Ritsumeikan University (Private)
Graduate School of Economics

◆ **Program name**
Master's Program in Economic Development

◆ **Degrees:**
Master of Economics

◆ **Credit and years needed for graduation:**
30 credits, 2 years

◆ **Address:**
1-1-1 Noji-higashi, Kusatsu, Shiga
525-8577 JAPAN



Features of 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 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 and Suzaku campuses in Kyoto, as well as our Biwako Kusatsu Campus in Shiga, where the Graduate School of Economics is located, 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.
More

Features of Graduate School http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gsec/mped/

Since its establishment in 1950, the Graduate School of Economics at Ritsumeikan University has produced many outstanding graduates who have entered the business world, national and local governments, and various research organizations. Located near Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan, the campus offers a beautiful natural environment along with the highest level of facilities and equipment. The faculty of Economics has educated more than 50,000 students with independence and ability in business and administration. We feel proud that we have kept a prominent position among graduate schools and faculties of economics in Japan in terms of the quality of education and research.
Please refer to our website for detailed information.
http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gsec/mped/

Features of the Program http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gsec/mped/

Since 2001 the school has offered a program for international students that are taught in English. As of June 2026, the program has received 479 international students from 49 countries. It has proven popular with international students who enjoy taking courses in English in a Japanese academic setting, while working with their academic advisors on the writing and submission of their theses. The Master's Program in Economic Development (MPED), which started in September 2002, offers training in fundamental economics, including Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics, and Applied Economics, conforming to international standards, and is taught entirely in English. This program accepts students from developing and developed countries who have strong interest in Japanese and Asian economic development, and fosters knowledgeable professionals who can lead the international community. The aim of this program is to nurture talented individuals with wide-ranging interests who will become leaders in international society.

Graduates of this program will acquire:
1. Economic knowledge and analytic skill at an international standard level;

2. Specialized and wide-ranging insight on economic development and advanced capability at policy evaluation and infrastructure planning and management in developing countries;

3. Communication skills required for international conferences, international organizations and international cooperation;

4. Deep understanding and insight into the Japanese and world economies with capacity to do the following;
- Engage in national government and state-enterprise planning, policymaking, economic analysis, and international relations.
- Be involved in the coordination of regional economic development through local government, NGOs and related international organizations.
- Be involved with economic research & education at universities and research organizations.

- Become an international public servant who plays an active role on the global scene.

Necessary Curriculum to Obtain the Degrees http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gsec/mped/program/

- Students must acquire 30 credits in the two years (completing 15 one-semester courses), including 4 credits from each of the three year-long core courses, 4 credits from the year-long Elementary Seminar, 4 credits each from the year-long Special Seminar and year-long Research Seminar (focusing on thesis preparation), and 2 credits from each of at least three one-semester elective courses. Each student is also required to submit a Master's thesis and pass its examination.
- Core courses (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and Econometrics) and the Elementary Seminar course assure that each student who completes the first year of study will have mastered basic economics and will know how it applies to developing countries.
- Elective courses such as Public Policy, Financial Economics, and Environmental Economics, allow students to focus more intensely on topics of special relevance to their own particular interests or research themes.
- The educational experience extends beyond the classroom. We expect that international students will enjoy and learn from their two years in Japan. Our students have many opportunities to participate in research seminars with Japanese and international students, attend guided field trips to nearby business establishments, and join in other scheduled activities.
- Through individual instruction and guidance, we enable each student to successfully carry out his or her research and complete their Master's thesis

List of faculty members capable of guiding JDS Fellows

A thesis supervisor and sub-supervisor are assigned to each student towards the end of the 2nd semester (around June), based on the research plan submitted by the student. In addition, throughout the two years of study, two or three professors guide the JDS Fellows and their fellow students in the Elementary and Research Seminars. Still other professors (and sometimes the same professors) teach the core courses and elective courses. Please refer to the list below for the names of our professors, and our Ritsumeikan University Researchers Database for further information: http://research-db.ritsumei.ac.jp/scripts/websearch/index.htm?lang=en

Name	Position	Field of Research, Subject of Research, Research Theme etc.
ADACHI, Yusuke	Associate Professor	・Regional Economics ・Urban Economics ・Applied micro-econometrics
EHARA, Kei	Associate Professor	・Marxian political economy
GOKAN, Yoichi	Professor	・Macroeconomic Theory ・Macroeconomic Dynamics Theory ・Economic Growth Theory ・Endogenous business cycle theory: in determinativeness and branch theory
GOMBI, Ichiro	Professor	・Macroeconomic Theory ・International Finance ・A Theoretical Study on Determination of Exchange Rate and International Balance of Payments

GOTO, Daisaku	Professor	・Behavioral Development Economics ・Behavioral Environmental Economics ・Applied Microeconometrics
HARIMAYA, Kozo	Professor	・Economic statistics, Economic Policy, Money, Finance ・Empirical analysis of financial institutions and financial markets ・Empirical analysis of the effects of industrial policy
HAYASHI, Hiroaki	Professor	・Comparative Economic Systems ・Economics of System Transformation ・Comparative Study on Socio-economic Problems of Transition Countries
HORI, Kazumi	Professor	・Contract Theory ・Organizational Economics ・Applied Microeconomic Theory
ICHINO, Yasukazu	Professor	・International trade theory ・Microeconomic theory ・Teaching economics ・Diversity and international trade ・Gains from trade ・Flipped classroom in teaching economics
INASAWA, Izumi	Professor	・International Comparative Analysis of Policy Making Process in Energy/Environmental Sectors ・Environmental Policies and Development ・International Project Finance
KAKINAKA, Makoto	Professor	・Public Policy ・Financial Systems ・International Economics
KAWAGISHI, Taketo	Associate Professor	・Macroeconomic Theory ・Economic Growth Theory ・Dynamic Macroeconomic Analysis
KINOKUNI, Hiroshi	Professor	・Industrial Organization ・A Theoretical Study on Durable Goods Monopoly
KOBAYASHI, Mizuki	Associate Professor	・Automobile industry ・Relationship between automobile companies and suppliers
KURIHARA, Yukiko	Professor	・Micro data Analysis Based on Secondary Utilization of Official Statistics ・Regional and Seasonal Features of Work-Life Balance Based on Time-Use Information: An Empirical Study

KUROKAWA, Kiyoto	Professor	・Regional Development Economics. ・Private sector development study in developing countries. ・Economic Resilience
LEE, Kangkook	Professor	・Macroeconomics of inequality and economic growth ・Financial development, financial globalization and income distribution
LEE,Chuiying	Associate Professor	・Development economics ・Environmental economics ・Applied econometrics
MASWANA Jean-Claude	Professor	・Development Macroeconomics ・Development theories and policies ・International Trade and Economic Growth ・Trade and Sustainable Development ・Asia-Africa's Economic Interactions
MATSUMOTO, Akira	Professor	・Study on systematizing of the international economics with the international value theory as the key concept. ・On relation between monetary policy and prices ・On factors of the fluctuation of Foreign Exchange and the Level
MINETOSHI, Chiho	Professor	・Tourism Economics ・Tourism Education ・Conservation and Inheritance of Regional Resources
MOMOTA, Akira	Professor	・Economic growth theory ・Population economics: a theoretical approach ・A theoretical study on macroeconomic dynamics under low fertility and aging societies
NAKAI, Miwa	Associate Professor	・Environmental Economics ・Environmental Policy ・Sustainable Investment
NIIGATA, Atsushi	Professor	・International finance ・Financial market analysis ・Impact of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on finance ・Financial industry analysis
NISHI, Hiroshi	Professor	・Japanese economy ・Analytical political economy
NITTA, Kohei	Associate Professor	・Experimental Economics and Behavioral Economics ・Research on Social Norms ・Layered Public Goods Game

ODAMAKI, Tomoko	Associate Professor	・Social Policy ・Co-production of Welfare Services
OHASHI, Akira	Professor	・U.S. Economy ・Modern Economic History of the U.S. ・A Political Economy of the U.S. Financial System
OHNO, Atsushi	Professor	・International Political Economy ・Fair Trade and Ethical Consumption ・WTO and Development Policy
OSHIO, Ryohei	Associate Professor	・European Economic History ・Socioeconomic history of performing arts and theatre in Vienna ・Socioeconomic history in modern Austria
QIN, Jie	Professor	・Financial Economics ・Behavioral Finance ・Market Microstructure ・Emotion and decision making
SANO, Sayaka	Professor	・Rural economy ・Development economics ・Economics policy (Agricultural policy) ・Agribusiness and Cooperatives in Brazil
SASAO, Toshiaki	Professor	・Environmental Economics ・Economic Analysis of Waste Management and Circular Economy
SATOH, Takashi	Professor	・Marxian Economic Theory ・Theory of Capital ・The Theory of Capitalist Economy
SHEN, Xuemei	Associate Professor	・General equilibrium model ・Global value chain ・Input-output analysis ・Public finance
SHIMADA, Koji	Professor	・Energy Consumption Behavioral change using pricing and nudge ・Renewable energy policy and market evolution ・Climate change adaptation policy and behavioral change
TAKEUCHI, Ai	Professor	・Experimental Economics and Game Theory ・Institutions to raise and sustain cooperation ・Effects of information on behavior
TERAWAKI, Taku	Professor	・Economic valuation of non-market goods with stated preference approaches ・Empirical analysis of consumer behavior/preference using survey data

TOKUMARU, Natsuka	Professor	・Economic Philosophy ・Experimental Economics ・Micro-behavioral Theory of System and Ethics
YOSHIOKA, Shinji	Professor	・Japanese Economy ・Economic Policy ・Business cycle in Japan, and applying for development economics, and policy analysis in general
VIXATHEP Souksavanh	Professor	・Economic Development Studies ・Southeast Asian economies ・Enterprise development, entrepreneurship, innovation ・International trade and economic development

Academic Schedule

*For Reference Only

Semester	Date Month/Day		Target students	Event & things to-do
Fall Semester	9	16	New Enrollees	International Student Orientation
	9	25	New Enrollees	Matriculation Ceremony
	9	26	All	Fall Semester Starts
	12	26	All	Start of Winter Break
	1	5	All	End of Winter Break
	1	6	All	Classes Recommence, Fall Semester
	1	14	All	End of Classes, Fall Semester
	1	24	All	Start of Spring Break
	3	31	All	End of Fall Semester, End of Spring Break
Spring Semester	4	1	All	Spring Semester Starts
	7	16	All	End of Classes, Spring Semester
	7	26	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 http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/lifecareer/

Student Dormitories: 153 single rooms are available in our international student dormitory, the BKC International House, located just adjacent to the campus.
Rooms are furnished with: bed, desk, chair, internet connection, toilet, sink, refrigerator, lighting, and air conditioner. (*Showers in some rooms)
Common areas include: kitchens, showers, washing machines, study rooms, lobby, multipurpose hall with tatami corner (with TV & DVD player), billiard table, table tennis, basketball hoop, and vending machines.
English-speaking managers are on duty 24/7, and Resident Mentors - Japanese and international upper-year students who help manage the dorm and who assist the dorm's international residents with adjustment to life in Japan, help with day-to-day issues, and who organize fun group events - reside on each floor, ensuring that even students coming to Japan for the first time can enjoy a worry-free start to their life in their temporary new home away from home.
*The University Cooperative also offers housing agency services on campus in English for students who wish to seek alternate private accommodation in the local area.
Student Dormitory, BKC International House: http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/lifecareer/dorm/bkc/

Library Services: BKC is home to two library/media centers. Academic literature related to science and engineering, information science and engineering, life sciences, and pharmaceutical sciences are found in the Media Center,

whereas information related to economics, sports and health science, and gastronomy management are found in the Media Library. Many of the books and materials in each library are in Japanese, but there are also hundreds of thousands written in English, and in other languages to a lesser extent. Both of these facilities are available to students regardless of the research department to which they belong. Materials can be borrowed not only from these two 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-Friday at the Student Office.

Training Room: Our on-campus BKC Gym's Training Room is fully equipped with a free weight area, circuit machines and aerobic machines, giving students multiple avenues to put in a great workout. Trainers are constantly on staff to help out, and use of the gym facilities is free of charge for students. A second gym on campus also houses indoor and outdoor pools, a large gymnasium/basketball court, another aerobic machine room, and a free space where student exercise classes such as yoga, Pilates and dance are offered.

Restaurant / Cafeteria: In addition to the one restaurant, three cafeterias, three cafes, three convenience stores and bakery we have on campus, over a dozen food trucks and boxed-lunch vendors serve food on campus each day. Everything from traditional Japanese meals to curries, kebabs, tacos, pizza, pasta and crepes can be had on-campus, and halal, vegetarian and vegan dishes are available.

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 and vegan options and halal snacks for students on the go. Separately, a room is available which students may use for prayer.

International Center and Beyond Borders Plaza: 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. Located directly in front of the International Center 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, manga, magazines and newspapers in a variety of languages, board games, and varied seating allowing for everything from casual lounging to intensive individual and group study.

Other Support: Scholars are strongly encouraged to participate in the class "JICA/JDS Support for Daily Conversation in Japanese", offered by the Graduate School of Economics, which is meant to help scholars smoothly adapt to life in Japan by learning basic Japanese conversation skills and the Japanese hiragana/katakana alphabets. The graduate school also provides for thorough professional academic proofreading of English language manuscripts.

Message for Applicants

The Ritsumeikan University Master's Program in Economic Development (MPED) is for all students with high communication skills in English who desire to learn basic economics and apply it to their own specialized fields of study. Economics is a broad discipline that is widely applicable to government policy and business practice. MPED graduates are able to apply economic reasoning to public and private sector decision making. They are able to identify the true effects of policies and persuade others of the correctness of their analysis using empirical evidence and cogent arguments. Applicants should have a desire to use such abilities in their careers for the benefit of society.

