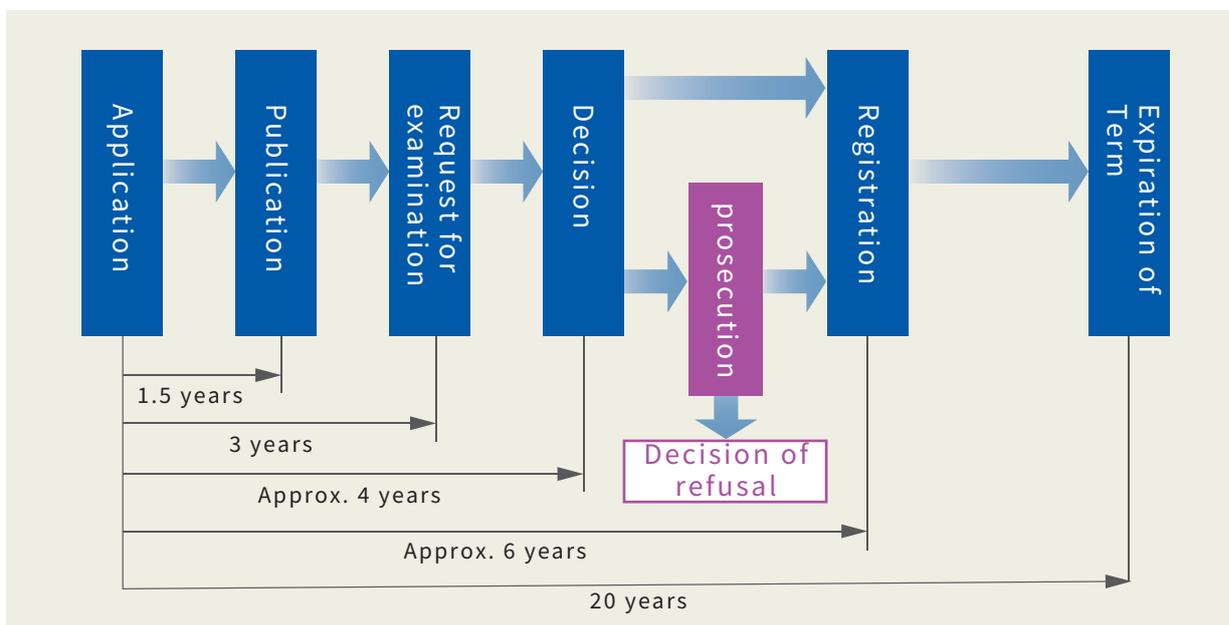
For Campus Members

Our office is always available to consult on inventions. Please contact us before publishing your paper.

■ Intellectual creation cycle



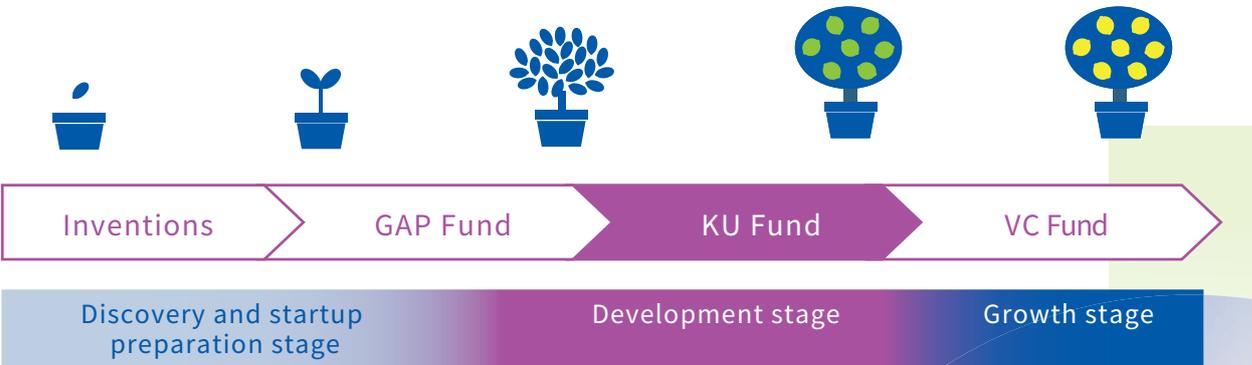
■ Flow of the Procedures for Obtaining a Patent



Developing Research Seeds

The process of commercializing researchers' inventions and ideas in companies is called "seed incubation." When it is difficult at the seed stage to judge whether an invention could be used in society, its usefulness must be shown based on what is called "PoC (Proof of Concept)" or "Demonstration Research." The Enterprise Partnerships Division has created the GAP Fund, which evaluates research topics submitted from within the university and allocates funds for demonstration research to promising seeds. KUI associates assist alongside the demonstration research. Once the seed has been demonstrated and its commercialization comes into focus, they use market research and marketing to create a business model to support the launch of the startup. The launch of the startup is the final stage of incubation and requires a large amount of business capital. Here is where Kobe University Capital (KUC), a subsidiary of KUI (and sub-subsidiary of the university), comes into play. To develop corporate infrastructure, KUC has established the KU Fund to gather funding from venture capitalists (investors) and financial institutions and invest in promising startups. KUC also aims to achieve significant growth by attracting investment from private funds and other sources. Startup-based technological innovation is an important growth strategy for Japan and an effective means of making university research useful in society.

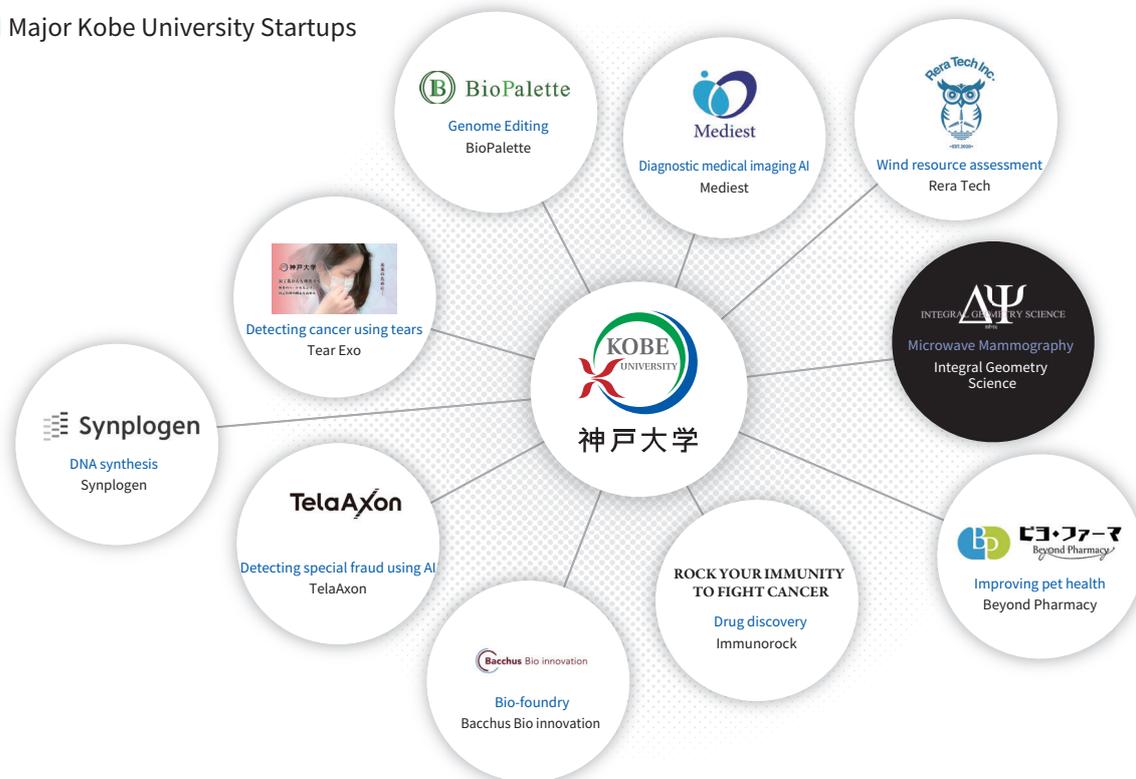
■ Incubation for Growth



University Startups

Many startups have emerged from Kobe University, especially those based on innovative technology and intellectual property in fields where the university is strong, such as bioproduction, advanced membrane engineering, advanced IT, and advanced medicine. The Enterprise Partnerships Division operates a certification system for “Kobe University Startups” and provides support to certified companies, including PR and preferential intellectual property licensing. In addition, by partnering with local governments and related organizations through initiatives such as the Hyogo Kobe Startup Ecosystem Consortium, a Cabinet Office-designated “hub city,” we are contributing to the regional revitalization of the Hyogo-Kobe and Kansai regions through the creation of startups.

Major Kobe University Startups



The Entrepreneurship Center serves all regular students and adults in continuing education at Kobe University in three areas: 1) education, 2) practice, and 3) startup support. By providing internationally outstanding entrepreneurship education and practical programs, we aim to produce entrepreneurs with the ability to identify problems on their own and solve them creatively. As a central hub of the startup ecosystem in the Keihanshin region, we also create and nurture startups out of Kobe University and the regional area.





KOBE UNIVERSITY

Enterprise Partnerships Division

1-1, Rokkodai-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe-city, 657-8501, JAPAN

<http://www.innov.kobe-u.ac.jp/>

