

Degrees

Master of Arts in International Relations
Doctor of Philosophy

Enrollment semesters

April or September

Scholarship / Grants (Academic Year 2021 Entry)

Master's Program

Entrance Scholarship	Eligibility	Amount (approximately)
SEISEKI-YUSHUSHA Scholarship for 1st Year	Self-financed students with outstanding results in the admissions screenings	I→500,000yen/1st year II→400,000yen/1st year III→300,000yen/1st year IV→200,000yen/1st year V→100,000yen/1st year *Maximum of 25% of all enrollees with outstanding results in the admissions screenings *No separate application required. *Recipients will receive a notice together with the letter of acceptance.
Tuition Reduction Scheme - 100% tuition waiver	Self-financed international students with outstanding results in the admissions screenings	100% tuition waiver (duration of standard program completion period)
Enrollment Scholarship	Eligibility	Amount (approximately)
Tuition Reduction Scheme - 20% tuition reduction	Self-financed international students	20% tuition reduction (duration of standard program completion period)
JASSO Scholarship	Self-financed international students living outside Japan at the time of application until the time of admission	48,000yen per month, 12 months for spring enrollment students; 6 months for fall enrollment students
SEISEKI-YUSHUSHA Scholarship for 2nd Year	3rd semester self-financed students who achieve excellence in their grades during 1st year	I→200,000JPY II→100,000JPY

Doctoral Program

Entrance Scholarship	Eligibility	Amount (approximately)
Tuition Reduction Scheme - 100% tuition waiver	Self-financed international students with outstanding results in the admissions screenings	100% tuition waiver (duration of standard program completion period)
Enrollment Scholarship	Eligibility	Amount (approximately)
Tuition Reduction Scheme - 20% tuition reduction	Self-financed international students	20% tuition reduction (duration of standard program completion period)
JASSO Scholarship	Self-financed international students living outside Japan during the period between application and enrollment	48,000JPY per month, 12 months for spring enrollment students; 6 months for fall enrollment students
KENKYU-SHOREI Scholarship	Self-financed students who achieve excellence in their field of research	SHOREI S, A, B (check the GSIR website for more details.)

Access to RU

Kansai International Airport in Osaka
→1hr. 15min.
by JR Limited Express "Haruka"

Kyoto Station
→30min.
by taxi / 45min. by bus

Tokyo Station
→2hr. 10min.
by JR Shinkansen (bullet train)



Please check the website for details regarding faculty research, DMDP partner universities, interviews with current students, admission requirements, financial aid, courses, and more.

立命館大学大学院 国際関係研究科

www.ritsumeai.ac.jp/gsir/eng/

gsir ritsumeai

RITSUMEIKAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Letter from the Dean

Welcome to GSIR

The covid-19 pandemic has provided all universities with an opportunity to reconsider their significance and role as educational and research institutions. Under such circumstances, the Graduate School of International Relations of Ritsumeikan University launched its new curriculum in the 2021 academic year. Our graduate school has been admitting more students from not only Asia but also Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and North and Latin America year by year. In response to this trend, we have decided to increase the number of classes delivered in English. This is one of the characteristics of the new curriculum. In addition, this must be a good chance for Japanese language-based students to enhance their English skills and expand their horizons.

International organizations, the governmental sector, private sector, civil society groups, and research and educational institutions, these are the professional sectors our graduates are engaged in, using the skills and knowledge they gained in this graduate school. Moreover, you are provided with not only courses but also various academic and practical opportunities on and off-campus, which will help you realize your potential. We, the faculty and administrative staff, will make our best efforts to support you. These, however, are opportunities only you can take. Whether you can, or will, be able to find high value in our graduate school depends on your own efforts and mindset. Graduate students are required to be more self-reliant and act independently. We really hope that applicants who can realize this and can devote themselves to research will join us.



Dean
Graduate School of International Relations
Ritsumeikan University
Haruyuki Shimada

A History of Ritsumeikan University

The history of Ritsumeikan dates back to 1869 when Prince Kinmochi Saionji, an eminent international statesman of modern Japan, founded "Ritsumeikan" as a private academy on the site of the Kyoto Imperial Palace. In 1900, Kojuro Nakagawa, former secretary of Prince Saionji, established Kyoto Hosei School, an evening law school that was open to working people. This school formally adopted the name Ritsumeikan in 1913 and was finally given the status of a university in 1922. The word ritsumei comes from a passage in the Jinxin chapter of the Discourses of Mencius. This passage states that: "Some die young, as some live long lives. This is decided by fate. Therefore, one's duty consists of cultivating one's mind during this mortal span and thereby establishing one's destiny."

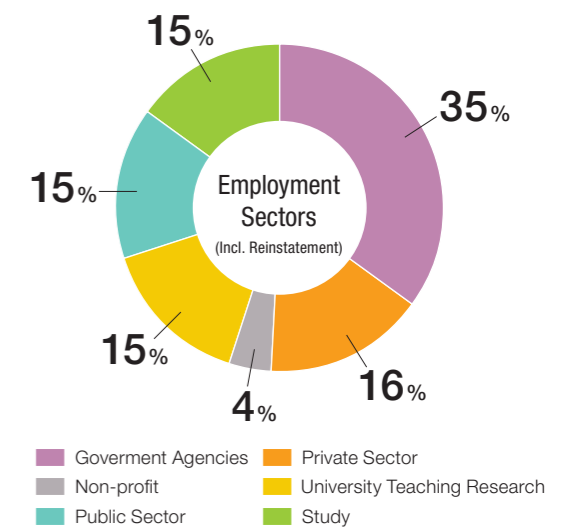


- We offer an unique interdisciplinary program that links politics, economics, media and culture with a global perspective
- We embrace a diverse group of students from over 30 countries
- We are located in Kyoto, voted the world's best city to visit by Travel + Leisure magazine



Student Voice /

The benefits and strengths of being a part of GSIR is the ability to focus on research on topics that you're interested in, as well as having a lot of opportunities to have classes on a range of topics with lecturers both from academia and the professional sector.



More than

30 yrs

HISTORY

Over

1,200

ALUMNI

ALUMNI IN

51

COUNTRIES

The Only Official Member of

APSIDA

IN JAPAN

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

A Super Global University

SGU

One of the most selective global Universities in Japan

Two M.A.s in two years

DMDP

Dual Master's Degree Program

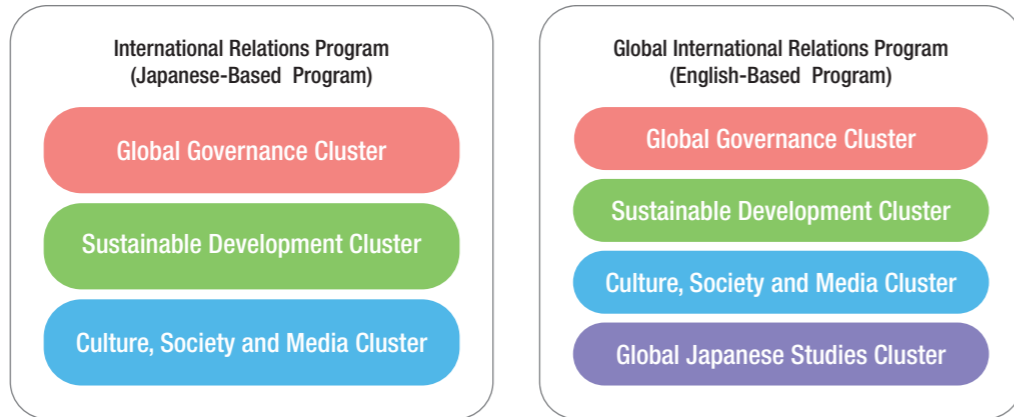
Master's Programs

We are living in a connected world which faces a growing number of global issues; these are issues that no single state can cope with alone. The global pandemic, climate change, refugees and migration, terrorism, and natural disaster are all global issues that require dialogue and close cooperation between various national and international actors. Our Master of International Relations degree is designed to train future leaders, who are equipped with the skills and expertise to address pressing global challenges which cut across politics, economic development, culture, and society.

Courses offered in Japanese / Courses offered in English

GSIR offers Japanese-based and English-based programs.

* Admitted students are affiliated only with their program and not with any particular cluster.
 * Students may take courses from any cluster.
 * Not all courses are offered every year. Please confirm the exact information at the orientation after enrollment.



Global Governance Cluster

Designed to give students the opportunity to learn a variety of theoretical and practical approaches to understanding international politics, comparative politics, international laws, and peace and security studies. Students will learn about international policymaking and will be expected to develop their own policy visions aimed at promoting global peace and prosperity.

Sustainable Development Cluster

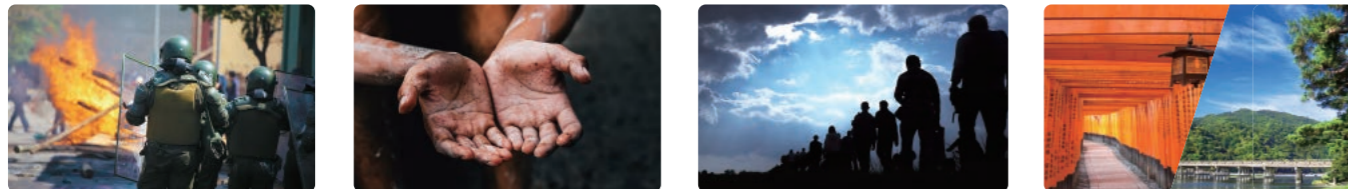
Designed to assist students in gaining a well-rounded academic knowledge which draws from disciplines such as international cooperation, economic theories, and economics. Students also develop practical skills in policy development and evaluation, which will assist them in contributing to sustainable development and prosperity in the developed and developing parts of the world.

Culture, Society, and Media Cluster

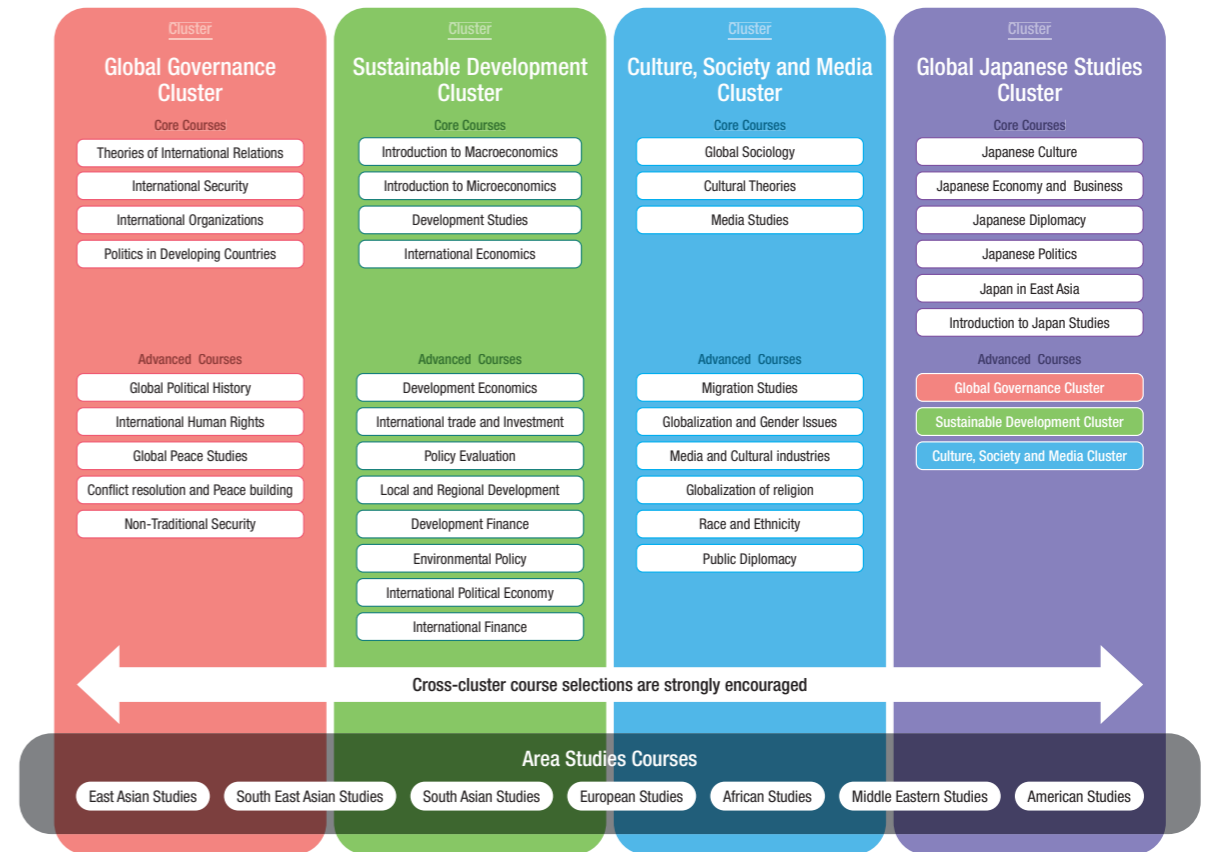
Designed to provide students with a theoretical understanding of cultural and social studies and key concepts in media and cultural studies. Students gain a well-balanced and systematic knowledge of a wide range of global cultural and social issues concerning ethnicity, race, migration, as well as popular culture and media and cultural industries, and public diplomacy.

Global Japanese Studies Cluster

Designed to allow students with a particular interest in Japan to take courses which will not only strengthen their knowledge of Japan and its international relations but also expand their horizons by offering a variety of perspectives including Global Governance, Economics and Sustainable Development, and Culture, Society and Media. This cluster will both provide foundational and advanced knowledge of Japan's international outlook, and how the rest of the world has viewed Japan.



Global International Relations Program (English-Based Program)



For more information, please visit our website.

Cross Registration System

We have a unique curriculum that allows students to take courses offered in the other program too.



Schedule for Two-Year Master's Program in International Relations

Students starting in	M1												M2										
	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Early Nov.	Dec.	Late Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Mid Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Late Jan.	Early/Mid Feb.
Schedule	Enrollment, Advanced Seminar and Course Registration					Submission of Progress Report I (M1 Kenkyu Report)					Submission of Progress Report II (M1 Ronbun)					Submission of Master's Thesis (Shuron)					Degree Conferment Ceremony/Degree to be Conferred: Master of Arts in International Relations		
	Research Advising Plan					Old Presentation of Thesis Proposal (Shinchoku Hokokukai)					Research Advising Plan					Final Oral Presentation (Saishu Hokokukai)					Oral Defence Examination (Koto Shimon)		
Students starting in September	Sept. Oct.						Apr.	Early Jun.		Mid of Jul.			Oct.						Mid May		Mid of Jul.	Late Jul.	Sept.
Course/Thesis Guidance	Core, Advanced and Area Studies, Advanced Seminar												Core, Advanced and Area Studies, Advanced Seminar										
	Professional Training/Research Training																						
Recommended Activity/Program	DMDP (from August to July)												Internship (Overseas/Domestic) (Applicants participate in the internship program for 1-6 months between first year summer break and second year summer break)										

Support for Individual Research (Master's thesis)

Students receive comments and feedback from professors at the regular presentations prior to the submission of their Master's thesis. Student questionnaires show a high degree of satisfaction with our guidance.



Sample Course Plans

Student A was interested in:

The impact of cultural and economic factors on conflict resolution in Africa

Thinking that the role of international politics is crucial in conflict resolution in Africa, 'A' mainly took courses related to the theories of International Politics and conflict resolution in the Global Governance cluster, while taking other courses such as Race and Ethnicity, or International Economics from the other clusters to develop a comprehensive analytical angle.

1st semester	2nd semester	3rd semester	4th semester
Advanced Seminar	Advanced Seminar	Advanced Seminar	Advanced Seminar
Theories of International Relations	Conflict resolution and Peace building	International Organizations	Local and Regional Development
African Studies	International Security	Non-Traditional Security	
Professional Training; International Cooperation	Quantitative Research Methodology	International Political Economy	
Academic Writing(E) I	Academic Writing(E) II	Race and Ethnicity	

Student B was interested in:

Bilateral diplomacy with renewable energy

With an ambition to become a professional practitioner of renewable energy diplomacy, along with Japanese and statistics courses, 'B' mainly took courses dealing with the environment along with economics-related courses from the Sustainable Development cluster; this prepared her to be ready for work in the field.

1st semester	2nd semester	3rd semester	4th semester
Advanced Seminar	Advanced Seminar	Advanced Seminar	Advanced Seminar
Introduction to Microeconomics	Introduction to Macroeconomics	International Economics	
Development Economics	Environmental Policy	Policy Evaluation	
Public Diplomacy	Quantitative Research Methodology	Professional Training; International Cooperation	
Research Training	Academic Writing(E) II	East Asian Studies	
Academic Writing(E) I			

Student C was interested in:

Middle Eastern migrants in Europe

Concerned with the effect of media on the issue of migration, 'C' took courses in the Culture, Society and Media cluster. In order to develop a methodological framework for understanding the issue in a multi-dimensional way, he took European Studies, Middle Eastern Studies and International Politics.

1st semester	2nd semester	3rd semester	4th semester
Advanced Seminar	Advanced Seminar	Advanced Seminar	Advanced Seminar
Cultural Theories	Global Sociology	International Human Rights	Globalization and Gender Issues
Politics in Developing Countries	Media Studies	Globalization of religion	
Migration Studies	Qualitative Research Methodology	Race and Ethnicity	
Middle Eastern studies	European Studies	Research Training	

Area Studies

GSIR provides a wide range of area studies courses to our MA students. It is perhaps a paradox that globalization requires us to pay more attention to what is happening in local communities; on the one hand, the rise of global issues demands the deepening of global governance, but, on the other, the building of effective global governance requires a deeper understanding of local dynamics at the national and social levels. Ignoring the locality is not only problematic but also dangerous for students of International Relations, who are expected to be drivers of peace and prosperity across the world, hence we highlight Area Studies as a significant component of our IR program.



Area Studies

[English based program]

East Asian Studies, South East Asian Studies, South Asian Studies, European Studies, African Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, American Studies, Special Lecture on Area Studies

Learning in practice with international students from various cultures and backgrounds

Professional Training

This program provides an unique opportunity of field trip around Kyoto to learn about challenges and innovations for the local development.

Research Training

This course is designed to enhance students' research competency. In addition to instructors' research guidance sessions, students can take part in research projects run by faculty members. Participating in such research projects will provide effective opportunities to learn how to pursue research in the field of International Relations as well as how to manage collaborative research, workshops, and symposiums.



Our Faculty

GSIR has over 30 research-active faculty members who are able to teach and supervise both in Japanese and English. Students will receive comments and feedback from a team of supervisors throughout the two years process which culminates in their MA dissertation. GSIR has a number of international and bilingual faculty members who join with degrees from top universities around the world. Your advisors are research-active and are engaged in international research across disciplines. We also have faculty members who are former, and some still active, practitioners from diverse areas such as international organizations, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and large media organizations.



Introducing Our Professors



Oyama, Shinji / Professor

Cultural Studies, Media studies, Creative/Cultural Industries Studies: Critical Brand Studies

His research and teaching interests include promotional cultures (branding and advertising), digital media, creative/cultural industries, and cultural globalization in Japanese and East Asia contexts. His theoretical approaches are framed in critical cultural studies perspectives and are also informed by his prior experience of working in a global advertising agency and a couple of Internet start-ups.



French, Thomas William / Associate Professor

Japanese History, Japanese Politics, History of US-Japan Relations, History of UK-Japan Relations

Having studied and worked in Japan and the UK for many years Professor French's research examines elements of interaction and exchange between Japan and the West. He is a specialist in the history of the Allied Occupation of Japan (1945-1952) and is currently working on a major project on the history of UK-Japan peacetime military links. If you are interested in the modern history of Japan or Japan's relations with the West he could be an ideal supervisor.



Toriyama, Junko / Associate Professor

Gender Studies, Gender Studies on the Middle East, Cultural Anthropology

Junko Toriyama has been researching how people in the Middle East, especially women, live their daily lives, from the everyday-life perspective. Her research deploys Gender Studies, which problematizes inequality and people's suffering by challenging the established power relation, and Cultural Anthropology, which attempts to comprehensively conceptualize human beings without judging differences.

DMDP Dual Master's Degree Program

Obtain Two Master's Degree in Two Years

The DMDP (Dual master's degree Program) allows students to study for one year at Ritsumeikan and one year at one of our partner institutions and be awarded two master's degrees upon completion of their studies. Students pay significantly less in tuition than when they study independently.



American University
U.S | Washington D.C.



University of East Anglia
U.K. | Norwich

Doctoral Programs: Doctor of Philosophy

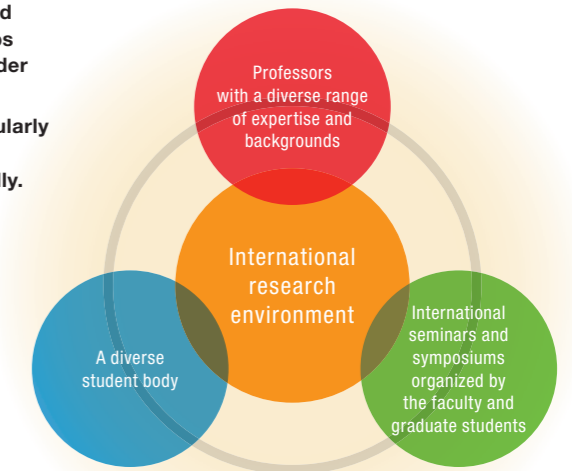
Today, the global demand for human resources with advanced knowledge and skills has never been stronger. An increasing number of international organizations, not only universities and other research institutions, are looking for people who have doctoral degrees in relevant fields.

Doctoral students in the GSIR have first and second academic advisors who work as a team to guide them through to completion of a PhD dissertation. Since 2010, as a Ritsumeikan University-wide effort, we have been supporting the career development of doctoral students.

- 1. We have a vibrant research culture where graduate students are involved in organizing research seminars, contributing to international workshops held by the faculty, as well as presenting their own research to the broader intellectual community at GSIR.**
- 2. There are also many opportunities for graduate students to engage regularly in discussion and intellectual exchange with researchers and graduate students from outside Ritsumeikan, locally, nationally, and internationally.**



Research Room



Synergy with Research Institutes and Centers

The GSIR and faculty members are closely affiliated with research organizations (Institute of International Relations and Area Studies, Center for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation, Kyoto Museum for World Peace, The Creative Media Research Center, etc.) that serve as the focal point for all of our programs. GSIR's commitment to intellectual excellence and interdisciplinary research have made the graduate school an ideal environment for students to pursue their studies. The mission of the GSIR is to cultivate the talent and ability of a new generation of scholars working at the doctoral level, who in turn will contribute to the global community.

Institute of International Relations and Area Studies
www.ritsumeikan.ac.jp/research/iiras/

Center for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies
www.cmeis-ritsumeikan.net/

Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation
en.ritsumeikan.ac.jp/research/ceapc/

Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University
www.ritsumeikan-wp-museum.jp/



Institute of International Relations and Area Studies



Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University

Being on the front lines of the international on campus

We offer classes with visiting professors who are active in the international community. In addition, we have invited prominent researchers from Japan and abroad to share their valuable insights with students. The GSIR offers many opportunities to be exposed to the front lines of international relations studies.

2019

- Our students met with delegates from Israel and Palestine to share their view on peace in Middle East.
- Visiting Professor Acharya Amitav from American University (Former Chairperson of the board, International Studies Association)
- Dr. Denis Mukwege, Gynecologist, human rights activist and Nobel Peace laureate from East Congo
- H.E. Mrs. Adela Raz, Afghanistan ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations
- Visiting Professor Kopper Ákos from Eötvös Loránd University (Head of Department of International Relations and European Studies), Budapest (Hungary)
- Former UN Under-Secretary-General Mr. Yasushi Akashi on UN Policymaking

2018

- Professor Kent Calder (Director of the Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies at Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C)
- Mr. Takeo Akiba (Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan) 30th Anniversary of the College of International Relations: Event and Symposium

Career

We support students to gain careers in various sectors, including governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, and business.

<p>Civil Servant</p> <p>Specialist personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Defense Ministry of Justice National government employee Level 2 Shiga Prefectural Board of Education</p>	<p>Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd. NJS CO.,LTD. AALTO INTERNATIONAL JAPAN</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>Japan Finance Corporation (JFC) MUFG Bank, Ltd. Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation Sumitomo Mitsui Card Company, Limited Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Co., Ltd. SMBC Nikko Securities Inc. The Bank of Kyoto, Ltd.</p>
<p>International Organization</p> <p>Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) The Japan Foundation Kyoto City International Foundation International Hospitality and Conference Service Association Kansai NGO Council The Judicial Foundation for International Personnel Management Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP) INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S ACTION NETWORK Japanese Red Cross Society</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Hapag-Lloyd Japan TST CORPORATION Kansai Airport Agency Co., Ltd.</p> <p>Manufacturing</p> <p>SCREEN Holdings Co., Ltd. Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd. KUBOTA Corporation. KOBELCO CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY CO., LTD. NITTO DENKO CORPORATION. Hitachi, Ltd. Panasonic Corporation Samsung Japan Corporation Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. Kirin Brewery Company, Limited KOSÉ Corporation DAIKIN INDUSTRIES, LTD Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd. Mitsubishi Motors Corporation Johnson & Johnson K.K. AstraZeneca K.K. Kawai Musical Instruments Manufacturing Co., Ltd.</p>	<p>Trading Company</p> <p>MITSUI & CO., LTD. ITOCHU Corporation Sojitz Corporation Mitsubishi Corporation</p> <p>Services</p> <p>IBM Japan, Ltd. Microsoft Japan Co., Ltd. Yahoo Japan Corporation Rakuten, Inc. House Network Co.,Ltd. GABA CORPORATION.</p> <p>Media</p> <p>Kyodo News The Chunichi Shimbun Japan Broadcasting Corporation Kodansha Ltd. The Mainichi Newspapers Co.,Ltd Recruit Holdings Co., Ltd. Bloomberg L.P.</p>
<p>Development Consulting Services</p> <p>NIPPON KOEI CO., LTD. PACIFIC CONSULTANTS CO., LTD. Chiyoda Corporation</p>		

Student Life in Kyoto

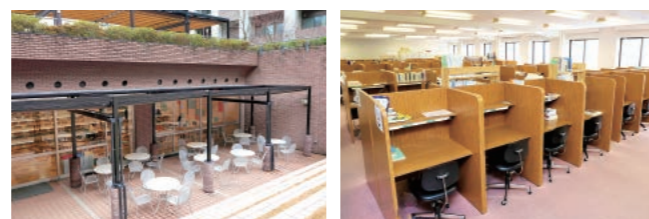
Ritsumeikan University's Graduate School of International Relations is located on the Kinugasa Campus, where various graduate schools of humanities and social sciences gather. The Kinugasa Campus is located in the northern part of Kyoto City, where the history and culture of the ancient capital Kyoto are alive. Located within cycling distance from the campus are the UNESCO world heritage Buddhist temples such as Kinkaku-ji, Ryōan-ji, and Ninna-ji, as well as famous shrines such as Kitano Tenmangu shrine, which enshrines the "Shinto deity of scholarship", an important deity for students. On the other hand, the Kinugasa Campus attracts students with diverse backgrounds from all over the world who are eager to experience life in Japan and Kyoto. In particular, the Graduate School of International Relations, the first graduate school of international relations established in West Japan in 1992, accommodates an outstandingly internationalized research environment where students can exchange information and views with each other on various international issues such as security, development and environment, and culture and society. Around the campus, students can learn about traditional

Student's Voices /

Being able to study at a campus in the heart of Kyoto city is a major benefit, as the quality of student life isn't just determined by your classes. The campus itself is also wide, open and beautiful, creating a relaxing and engaging environment for study.

The campus facilities were perfectly adapted to my research needs. It was also interesting to get introduced to different cultures through my fellow international students.

Japanese culture through experiences such as tea, pottery and Zen meditation. On the campus, under the guidance of the faculty staff who have rich international experiences, students will encourage each other in doing research on cutting-edge international issues. How could you turn down such wonderful opportunities? We look forward to supporting your graduate studies!



All students are not only allowed to use our Research Room, but the gym on campus with the best cutting edge equipment for free!

Campus Location – Kyoto City

Kyoto City, where Ritsumeikan University is located, is a metropolis with a population of about 1.5 million, it combines the old traditions of Japan with the modernity of global society. It is the capital of Kyoto Prefecture and was the capital of Japan, and the home of the Emperor from 794 to 1868. There are countless Buddhist temples, shrines and other historically valuable buildings in the city, making it Japan's leading tourist city. For this reason, Kyoto City is regularly included in the "World's Best Cities" ranking by readers of the major US travel magazine "Travel + Leisure". It was ranked number one in the world in 2014 and 2015. However, Kyoto City is not just about tourism. Many high-tech companies, such as Nintendo, Kyocera and Shimadzu Corporation, are active locally and support the Japanese manufacturing industry. In addition, there are 38 universities and junior colleges in Kyoto City, including Kyoto University, which has produced the most Nobel Prize laureates in Japan. The city has built a foundation for a university-based advanced academic research city based on the 'The City of Universities, Kyoto 21 Plan'. Kyoto City is also an advanced city on environmental matters. It is the birthplace of the Kyoto Protocol, related to the control of global warming and climate change, and the 3rd Session of the Conference of the

Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP3) was held here in December 1997. In addition, in a national ranking related to the United Nations' "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", which aims for a society where 'no one is left behind', Kyoto City was ranked first in the comprehensive evaluation of 815 cities and wards nationwide in 2018 and 2019. Kyoto City's measures to address global warming such as reducing total energy consumption, as well as its efforts to reduce waste were evaluated highly. Furthermore, in "the Japan Power Cities ranking" – the Mori Memorial Foundation's Institute for Urban Development comprehensively evaluates the characteristics of 72 major cities in Japan (excluding Tokyo) based on 6 criteria – Kyoto City was ranked first in the three consecutive years of 2018, 2019 and 2020. It received high praise in the fields of 'culture and exchange' and 'environment'. As you can see, Kyoto is one of Japan's largest metropolitan cities, with a good balance of economy, society and culture, and the environment, and is attracting attention both at home and abroad as a model case for sustainable urban development.



Admissions Applying to GSIR

For more information on admissions, please see our website. You are welcome to visit the Administrative Office of Faculty of International Relations to consult with the staff about admissions.

