

Ritsumeikan University (Private) Graduate School of Policy Science

Program name

Policy Science

◆ Degrees:

Master of Arts in Policy Science

◆ Credits and years needed for graduation:

30 credits, 2 years

◆ Address:

2-150 Iwakura-cho, Ibaraki, Osaka 567-8570 JAPAN



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

General Information: *As of May 1, 2025

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 open to working people. With Saionji's blessing, the school's name was changed to Ritsumeikan Private University in 1913. At present, our Kinugasa and Suzaku campuses in Kyoto, our Biwako Kusatsu Campus in Shiga, and our Osaka Ibaraki Campus in Osaka, where the Graduate School of Policy Science is located, together are home to about 39,000 students learning under the core educational philosophy of *Peace and Democracy*. 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 the Graduate School <http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gsps/eng/>

The Graduate School of Policy Science (GSPS), Ritsumeikan University was established in 1997 to develop students' essential research skills for understanding the policy issues we face today, devising optimal solutions, and enhancing their practical competence. Policy science is a discipline that explores solutions to various policy issues that affect us while pursuing the innovation of social science itself. Through policy science studies, the GSPS aims to train both new types of researchers with practical skills and competent policy practitioners. One of the main characteristics of GRPS is the fact that many students from abroad study there. Since 2007, the graduate school has accepted transfer students from the Indonesia Linkage Master's Degree Program, administered by the Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia. During the pre-pandemic 2019-2020 academic year, the average number of international students enrolled was 67, including JICA and MEXT-funded scholars. Among the enrolled students, 72% were international students, and 32% were enrolled in English-based programs. Since graduation, these students have gone on to play important roles in various fields, including academia, business, and government.

Features of the Program <http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gsps/eng/education/feature2014/>

The founding principle of the Graduate School of Policy Science was the synthesis of experience and academic knowledge, and this principle has been carried forward to the present. Courses are organized in three clusters: (1) Public Policy, (2) Environment and Development, and (3) Social Management. Additionally, research guidance courses ("Research Project") are conducted under a collective research guidance system, with multiple faculty members from different fields serving as coordinators. The purpose of this system is to foster multifaceted inquiries and thinking skills, as well as advanced synthesis of various studies, the pillars of graduate school education in light of the complex and comprehensive nature of policy issues.

The details of our program are as follows.

I. Principle and Purpose

The purpose of the Graduate School of Policy Science is to provide a curriculum capable of instilling students with the knowledge required to discover and solve the policy issues of our modern society, and through the practical aspects and synthesis of diverse subjects, to foster graduates with the skills and knowledge required by the needs of society.

The Graduate School of Policy Science aims to address societal needs of society through the practical synthesis of diverse fields of academic study. By serving as a place for knowledge creation and human resource development, the Graduate School of Policy Science promotes the identification of policy issues in contemporary society and aims to realize their solution.

II. Educational and Human Resource Development Goals

In order to accomplish the purpose mentioned above, the Master's Program at the Graduate School of Policy Science is designed to foster the essential research skills necessary to correctly understand the policy issues we confront in our modern society and create solutions for them, and raise the practical business capability of the students to a higher level. Furthermore, through research in policy science, the curriculum aims to foster highly talented individuals capable of engaging with the social issues we face today.

III. Admission Policy

The Graduate School of Policy Science welcomes students with the following qualifications for its educational and human resource development goals mentioned above.

- 1) Have a broad interest in social issues
- 2) Willing to pursue solutions to these issues
- 3) Possess a flexible mindset and a wide range of perspectives to innovate existing disciplines through a multi-faceted approach
- 4) Excel in thinking logically

IV. Curriculum Policy

To achieve the above-mentioned human resource development goals, which are to foster the essential research skills necessary to correctly understand the policy issues we confront in our modern society, create solutions for them, and raise the practical capability of the students to a higher level, we have built a curriculum with the following categories.

Research Project (RP): Several professors from different fields of academic research organize joint research teams. Every student is required to attend one of the RP units and proceed to conduct project-type research under the guidance of the professors of the RP. The following three clusters (PUBLIC POLICY CLUSTER, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CLUSTER, and SOCIAL MANAGEMENT CLUSTER) have been set according to the features of the research theme and approach.

Policy Science Research Subjects: It is necessary to "integrate elements of academic knowledge" to understand and solve actual policy issues, which is the purpose of policy science research. Below are the categories of knowledge that are to be generalized for the above purpose. We offer several courses under these categories.

- 1) Public Policy Courses
- 2) Sustainable Development Courses
- 3) Social Management Courses
- 4) Common Courses
- 5) Foreign Language Courses
- 6) Co-creating Regional Development Courses

Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees

To complete the Master's Program at the Graduate School of Policy Science, students must:

- 1) Acquire at least 30 credits in total.
- 2) Acquire a minimum of 6 credits, including "Research Project IV A" for 3 courses among "Research Project I A", "Research Project II A", "Research Project III A", and "Research Project IV A". For "Research Projects," graduate students must:
 - (1) Receive the necessary research guidance from a supervising lecturer.
 - (2) Submit "Research Papers", summarizing research undertaken during the corresponding semester. However, submit a "Master's thesis" for "Research Project IV A".

- 3) Present oral research reports at the Policy Science Workshops held in the 2nd and 4th semesters.
 - (1) 2nd semester: 20 minutes per report (15 minutes for presentation, 5 minutes for Questions and Answers)
 - (2) 4th semester: 30 minutes per report (20 minutes for presentation, 10 minutes for Questions and Answers)
- 4) Attain a passing mark for evaluation and oral examination to acquire credits for “Research Project IV A”.

List of faculty members capable of guiding JDS Fellows

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

NO.	Name	Specialization Areas	Title/Position
1	IIDA Miki	Cultural studies, gender history	Professor
2	ISHIKAWA Ibuki	Business administration (strategic management, organization theory)	Professor
3	INABA Mitsuyuki	Learning science, cognitive science	Professor
4	INOUCHI Munenari	Support for life-reconstruction of disaster survivors, behavioral disaster management, disaster prevention planning, administrative risk management, DX design science for resilience	Professor
5	UEHARA Takuro	Ecological economics, systems science	Professor
6	OTSUKA Yoko	Welfare policy, gender studies	Professor
7	ODA Hisaya	Development economics, South Asian area studies	Professor
8	KAMIKUBO Masato	Contemporary Japanese politics, policy-making process, international political economy	Professor
9	KANEGAE Hidehiko	Planning theory, regional science, disaster mitigation for urban cultural heritage, simulation and gaming	Professor
10	KISHI Michio	Public economy, public management, and labor policy	Professor
11	KIDO Hideki	Government, comparative politics, intergovernmental relations	Professor
12	KOSUGI Takanobu	Environmental policy, energy science, social systems engineering	Professor
13	SAKANISHI Akiko	Regional economics, urban economics, labor economics, economic policy	Professor

14	SAKURAI Masanari	Sociology	Professor
15	SHIKI Kimiko	Urban planning, housing policies, urban space and poverty problems	Professor
16	TAKASHINO Nina	Development economics, agricultural economics, gender studies	Professor
17	TOYODA Yusuke	Community-based disaster management, disaster management education, disaster management of tourism	Professor
18	NAKANO Katsuyuki	Environmental management, environmental impact assessment	Professor
19	HATTORI Toshiyuki	Management accounting, management strategy analysis	Professor
20	FUNAHASHI Toyoko	Global marketing, retailing in the Philippines, BoP business	Professor
21	MIYAWAKI Noboru	International politics, international public policy, security policy	Professor
22	MORI Hiroyuki	Public finance, urban economics	Professor
23	MORI Michiya	Public administration, theories of the policy process	Professor
24	YOSHIDA Tomohiko	Urban planning	Professor
25	ANDO Yuta	Sustainability science, circular economy, science communication	Associate Professor
26	KAKUMOTO Kazumasa	Urban planning	Associate Professor
27	KURATA Noriko	human geography	Associate Professor
28	KOJIMA Naoko	Foreign language education, applied linguistics, intercultural communication	Associate Professor
29	SAUCEDO Segami Daniel Dante	Public archaeology, andean archaeology, cultural anthropology, science and technology diplomacy, Spanish language education	Associate Professor
30	SCHOUTEN Andrew	Urban planning, urban studies, transportation policy, travel behavior	Associate Professor
31	TAMURA Masaoki	Microeconomics, health Economics, statistics	Associate Professor

32	NARITA Hiroki	Political philosophy, contemporary political theory, critical theory	Associate Professor
33	FUKUI Haruna	Foreign language education, applied linguistics, language learning motivation	Associate Professor
34	YAMADE Miya	Urban planning, community design	Associate Professor
35	ISHIHARA Kazuhiko	Urban planning, community development	Fixed-term teaching staff
36	TSAY Shioh-Ching	Administrative law, comparative administrative law, local autonomy law, Asian law (Taiwanese law/Chinese law)	Fixed-term teaching staff
37	ZHOU Weisheng	International energy and environmental policy, policy engineering, sustainability science	Fixed-term teaching staff
38	NISHIMURA Yozo	Finance theory, international finance theory, international economics	Fixed-term teaching staff
39	HICKS Kimberley Anne	Gender studies, feminist theory, digitalized society, diversity governance	Fixed-term teaching staff
40	YASUE Noriko	EU studies, international relations, politics	Fixed-term teaching staff

Academic Schedule

*For Reference Only

Semester	Date Month/Day		Targeted students	Events & things to do
AY2027 Fall Semester	9	24	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	13	All	End of Classes, Fall Semester
	1	24	All	Start of Spring Break
	3	31	All	End of Fall Semester, End of Spring Break
AY2028 Spring Semester	4	1	All	Start of Spring Semester
	4	6	All	Start of Classes, Spring Semester
	7	14	All	End of Classes, Spring Semester

	7	24	All	Start of Summer Break
	9	23	Those Graduating	Commencement Ceremony (Masters/Professional)
	9	25	All	End of Summer Break, End of Spring Semester

Facilities

Housing: Incoming students can enjoy shared dorm life in our international student dormitory, the OIC International House, near campus. The dorm comprises shared units, each with 6 private bedrooms, a shared living room/dining room/kitchen, shared bathrooms, and so on. Each unit comes fully furnished. Living with 5 other students is a unique experience, where strong bonds of friendship are forged through shared studies and life experiences, and something many students come to cherish after moving out and graduating.

Alternatively, students looking for a little more privacy or those who plan to come with family can easily find single- or multi-occupancy housing through the on-campus University Cooperative's housing agency or through any of the private agencies operating in the area surrounding the campus.

Student Dormitory, OIC International House: <http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/lifecareer/dorm/oic/>

OIC Library: In addition to a number of periodicals and fiction and non-fiction works, academic literature related to policy science, technology management, psychology, business administration, and management can be found in the OIC Library. The library has a variety of private study booths and seating areas that can be utilized for quiet study, as well as conference areas and rooms where students can engage in lively discussion and debate.

Books and materials include those written in Japanese, as well as hundreds of thousands written in English and, to a lesser extent, in other languages. Materials can be borrowed not only from this library, but also from the libraries located on our Kinugasa and Biwako Kusatsu 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 students' health through a combination of general health support services and a medical office specializing 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 placed under observation and receive follow-up medical guidance until graduation.

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

Training Room: The Training Room is fully equipped with a free-weight area, several multi-use racks and Olympic lift stations, circuit machines, aerobic machines, belts, bands, and more, giving students multiple avenues for a great workout. Trainers are constantly on staff to help out, and use of the gym facilities is free of charge for students.

Restaurant / Cafeteria: Students can visit one of our two cafeterias, the Ginza Lion restaurant, Minamen Ramen, 7-11, the Co-op Convenience Store (one of our two co-op satellite mini-convenience store/lunch stands), or Starbucks without ever needing to leave campus. At lunchtime, a handful of "bento" boxed-lunch vendors serve meals on campus each day to satiate the appetites of our hungry students, and two to four food trucks are usually parked on the premises well into the mid-afternoon. Foods available range from traditional Japanese dishes to kebabs, crepes, and curry, with halal-friendly, vegetarian, and vegan options. Being an in-city campus, an even greater variety of meals at various price points can easily be had within a five- to ten-minute walk from campus.

For students interested in a hot Japanese-style breakfast, the cafeteria offers a 100 Yen breakfast from 8 am each morning during classes. It's an incredible deal and a healthy way to start your day.

Religious and Dietary Considerations: Halal-friendly, vegetarian, and vegan dishes and snacks are available at several locations across campus to help allow equal access to quick, affordable, and healthy meals for students of all backgrounds. Separately, there are two rooms available on-campus which students may use for prayer.

International Center: The International Center provides support for Ritsumeikan's large international student body, including organizing orientation for new students, promoting exchange activities, and managing scholarships. Assistance is available in English and Japanese.

Beyond Borders Plaza: The Beyond Borders Plaza (BBP) is a global student commons where students can study, relax, take language courses, hold their own events, or participate in those held by the many other students who frequent the commons. BBP is stocked with books, magazines, and newspapers in a variety of languages, board games, video games, and other fun learning and study materials.

Message for Applicants

Policy Science is a discipline that analyzes the problems facing modern society from multiple perspectives and seeks solutions. Students studying at GRPS can develop the ability to grasp problems from both theoretical and empirical perspectives, and to consider prescriptions as well. With a large number of international students, the graduate school offers students the opportunity to study in a global environment.

The campus, opened in 2015, is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and is located in Ibaraki, halfway between Osaka and Kyoto, with excellent transportation access, making it the perfect location to live and work.

We look forward to meeting you all here in Ibaraki, Osaka.