## *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, 2025**

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|---|---|
| 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: | 39,261 |
| | (Undergraduate: 34,881; Graduate Students: 4380) |
| Full-time International Students: | 3183 students from 72 countries and regions |
| | (Undergraduate Students: 1873; Graduate Students: 1310) |
| Total Number of Faculty Members (excluding part-time instructors) | 1463 |
| Total Number of Alumni: | 446,081 |
| Total Number of Administrative Staff: | 1073 |
| | (Full-time staff: 600, Contract Staff: 446) |
| Partner Universities & Institutions: | 471 universities and institutions from 69 countries & regions |
| Number of Campuses: | 4 (2 in Kyoto; 1 in Kusatsu, Shiga; 1 in Ibaraki, Osaka) |
| Number of Colleges: | 17 |
| Number of Graduate Schools: | 22 |
| Number of Overseas Offices: | 6 (New Delhi, London, Beijing, Vancouver, Hanoi, Washington DC) |

Ritsumeikan began as a private academy established 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 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, our Kinugasa Campus, where the Graduate School of International Relations is located, and Suzaku Campus in Kyoto, as well as our Biwako Kusatsu Campus in Shiga, and our Osaka Ibaraki Campus in Osaka combined are home to about 39,000 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 is one of 37 institutions selected to be part of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's (MEXT) "Top Global University Project." The "Top Global University Project" is a government initiative offering financial support to public and private universities focused on comprehensive internationalization and becoming world-class research and education institutions. With our selection for this prestigious project, Ritsumeikan University will continue to serve as a model for globalization in education.

## *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 Schools of International Affairs (APSIA), which is a global network of respected graduate schools specializing in international relations.
The Graduate School has admitted over 1,200 international students from more than 50 countries and regions, as well as JDS, World Bank, and MEXT-funded scholars. Those scholars play important roles as administrative officers in their home countries after 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 Mozambique, 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 (189 students from 38 countries as of May 2025) 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**
**2026 academic year**
You can select other courses (language courses, research method courses, etc.) and other Program courses.
*AY2026 Online Syllabus: https://syllabus.ritsumei.ac.jp/syllabus/s/?language=en_US

| Subject | Course Title | Credit | Lecture/Seminar | Targeted students |
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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Core | International Organizations | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Japanese Economy and Business | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Media Studies | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | International Economics | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Japanese Culture | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Japanese Diplomacy | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Japanese Politics | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Global Sociology | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Development Studies | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Theories of International Relations | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | International Security | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Japan in East Asia | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Politics in Developing Countries | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Introduction to Macroeconomics | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Introduction to Microeconomics | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Introduction to Japan Studies | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Core | Cultural Theories | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Macroeconomics | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Microeconomics | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |

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| Advanced | International Political Economy | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Global Political History | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Professional Training; International Cooperation | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Globalization and Gender Issues | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Research Training | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Quantitative Research Methodology | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Qualitative Research Methodology | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Development Economics | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Professional Training; Diplomacy | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Environmental Policy | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Race and Ethnicity | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Policy Evaluation | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | International Human Rights | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Global Peace Studies | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Conflict resolution and Peace building | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Non-Traditional Security | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Migration Studies | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Media and Cultural industries | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |

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| Advanced | Globalization of religion | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Public Diplomacy | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | International trade and Investment | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Development Finance | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Local and Regional Development | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | International Finance | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Advanced | Special Studies on International Relations | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Area Studies | South Asian Studies | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Area Studies | South East Asian Studies | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Area Studies | African Studies | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Area Studies | East Asian Studies | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Area Studies | European Studies | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Area Studies | Middle Eastern studies | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Area Studies | American Studies | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Optional | Academic Writing(E) Ⅰ | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Optional | Academic Writing (E) Ⅱ | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Optional | Comprehensive Japanese Ⅰ | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |
| Optional | Comprehensive Japanese Ⅱ | 2 | Lecture | M1・M2 |

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| Advanced Seminar | Advanced Seminar | 2 | 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 | DANISMAN, IDRIS | Religion and International Relations, Islamic Thought, Turkish Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Multiculturalism |
| 6 | FRENCH, THOMAS WILLIAM | Japanese History, Japanese Politics, History of US-Japan Relations, History of UK-Japan Relations |
| 7 | FUKUMI, SAYAKA | International Relations, Non-traditional Security Threats |
| 8 | HAYASHI, DAISUKE | Political economy, Environmental policy, Climate change policy, Energy policy |
| 9 | HIRONO, MIWA | China's International Relations, Security Studies |
| 10 | HONNA, JUN | Politics and International Relations in Southeast Asia, Indo-Pacific Strategic Affairs, Non-Traditional Security, Democratization, Civil-Military Relations/Security Sector Reform |
| 11 | ISHIKAWA, SACHIKO | International development cooperation theory, Conflict and peace studies, Regional studies (Southeast Asia, ASEAN) |
| 12 | IWATA, TAKUO | Comparative Politics, African Studies |
| 13 | KANEKO-IWASE, MAI | International human rights law (statelessness and refugee law), nationality law, citizenship and statelessness studies, forced migration studies |
| 14 | KAWAMURA, SATOKO | International Relations (Governance of Advanced Technology, International Thought), International Administration, The Law of International Relations |
| 15 | KOBAYASHI, KAZUSHIGE | Global IR Theory, International Orders, International Security, Peacebuilding, International Development, International Organizations, Russian Foreign Policy, EU Foreign Policy |
| 16 | KOGA BROWES, SCOTT PHILAMMON | Media Studies, Visual Semiotic Analysis of TV News |
| 17 | LU, WANXUE | Development Economics, International Finance, Asian Economic Studies, Southeast Asian Area Studies |
| 18 | MASUDA, MINORU | International History, History of British Politics and Diplomacy |
| 19 | MATSUDA, MASAHIKO | Agriculture and Rural Development, Area Studies (Southeast Asia, Myanmar) |
| 20 | MATSUSAKA, HIROAKI | Global and Transnational History, Intellectual and Cultural History, North American and East Asian Studies, Transpacific Studies, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies |
| 21 | NAKAGAWA, RYOJI | Development Economics, Chinese Economy |
| 22 | NAKATO, SACHIO | IR (International Relations)/IPE (International Political Economy) |
| 23 | OCHI, MEGUMI | International Criminal Justice (International Law, International Organizations, Peace and Conflict Studies) |
| 24 | OYAMA, SHINJI | Cultural Studies, Media studies, Creative/Cultural Industries Studies: Critical |

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| | | Brand Studies |
| 25 | RAJKAI, ZSOMBOR TIBOR | Social and Cultural Studies, Modernization of Non-Western Societies, Family Studies |
| 26 | SHIMADA, HARUYUKI | International Development and Cooperation, Development Economics, International Relations, Area Study (South and South East Asia) |
| 27 | SHIRATO, KEIICHI | Journalism Studies (Japan, African Countries), African Area Studies, Japan-Africa Relations |
| 28 | SMITH, NATHANIEL M. | Cultural Anthropology: Far Right Political Activism, Urban Studies, Japan Studies |
| 29 | SONODA, SETSUKO | History, Area Studies, Overseas Chinese Studies, Modern Chinese History |
| 30 | SUECHIKA, KOTA | Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, International Relations, Comparative Politics |
| 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 | UEMATSU, HIROKI | Development Economics, Poverty and Inequality, Sustainable Development, International Cooperation |
| 34 | WATANABE, HIROAKI RICHARD | International Relations, Comparative Political Economy (East Asia/Asia-Pacific, Europe, USA) |
| 35 | WATANABE, MATSUO | Economic Development, African Economies, West Balkan Study (Bosnia and Herzegovina) |
| 36 | YAMAGUCHI, TOMOMI | Cultural Anthropology, Japan Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies |
| 37 | 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 | MINAMINO YASUYOSHI | Comparative Politics, Anglo-Irish Political History |
| 2 | MORIOKA MASASHI | Economics, Economic Theory and Thoughts |
| 3 | NAKAMOTO MAOKO | Comparative Culture, Contemporary History of Alsace |
| 4 | NISHIMURA TOMOAKI | International Law, International Environmental Law |

## *Academic Schedule*

*For Reference Only

| Semester | Date Mont/Day | | Targeted students | Event & things to-do |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fall Semester | 9 | 22 | New Enrollees | Orientation for New Students |
| | 9 | 25 | New Enrollees | 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 | 20 | All | End of Classes, Fall Semester |
| | 1 | 31 | All | Start of Spring Break |
| | 3 | 31 | All | End of Fall Semester, End of Spring Break |
| Spring Semester | 4 | 1 | All | Start of Spring Semester, Orientation for New Students |
| | 4 | 4 | All | Start of Classes, Spring Semester |
| | 7 | 19 | All | End of Classes, Spring Semester |
| | 8 | 1 | All | Start of Summer Break |
| | 9 | 23 | Those Graduating | Commencement Ceremony (Masters/Professional) (Kinugasa) |
| | 9 | 25 | All | End of Summer Break, End of Spring Semester |

## *Facilities* http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/lifecareer/

**Housing**: Kinugasa Campus is surrounded by abundant and 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**: The on-campus libraries hold over 2.4 million books and 47,000 journals in Japanese, over 1 million books and 17,000 journals in English and other languages, as well as over 68,000 E-Journals, and 52,000 audiovisual materials. Kinugasa campus is home to the state-of-the-art Hirai Kaichiro Memorial Library, which 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. Moreover, the upper floors provide a gorgeous view of the city and surrounding mountains while the first floor has a Tully's café, allowing students to relax and appreciate their time in Kyoto while pursuing their research goals.
Books and materials in the library include those written in Japanese, but also hundreds of thousands written in English, and in other languages to a lesser extent. Materials can be borrowed not only from the libraries, but also from the libraries located on our Kinugasa and Osaka Ibaraki Campuses, as well as from the libraries of our sister school Ritsumeikan APU.
Ritsumeikan University Library: http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/lib/

***Medical Service Center:*** Located on campus, our medical service center promotes the health of our students through a combination of general health support services and a medical office that specializes in internal medicine. English speaking doctors with different specialties, both male and female, are on-call and rotate daily. To ensure students' good health, 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 pertinent health issues are put under watch and given follow up medical guidance until graduation.

***Counseling:*** Professional counseling is available in English and Japanese Monday to Friday at the Student Office.

**Training Room**: Our campus has a gymnasium and training room featuring brand-new state-of-the-art training equipment, a rock-climbing wall, and various specialty machines for student use. Trainers are constantly on staff to help out, and use of the gym facilities is free of charge for students.

**Restaurant / Cafeteria**: A combination of six restaurants, cafeterias, cafés and convenience stores are located across the campus offering students easy access to a quick meal or a place to relax no matter where they are. For those with special dietary restrictions, halal, vegetarian and vegan-friendly dishes are available. "Bento" boxed-lunch vendors and food trucks also offer food on-campus, and as an in-city campus there are plenty more places to enjoy a freshly cooked meal within a minute or so walk from the campus gates.
What's more, for students interested in a hot Japanese style breakfast, the cafeteria offers a 100 Yen breakfast from 8 am each morning when classes are in session. It's an incredible deal and a healthy way to start your day.

**Religious and Dietary Considerations**: All of the cafeterias on campus provide halal-friendly foods and vegetarian options in an effort to meet the broad dietary needs of our students. The on-campus convenience store also provides vegetarian options and halal snacks for students on the go. Separately, a room is available which students may use for prayer.

**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 by, among other things, leading orientation for newly enrolled students, promoting exchange activities, and managing international students' scholarships. Assistance is available in English and Japanese Monday to Friday.

**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 so on. It's a great place to just relax between classes or to make new friends.

**Other Support**: Professional academic proofreading of English language manuscripts, etc.

## *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 nearly twenty yearsthrough 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 Mozambique, who would like to construct a better Mozambique with a democratic foundation, and who wish to contribute to the establishment of good relations between Mozambique 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 Mozambique.