

To Students

Ritsumeikan University

### Academic Honesty and Integrity at Ritsumeikan University

Final examinations will take place starting January 21 at the university. We would like to express our support as you prepare for the final exams, which provide an important opportunity to measure your academic achievements for the fall semester.

The Ritsumeikan Charter states that “Ritsumeikan will pursue the creation of universal values based on academic freedom and search for solutions to the pressing issues facing humankind...”. These words are filled with the hope that, by engaging in studies independently, you will become aware of your role as a key member of society, with a keen interest and open mind regarding domestic and international affairs, that you will value respect of others, and that you will lay the foundations for your career and your future.

The University does not tolerate academic misconduct, such as looking at another person’s paper during a test and any other form of cheating. Academic misconduct is subject to disciplinary action based on the Ritsumeikan University Final Examination Regulations and the Ritsumeikan University Student Disciplinary Regulations, and each College enforces strict rules for examinations. Unfortunately, cases of misconduct in final exams are often reported and students continually face discipline. For example, if a fourth-year student approaching graduation is worried about whether he or she will graduate and cheats on an exam, the student will end up postponing graduation and have to give up on the job offer.

Plagiarism on papers is also unacceptable. Plagiarism is unethical behavior that involves using someone else's literary work without acknowledging the source or stealing someone else’s original ideas or words and presenting them as your own. This includes copying someone else's paper and copy-pasting articles from internet sources. There are in fact students at Ritsumeikan who resort to plagiarism for their papers, whether intended or not. Plagiarizing works of others for papers and thesis is an infringement on the rights of the original author. A student who plagiarizes with malicious intent will face disciplinary actions according to the Ritsumeikan University Student Disciplinary Regulations (acts against academic ethics).

The Ritsumeikan Charter describes “...its educational endeavors based on its founding spirit and educational ideals, bearing in mind ‘to believe in the future, to live for the future’. Ritsumeikan will foster learning and the development of individual talents in order to nurture just and ethical global citizens.” We hope you will enjoy your student life with a sense of pride in your studies and a strong commitment to learning at the university.