

Ritsumeikan University (Private)
Graduate School of International Relations

- ◆ **Program name**
Global International Relations Program
- ◆ **Degrees:**
Master of Arts in International Relations
- ◆ **Credit and years needed for graduation:**
30 credits, 2 years
- ◆ **Address:**
56-1 Toji-in Kitamachi, Kita-ku, Kyoto
603-8577 JAPAN



Features of University <http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/>

General Information: *As of May 1, 2020

Year of Establishment:	1900
Founding Spirit:	Freedom and Innovation
Educational Philosophy:	Peace and Democracy
Educational Goal:	The learning and development of individual talents in order to nurture just and ethical global citizens.
Enrollment:	35,772
	(Undergraduate: 32,243, Graduate Students: 3,529)
Full-time International Students:	2,378 students from 70 countries and regions
	(Undergraduate Students: 1,437; Graduate Students: 941)
Total Number of Faculty Members (excluding part-time instructors)	1,416
Total Number of Alumni:	402,268
Total Number of Administrative Staff (The Ritsumeikan Trust):	1,453
	(Full-time staff: 734, Contract Staff: 719)
Partner Universities & Institutions:	457 universities and institutions from 68 countries & regions
Number of Campuses:	4 (2 in Kyoto; 1 in Kusatsu, Shiga; 1 in Ibaraki, Osaka)
Number of Colleges:	16
Number of Graduate Schools:	22
Number of Overseas Offices:	12 (New Delhi, London, Beijing, Vancouver, Hanoi, Washington DC)

Ritsumeikan's history begins with its establishment as a private academy in 1869 by Prince Kinmochi Saionji, an eminent international statesman of modern Japan and advocate of Freedom and Internationalism. In 1900, Saionji's protégé Kojuro Nakagawa retained Saionji's spirit and established the Kyoto Hosei School, an evening law school that was open to working people. With Saionji's blessing, the name of this school was changed to Ritsumeikan Private University in 1913. At present, the Kinugasa and Suzaku campuses in Kyoto, as well as at the Biwako Kusatsu Campus in Shiga and the recently opened Osaka Ibaraki Campus (OIC) in Osaka combined are home to about 36,000 students learning under the core educational philosophy of *Peace and Democracy*. In order to nurture just and ethical global citizens, Ritsumeikan is working to foster creativity and the development of individual talents on a solid foundation of academic achievement.

Achievements

Ritsumeikan University has been selected as a designated institution of the "Top Global University Project" by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan. The ministry-appointed panel of experts selected 37 institutions among 104 applications and these institutions hold the "Top Global University" status as of October 1st, 2014, to the end of fiscal year 2023.

The "Top Global University Project" has been established as a way to give financial support to 37 public and private universities aiming to promote comprehensive internationalization and become world-class research and education institutions. With our selection for this prestigious project, Ritsumeikan University will serve as a model for globalized schools.

Features of Graduate School <http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gsir/eng/>

History and Achievement

The Graduate School of International Relations (GSIR) at Ritsumeikan University was established in 1992. Our graduates are particularly active in international organizations, the Foreign Ministry, governments in their home countries, international aid, and globally active private enterprises. They have received high acclaim in the international community. In Japan, we are the only official member of the Association of Professional School of International Affairs (APsIA), which is a global network of respected graduate schools specialized in international relations. Throughout its more than 20 years of history, the Graduate School has been accepting approximately 1,200 international students including international students from 51 countries as well as JDS, World Bank, and MEXT-funded students. Those students play an important role as the administrative officer in each country after their graduation.

Features of the Program <http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gsir/eng/education/first/course.html/>

The GSIR's Master of Arts in International Relations program is designed to offer two programs, in Japanese and English. Global International Relations Program (English-Based Program) consists of four clusters: Global Governance Cluster; Sustainable Development Cluster; Culture, Society and Media Cluster; Global Japanese Studies Cluster. Each cluster also consist of basic subjects regarding international relations (Core Courses), and the subjects designed to foster a deep and specialized understanding of each subject from various disciplines (Advanced Courses) as well as the subjects of Area studies and Academic Writing.

For JDS Fellows from Laos, the Graduate School of International Relations offers a curriculum which aims to cultivate professionals of international cooperation knowledgeable in international economy, international politics, international cooperation, and environmental issues. In order to achieve this aim, our program includes the following features.

(1) Coursework Required for International Cooperation Professionals

Students in this program develop an advanced, academic balance necessary for International Cooperation professionals based on courses composed of the following four pillars.

1. Learning of Fundamental Theories of International Relations:

Students will learn fundamental theories necessary for negotiating and policymaking as an international cooperation professional from courses such as international relations, international political economy, international economics, and international law.

2. Learning International Cooperation and Development of the Asia-Pacific Region:

Students will study international politics, economics, and past experiences surrounding the Asia-Pacific Region.

Through attending the courses and seminars, and having discussions, students will be able to find solutions to issues as they examine many case studies of international cooperation and development of various countries including Japan and ASEAN countries. Students also enhance their understanding of diplomacy by participating in symposiums with international aid agency staff members and diplomats that are held frequently.

3. Learning about Japan's Experiences:

Emphasis is placed on gaining a basic understanding of Japan's economy, politics, and diplomacy. Students will learn the background knowledge between ASEAN countries and Japan and their relationship reviewing Japan's past development experiences.

4. Learning about Environmental Consciousness:

Students study various environmental issues caused by rapid economic development. They also develop the abilities to make policy recommendations which are conscious of effective use of energy, resources and environment through learning experiences of various countries regarding environmental issues, globalization, and the relationship between economic growth and the environment.

(2) Improve Work Expertise through Systematic Master's Thesis Guidance

Students study in-depth research topics related to their area of work and are placed in a seminar class (Advanced Seminar) of a specific academic advisor during their period of enrollment. Through weekly seminars, students deepen their technical knowledge and complete their Master's thesis after oral defenses (Research Proposal Meeting, Interim Progress Meeting). A guidance system is setup with multiple faculty members focused on the final oral defense. In the beginning, students will develop fundamental competency on Master's thesis composition and research methods through skill-based courses. Our quality faculty is a big feature of the program for those aiming to be economic diplomacy professionals and focus on our main research areas that include politics, economics, law, society and socio-cultural global governance, international cooperation and development, and multicultural issues. Students have the opportunity to utilize our extensive faculty body and receive detailed instructions on various research topics of international students.

(3) Building of Network of Personal Contacts & Researching Alongside Graduate Students from Multinational Backgrounds through the Special Seminar

Both the English-based and Japanese-based programs are designed to allow domestic students from around the country and international students from around the world (138 students from 29 countries as of May 2021) to study side by side. Students will take the special seminar, Professional Training: International Cooperation and Diplomacy, which is designed for JDS Fellows and aims to foster young governmental officials. In this course, international and Japanese students, under the guidance of multiple professors from a variety of professional backgrounds, debate on topics such as international politics, business management, sustainable development, and local government policy for sustainable development, and more. Those topics include Japan's experience with economic development and pollution issues.

(4) Academic English & Everyday Japanese Language Training

Students will brush up on academic English and take part in everyday Japanese language training. All courses can be taken in English. Courses such as Academic Writing will help improve students' academic writing and comprehensive management skills. Another goal is that all students acquire a beginner's level of Japanese. International students will acquire the ability to use basic conversational Japanese and to write in the language via the Japanese Conversational Program. This will enable students to develop basic Japanese language ability and better understand Japan's culture and affairs. As an improvement to the current program in Comprehensive Japanese I and II, students will discuss international relations issues using Japanese.

Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees

■Curriculum for JDS Fellows in English: Global International Relations Program , 2022 academic year

You can select other courses (language courses, research method courses, etc.) and other Program courses.

*AY2021 Online Syllabus: <https://ct.ritsumei.ac.jp/syllabussearch/?lang=en>

The names of Instructor (professors) are tentative and subject to change.

Subject	Course title	Credit	Instructor (professors)	Lecture/ Seminar	Targeted students/ Term offered
Core	Theories of International Relations	2	FUKUMI SAYAKA	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	International Security	2	FUKUMI SAYAKA	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	International Organizations	2	YAMADA MAYUMI	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	Politics in Developing Countries	2	SHIRATO KEIICHI	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	Global Sociology	2	RAJKAI ZSOMBOR TIBOR	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	Cultural Theories	2	CHEUNG YUKMAN	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	Media Studies	2	KOGA BROWES, SCOTT PHILAMMON	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	Introduction to Macroeconomics	2	TOKUMARU HIROSHI	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	Introduction to Microeconomics	2	YANE HARUKA	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	Development Studies	2	OKURA MIWA	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	International Economics	2	OHTA HIDEAKI	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	Japanese Culture	2	TAILLANDIER DENIS	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	Japanese Economy and Business	2	TOKUMARU HIROSHI	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	Japanese Diplomacy	2	YABUNAKA MITOJI	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	Japanese Politics	2	FRENCH THOMAS W.	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	Japan in East Asia	2	FRENCH THOMAS W.	Lecture	M1, M2
Core	Introduction to Japan Studies	2	SMITH NATHANIEL M.	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Global Political History	2	NAKATSUJI KEIJI	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	International Human Rights	2	OCHI MEGUMI	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Global Peace Studies	2	KIMIJIMA AKIHIKO	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Conflict resolution and Peace building	2	KIMIJIMA AKIHIKO	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Non-Traditional Security	2	HONNA JUN	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Migration Studies	2	MINAMIKAWA FUMINORI	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Globalization and Gender Issues	2	TORIYAMA JUNKO	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Media and Cultural industries	2	OYAMA SHINJI	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Globalization of religion	2		Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Race and Ethnicity	2	TSUJIMOTO TOSHIKO	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Public Diplomacy	2	SMITH NATHANIEL M.	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Development Economics	2	WATANABE MATSUO	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	International trade and Investment	2	ITAKI MASAHIKO	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Development Finance	2	TOKUMARU HIROSHI	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Environmental Policy	2	HAYASHI DAISUKE	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Policy Evaluation	2	SHIMADA HARUYUKI	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	International Political Economy	2	NAKATO SACHIO	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Local and Regional Development	2	MATSUDA MASAHIKO	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	International Finance	2	OHTA HIDEAKI	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Macroeconomics	2	TOKUMARU HIROSHI	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Microeconomics	2	TOKUMARU HIROSHI	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Professional Training; International Cooperation	2	SHIMADA HARUYUKI	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Professional Training; Diplomacy	2	ISHIKAWA SACHIKO	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Research Training	2	ADACHI KENKI, SUECHIKA KOTA	Lecture	M1, M2

Advanced	Quantitative Research Methodology	2	AMEKAWA YUICHIRO	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Qualitative Research Methodology	2	TORIYAMA JUNKO (by team)	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Special Lecture on International Relations	2	-	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced	Internship(Domestic)	2	-	-	M1, M2
Advanced	Internship(Overseas)	2	-	-	M1, M2
Area Studies	East Asian Studies	2	HIRONO MIWA	Lecture	M1, M2
Area Studies	South East Asian Studies	2	HONNA JUN	Lecture	M1, M2
Area Studies	South Asian Studies	2	OKURA MIWA	Lecture	M1, M2
Area Studies	European Studies	2	MASUDA MINORU	Lecture	M1, M2
Area Studies	African Studies	2	IWATA TAKUO	Lecture	M1, M2
Area Studies	Middle Eastern studies	2	TORIYAMA JUNKO	Lecture	M1, M2
Area Studies	American Studies	2	NAKATSUJI KENJI	Lecture	M1, M2
Area Studies	Special Lecture on Area Studies	2	-	Lecture	M1, M2
Free	Academic Writing(E) I	2	LUDVIK CATHERINE	Lecture	M1, M2
Free	Academic Writing (E) II	2	KUNSCHAK CLAUDIA	Lecture	M1, M2
Free	Comprehensive Japanese I	2	NAKASHIMA YOKO	Lecture	M1, M2
Free	Comprehensive Japanese II	2	NAKASHIMA YOKO	Lecture	M1, M2
Advanced Seminar	Advanced Seminar	2	Supervisor	Seminar	M1, M2

*Degree Awarding Policy

Students who successfully fulfill the degree requirements (30 credits of course work), complete 2 years or more study period and whose Master's thesis reflects the student's academic ability to approach international issues from multiple perspectives will be awarded an M.A. degree.

Lectures are provided to share cutting-edge information by faculty members, lecturers, visiting professors and specially invited professors who are currently active in international fields such as United Nations. Furthermore, some visiting professors from partnership organizations provide dynamic lectures based on their work experiences.

List of faculty members capable of guiding JDS Fellows

Process to Determine Academic Advisor

An academic advisor will be determined under communication/screening with faculty advisors, based on the student's research topic before enrollment. Academic advising staff will help support this selection process.

No.	Name	Fields of Specialization
1	ADACHI, KENKI	International Politics, Disarmament and Arms Control, Global Governance, Civil Society
2	AMEKAWA, Yuichiro	Development Studies, Environmental Studies, Social development, Sociology of agriculture / environmental sociology, Area studies (Southeast Asia, especially Thailand)
3	ATAKA, HIROAKI	Critical International Relations Theory, International political Economy
4	CHEUNG, YUKMAN	Cultural-Historical Sociology, Nationalism, Urban Sociology, Japanese Studies, Japanese subcultures (anime), Hong Kong Studies
5	FRENCH, THOMAS	Japanese History, Japanese Politics, History of US-JAPAN Relations,

	WILLIAM	History of UK-Japan Relations
6	FUKUMI, SAYAKA	International Relations, Non-traditional Security Threats
7	HAYASHI, DAISUKE	Political economy, Environmental policy, Climate policy, Energy policy
8	HIRONO, MIWA	China's International Relations, Security Studies
9	HONNA, JUN	Comparative Politics, Southeast Asian Studies
10	ISHIKAWA, SACHIKO	International development cooperation theory, Conflict and peace studies, Regional studies (Southeast Asia, ASEAN)
11	ITAKI, MASAHIKO	International Economy, International Surplus Capital
12	IWATA, TAKUO	Comparative Politics, African Studies
13	KAWAMURA, SATOKO	International Relations (Governance of Advanced Technology, International Thought), International Administration, The Law of International Relations
14	KIMIJIMA, AKIHIKO	Constitutional Law, Peace Studies
15	KOGA-BROWES, SCOTT PHILAMMON	Media Studies, Visual Semiotic Analysis of TV News
16	MASUDA, MINORU	International History, History of British Politics and Diplomacy
17	MATSUDA, MASAHIKO	Agriculture and Rural Development, Area Studies (Southeast Asia, Myanmar)
18	MINAMIKAWA, FUMINORI	Sociology, International Migration, American Studies
19	NAKATO, SACHIO	IR(International Relations)/IPE(International Political Economy)
20	NAKATSUJI, KEIJI	International History, International Relations in Asia-Pacific
21	OCHI, MEGUMI	International Law, International Criminal Justice
22	OHTA, HIDEAKI	International Finance, International Economics, International Development Finance, Development Macroeconomics, Regional/Global Economies
23	OYAMA, SHINJI	Cultural Studies, Media Studies, Creative/Cultural Industries Studies: Critical Brand Studies
24	RAJKAI, ZSOMBOR TIBOR	Social and Cultural Studies, Modernization of Non-Western Societies, Family Studies
25	SHIMADA, HARUYUKI	International Development and Cooperation, Development Economics, International Relations, Area Study (South and South East Asia)
26	SHIRATO, KEIICHI	International Journalism, African Area Studies
27	SMITH, NATHANIEL M.	Cultural Anthropology: Far Right Political Activism, Urban Studies, Japan Studies
28	SONODA, SETSUKO	History, Area Studies, Overseas Chinese Studies, Modern Chinese History
29	SUECHIKA, KOTA	Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, International Relations,

		Comparative Politics
30	TOKUMARU, HIROSHI	Monetary Economics, International Finance
31	TORIYAMA, JUNKO	Gender Studies, Gender Studies on the Middle East, Cultural Anthropology
32	TSUJIMOTO, TOSHIKO	Transnational Sociology, Studies on International Migration and Gender, Philippine Studies
33	WATANABE, HIROAKI RICHARD	Comparative political economy, International relations
34	WATANABE, MATSUO	Economic Development, African Economies, West Balkan Study (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
35	YANE, HARUKA	International Economics, International Trade and Labor, Economic Policies

Faculty Advisors in Japanese (Available as sub-advisors for JDS Fellows)

No.	Name	Field of Specialization
1	HOSHINO KAORU	International Economy, European Economy and Monetary Integration
2	KAWAMURA RITSUKO	Rural Sociology, Agricultural Economics
3	MORIOKA MASASHI	Economics, Economic Theory and Thoughts
4	NAKAMOTO MAOKO	Comparative Culture, Contemporary History of Alsace
5	NAKAGAWA RYOJI	Development Economics, Chinese Economy
6	NISHIMURA TOMOAKI	International Law, International Environmental Law
7	MINAMINO YASUYOSHI	Comparative Politics, Anglo-Irish Political History

Academic Schedule

Reference Only

Semester	Date Mont/Day		Targeted students	Event & things to-do
AY2021 Fall Semester	9	24	New Students	Orientation for New Students
	9	25	New Students	Matriculation Ceremony
	9	26	All	Start of Classes, Fall Semester
	12	26	All	Start of Winter Break
	1	5	All	End of Winter Break
	1	6	All	Classes Recommence, Fall Semester
	1	24	All	End of Classes, Fall Semester
	2	1	All	Start of Spring Break
	3	20	All	Commencement Ceremony (Masters/Professional) (Kinugasa)
AY2021 Spring Semester	3	31	All	End of Fall Semester, End of Spring Break
	4	1	All	Start of Spring Semester, Orientation for New Students
	4	2	New Students	Matriculation Ceremony
	4	3~5	New Students	Orientation for New Students
	4	6	All	Start of Classes, Spring Semester
	7	26	All	End of Classes, Spring Semester
	8	1	All	Start of Summer Break
	9	23	All	Commencement Ceremony (Masters/Professional) (Kinugasa)
	9	25	All	Matriculation Ceremony, End of Summer Break, End of Spring Semester

Facilities <http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/lifecareer/>

Housing: Kinugasa Campus is surrounded by an abundance of affordable student housing, and the university's on-campus cooperative's real estate agency is capable of providing new students with single room accommodation. In addition, multi-person rooms for those students who bring their families along with them are also readily available.

Library Services: Library facilities include the state-of-the-art Hirai Kaichiro Memorial Library, which newly opened on Kinugasa Campus in April of 2016. The library features over 1,000,000 books, multiple computer and multimedia stations, and rooms students can use for group study. In addition, from private booths to group tables there are a wide variety of study booths and seating areas for library users, ensuring that all students can find an area that fits their study style.

*Ritsumeikan University, as a whole, has a collection of 3,415,334 books. (Japanese, Korean and Chinese: 2,397,642; Western languages: 1,017,692 (as of March 2020)).

*Students may also borrow materials from libraries on other campuses using our electronic library services system.

Library Website: [Ritsumeikan University Library | Ritsumeikan University Library. \(j-server.com\)](#)

Medical Service Center: Located on campus, the Medical Service Center promotes the health of students through a combination of general health support services and a medical office that specializes in internal medicine. All students must take part in a yearly health check that assesses their overall health condition and, depending on the result, follows up with additional tests as necessary. Students with any persistent health issues are put under watch and given follow up medical guidance until graduation.

Counseling: Professional counseling is available in English or Japanese Monday-Friday.

Training Room: Our campus has a newly opened gymnasium and training room featuring brand-new state-of-the-art training equipment, a rock-climbing wall, and various specialty machines for student use. Here, we have trainers residing nearby and students can use the gym facilities free of charge.

Restaurant / Cafeteria: A combination of 6 restaurants and cafeterias are located across the campus, offering a place to catch a meal while enjoying a conversation with fellow students or a professor.

Religious and Dietary Considerations: Halal food and vegetarian options are available at some of the eateries across campus in an effort to better meet the dietary needs of our diverse student body. Additionally, we also have a room for which students may pray.

International Center: The International Center, located just next door to the Graduate School of International Relations, provides support for Ritsumeikan's large international student body including organizing orientation for incoming students, promoting exchange activities, and managing scholarships. Assistance is available in English and Japanese. As of May 2020 we have ten full-time staff dedicated to assisting international students working in

the center.

Beyond Borders Plaza: Located near the center of campus is the Beyond Borders Plaza – a global student commons where students can study, relax, take language courses or hold their own events. The lounge is full of books, magazines and newspapers in a variety of languages as well as board games, a computer station, and a TV airing CNN so that students may keep up to date with breaking world news.

Other Support: A special course for JDS students called the JICA/JDS English Program is held to improve students' applied English ability at the graduate level. Additionally, the university strongly encourages JDS students to enroll in the JICA/JDS Support for Daily Conversation in Japanese, which is held so that students may more smoothly adapt to life in Japan by learning basic conversation skills and the Japanese alphabets of hiragana/katakana. Finally, Ritsumeikan University conducts programs such as the JICA/JDS Company Visit Program and Kyoto Cultural Understanding Program to better meet the needs of JDS students.

Message for Applicants

The Ritsumeikan University Graduate School of International Relations (GSIR), one of the Japan's top ranked graduate schools in International Relations, has been training international experts and professionals in the field of international relations and cooperation for twenty years through the Japanese-based program, and for ten years through the English-based program. Throughout the history of our graduate school, we have created an international learning environment on our campus, with Japanese and international students learning together. It is a great pleasure for us to accept young, talented, and highly motivated students from Laos, who would like to construct a better Laos with a democratic foundation, and who wish to contribute to the establishment of good relations between Laos and Japan. Based on our rich experience, GSIR will provide:

- 1) A variety of courses in international relations, politics, economics, development, and Japan studies both in English and Japanese;
- 2) Close Academic Guidance to help complete a graduate-level Master's thesis on academic/practical topics;
- 3) A professional network with experienced faculty members, guest professionals of international organizations, Japan's government and international cooperation agencies, and colleagues from around the world.

We believe that we can provide attractive learning opportunities here in Kyoto, the historical and cultural center of Japan, home to highly acclaimed universities and research institutes. GSIR has been playing a leading role in the field of international relations and cooperation in the academic and professional community in Kyoto. We encourage our students to participate in projects to connect academics in Kyoto with professionals from all over the world. We look forward to welcoming young government officials who have enthusiasm to study international relations to widen their views of politics, economics, and socio-cultural issues in the contemporary world and to build a mutually beneficial partnership between Japan and Laos.