

Guidelines for the SESAMI program of the Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University

1 Overview

These guidelines describe the requirements for the Strategic Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Alliance Management Initiatives (SESAMI) Program of the Business Administration – Master’s Program of the Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University (hereinafter “Graduate School”) - pursuant to Article 4 Paragraph 1 of the Graduate School of Business Administration Bylaws (Instituted on April 1, 2004. Hereinafter “Graduate School Bylaws”).

2 Courses

The SESAMI Program shall be placed in the Graduate School of Business Administration Master’s Program (hereinafter “SESAMI Course”). Accordingly, the course previously existing in the Business Administration shall be called the regular course (hereinafter “Regular Course”).
[Reference] Graduate School Bylaws Article 4 Paragraph 1:

3 Program Objective

The objective of this program is to define the research and educational field of strategic entrepreneurship and sustainability alliance management, which is formed from the fusion of academic disciplines of sustainability management and entrepreneurship management. It aims to establish a global standard of related business practices based on the strength of Japanese business systems.

4 GMAP/SESAMI/KIBER Steering Committee

- (1) The GMAP/SESAMI/KIBER Steering Committee in the Graduate School of Business is to plan and implement the curriculum, entrance examination, and social cooperation related items for the SESAMI program.
- (2) The SESAMI Alliance Committee is to exchange opinions with the SESAMI Alliance companies regarding the implementation of the SESAMI program.

5 Subjects and credits

- (1) The SESAMI program courses and credits shall be as stated in the Graduate School Bylaws Appendix 1, Appendix 2, and Appendix 3.
- (2) The SESAMI program courses shall be classified into course groups S1 to S6 as given in Appendix S of the Strategic Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Alliance Management Initiatives (hereinafter “SESAMI”) Program Course Bylaws (hereinafter “SESAMI Course Bylaws”). The courses prescribed in the Graduate School Bylaws Appendix 1 shall be the Group S3 courses. Further, the subjects prescribed in Appendix 2 shall be the Group S5 courses.

[Reference] the SESAMI Course Bylaws

6 Research Guidance

- (1) The research supervisors shall be designated by the GMAP/SESAMI/KIBER Steering Committee at the beginning of the Master’s program.

[Reference] Graduate School Bylaws Article 15 Paragraph 3

- (2) The research supervisors shall be re-designated by the GMAP/SESAMI/KIBER Steering Committee at the beginning of the second year of the Master’s program.

[Reference] Graduate School Bylaws Article 15 Paragraph 2

- (3) If a student advances to the Ph.D. program after completing the SESAMI Master’s program, then his/her Master’s research supervisor shall continue to serve as his/her Ph.D. research supervisor.

7 Course Admission and Changes

- (1) The admission to the SESAMI course for the students entering the Master's program at the Graduate School of Business shall be determined by the GMAP/SESAMI/KIBER Steering Committee on April 1 of the entering school year. The admission to the SESAMI course of the students who have passed the Regular Course Admission shall be determined in consultation with the requested research supervisor stated in the admission application.

If a student desires to change from the SESAMI course to the regular course, or vice versa, then the student must submit the change request in July or January of each academic year. The student who has submitted the course change request will be interviewed by GMAP/SESAMI/KIBER Steering Committee members. Whether or not the student is able to change his/her course will be determined by the committee and must be approved by the faculty council of the Graduate School of Business Administration.

When the GMAP/SESAMI/KIBER Steering Committee determines if the student is able to change his/her course, it will consult with the prospective supervisor in the Regular course for changing from the SESAMI to the Regular course, and with that in the SESAMI course for changing from the Regular course to the SESAMI course.

[Reference] Graduate School Bylaws Article 4 Paragraph 1

- (2) The change of supervisor accompanying a student's change from the SESAMI course to the Regular course, or vice versa, shall be handled as an exception pursuant to Bylaws Article 15 Paragraph 2.

[Reference] Graduate School Bylaws Article 15 Paragraph 2

8 Taking Courses

- (1) The SESAMI course students shall earn at least 30 credits as specified by the items below, which are selected from the Graduate School Bylaws Appendix 1, Appendix 2, and Appendix 3 and approved by the research supervisor.

- (i) SESAMI Research Seminar 2 credits
- (ii) SESAMI seminar 10 credits
- (iii) At least 18 credits for courses other than SESAMI Research seminar and SESAMI seminar.

[Reference] Graduate School Bylaws Article 18 Paragraph 2

- (2) The SESAMI course students shall meet the course requirements prescribed in the SESAMI Course Bylaws Appendix S.

[Reference] The SESAMI Course Bylaws

9 Performance evaluation criteria

The SESAMI program course performance evaluation criteria and standard distribution are as follows.

S: Superior	90-100 points	20%
A: Excellent	80-89 points	40%
B: Good	70-79 points	} 40%
C: Pass	60-69 points	
F: Fail	0-59 points	

10 Requirements for Advancing to the Ph.D. Program

The Master's students who wish to advance to the Ph.D. program are evaluated their "sufficient comprehensive scholastic ability" as prescribed in the Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University. The evaluation is based on the excellence in the Master's thesis and the grades of the course work approved in advance by the GMAP/SESAMI/KIBER Steering Committee.

[Reference] "Requirements for Advancing to the Ph.D. Program at the Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University"

In the case of not meeting the above-mentioned requirements, those who expect completion in March and wish to enter the Ph.D. Program need to apply for the SESAMI Ph.D. Program and to be accepted.

11 Comprehensive Scholastic Ability Examination

- (1) To determine whether the SESAMI Master' students possess "sufficient comprehensive scholastic ability" as prescribed in Bylaws Article 4 Paragraph 2 of the Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University The students are evaluated based on the grades of the course work approved in advance by the GMAP/SESAMI/KIBER Steering Committee.

[Reference] The Graduate School of Business Administration the Kobe University Bylaws Article 4 Paragraph 2

- (2) When the SESAMI course students have met all of the following requirements, they will be deemed to possess "sufficient comprehensive scholastic ability." The student:
 - (a) has earned sufficient credits for the courses approved in advance by the GMAP/SESAMI/KIBER Steering Committee.
 - (b) has been deemed by the GMAP/SESAMI/KIBER Steering Committee to possess sufficient structured scholastic ability based on the grades in the approved courses.
 - (c) has passed the Comprehensive Scholastic Ability Examination subjects in Group 3 (2nd Thesis Examination).

Students may be asked to retake courses by the GMAP/SESAMI/KIBER Steering Committee to demonstrate that they possess structured scholastic ability to advance to the Ph.D. program. If such retaking of a completed course is approved, the most recent grade earned for the course shall be used for the reevaluation.

The Second Thesis Requirement:

The second thesis is the thesis that is created after writing the Master's thesis and before the submission of the Ph.D. thesis, and it is used to examine the student's ability to submit his/her Ph.D. thesis. The second thesis is categorized as Group 3 of the Comprehensive Scholastic Ability Examination. Passing the second thesis means that the student has met the requirements to submit a Ph.D. thesis. The second thesis submission period is concurrent with the submission period for other degree theses and occurs once each of the first and second semester, but it is desirable for it to be submitted by the second semester of the first year or the first semester of the second year of the Ph.D. program.

Upon the entrance to the Ph.D. program, the student is required to take the Thesis Writing Seminar (1st year, 2nd semester) and the Second Thesis Workshop (2nd year, 2nd semester). During the first year, the students study the second theses of upper classmates. During the second year, they will present their own theses and have them discussed, so that they are to proceed with their preparations in conjunction with this course.

It is possible to substitute the second thesis with a research paper that has been published by a peer-reviewed journal. In this case, follow the instructions of your supervisor and make the required preparation.

Appendix 3 Subjects (SESAMI Course) and Number of Credits (Based on Article 14)

Area of Study	Course	Credits	Classification
Integrated Social Sciences	Financial Accounting	2	Group SS
	Financial Management	2	Group SS
	Advanced Portfolio Management-Theory and Practice	2	Group SS
	Business Economics	2	Group SS
	Econometrics	2	Group SS
	Macroeconomics	2	Group SS
	Microeconomics	2	Group SS
	Japanese Legal System(1)	2	Group SS
	Japanese Legal System(2)	2	Group SS
Strategic Entrepreneurship	Entrepreneurship Theory and Method	1	Group S1
	Advanced Entrepreneurial Finance	2	Group S3
	Advanced Entrepreneurship	1	Group S3
	Corporate Entrepreneurship	1	Group S3
	Global Entrepreneurship	1	Group S3
	Technology Entrepreneurship	1	Group S3
	Venture Capital and Private Equity	1	Group S3
	Research Topics in Strategic Entrepreneurship	1～4	Group S3
Sustainability Alliance Management	Sustainability Accounting and Reporting	2	Group S1
	Advanced Supply Chain Management	2	Group S1
	Sustainability Management	2	Group S3
	Service Management and Servicizing	2	Group S3
	Research Topics in Sustainability Alliance Management	1～4	Group S3
Strategic Management	Strategic Management	2	Group S1
	Marketing Communications Research	1	Group S1
	Organizational Behavior / Human Resource Management	2	Group S1
	Statistics	2	Group S2
	Statistical Theory	2	Group S2
	Econometrics for Business Economics	2	Group S2
	Advanced Empirical Management Research	2	Group S2
	Qualitative Research Methodology	1	Group S2
	Advanced International Business	2	Group S3
	Advanced Marketing	2	Group S3
	Economics of Network Industries	1	Group S3
	Public Administration and Project Evaluation	2	Group S3
	Research Topics in Strategic Management	1～4	Group S3
Research	SESAMI Research Seminar	2	Group S6
	SESAMI Seminar	10	Group S6

Appendix S Degree Requirements (Master's Program SESAMI Course)

Course Classification	Required Number of Credits		Remarks
Group SS	At least 6 credits	At least 18 credits	<p>Note 1: The credits earned for Graduate School Bylaws Appendix 1 courses include the credits earned from Group S3. However, only up to 6 credits for courses from Group 8 may be counted (Excluding the case project research, theme project research, and modern management seminars).</p> <p>Note 2: A maximum of 4 credits can be earned for courses from Graduate School Bylaws Appendix 2 including the credits from Group S5. However, the maximum total with the Group 8 credits in Note 1 is 6 and these can be included in the total number of credits required for the degree.</p> <p>Note 3: SESAMI Research Seminar is 2 credits and are included in the Group S6 credits. The SESAMI seminars are 10 credits and are included in the Group S6 credits.</p> <p>Note 4: Credits earned for other graduate school courses in the university are included in the credits for Group S3. However, permission from the research supervisor and academic advisor is required to take other graduated school courses in the university.</p> <p>Note 5: Credits earned from cross-over courses from the Graduate School, School of Economics, Osaka University; the Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University; and the Graduate School of Management, Kyoto University are handled in accordance with Note 4.</p>
Group S1	At least 4 credits		
Group S2	At least 2 credits		
Group S3	At least 2 credits		
Group S5			
Group S6	12 credits		
Total	At least 30 credits		

Typical Time Table of Ph.D. Program in the SESAMI Course

The SESAMI students are encouraged to conduct their research using the following typical time table as a guideline.

Master's Course Year 1 (October 1st to September 30th)

Take the courses approved by the GMAP/SESAMI/KIBER Steering Committee. Based on the grades of such courses, the pass/fail of the Comprehensive Scholastic Ability Examination (Excluding 2nd Thesis Examination) is determined in September. Take the required course entitled SESAMI Research offered in the Fall semester.

Master's Course Year 2 (October 1st to March 31st)

October	Master's thesis theme submission
January	Master's thesis submission
February	Master's thesis defense
March	Master's thesis review pass/fail determination, Comprehensive Scholastic Ability Examination (Excluding 2 nd Thesis Examination) pass/fail determination, determination of the advancement of the Ph.D. program

Ph.D. Course Year 1

April-June and October-December	Thesis writing seminar
March	2 nd thesis submission

Ph.D. Course Year 2

April	Ph.D. Thesis Supervisory Committee formed (*For students who have passed the 2 nd Thesis Examination)
April-June and October-December	2 nd thesis workshop

Ph.D. Course Year 3

October	Ph.D. thesis theme submission
November	Provisional Examination Committee formed (Submit Ph.D. thesis manuscript to the Provisional Examination Committee)
December	Present the Ph.D. thesis at a public doctorate thesis conference. Receive a provisional examination by the Provisional Examination Committee to determine if the Ph.D. thesis can be submitted.
January	Receive a recommendation as a Ph.D. thesis from the Provisional Examination Committee, and Ph.D. thesis submission
February	Ph.D. thesis examination and final examination by the Examination Committee