

About the Ritsumeikan Academy

2024-25

Futurize. **125**
RITSUMEIKAN ANNIVERSARY

Ritsumeikan University

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

Ritsumeikan Junior High School / Ritsumeikan Senior High School

Ritsumeikan Uji Junior High School / Ritsumeikan Uji Senior High School

Ritsumeikan Keisho Junior High School / Ritsumeikan Keisho Senior High School

Ritsumeikan Moriyama Junior High School / Ritsumeikan Moriyama Senior High School

Ritsumeikan Primary School

The History of Ritsumeikan

The Founding Spirit and Educational Philosophy of Ritsumeikan

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 (Kyoto School of Law and Politics), 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 school spirit of liberalism and internationalism advocated by Prince Saionji was combined with the ideals of academic freedom and vivacity pursued by Kojuro Nakagawa, and became a tradition of the university. This tradition also survived the intense suppression of the prewar days, as evidenced by the fact that Ritsumeikan University accepted seventeen professors who were forced by the government to leave Kyoto Imperial University (present-day Kyoto University) for their pacifist activities.

After World War II, Ritsumeikan adopted the educational philosophy of peace and democracy, faithful to the spirit of the Japanese Constitution and the Education Fundamental Law. In 1948, Ritsumeikan became one of the first Japanese universities to be reorganized under the new education system. Ritsumeikan carried out extensive reforms to ensure democratic administration of the university to better serve society as an educational



Kinmochi Saionji
(1849-1940)



Kojuro Nakagawa
(1866-1944)

institution open to the public.

In the 1990s, in response to the changes leading to a globalized information society, each faculty went through curriculum revisions to accommodate the changing global complexities and innovations affecting higher education. One significant part of these changes was the introduction of the international education programs such as the Five-Week Intercultural Programs; the One-Year Program; Ritsumeikan-UBC (the University of British Columbia) Academic Immersion Program; and the Dual Undergraduate Degree Program / Dual Masters Degree Program

Ritsumeikan Timeline

1869	Prince Kinmochi Saionji founds the private academy “Ritsumeikan” on the site of the Kyoto Imperial Palace		
1900	Kojuro Nakagawa, former secretary of Prince Saionji, establishes the Kyoto Hosei School		
1913	The school adopts the name “Ritsumeikan”		
1922	The school name officially changes to Ritsumeikan University		
1945	President Hiroshi Suekawa introduces a series of democratic reforms, including the Plenary Council and Presidential Election System		
1965	Kinugasa Campus is established in Kyoto City’s Kita Ward		
1994	Biwako-Kusatsu Campus (BKC) is established in Kusatsu City, Shiga Prefecture / Uji Academy is merged with Ritsumeikan Uji Junior and Senior High School		
1995	Keisho Academy is merged with Ritsumeikan Keisho Junior and Senior High School		
2000	Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University is established in Beppu City, Oita Prefecture		
2004	Ritsumeikan University School of Law is established at Kinugasa Campus		
		2005	Ritsumeikan University Graduate School of Technology Management is established at BKC
		2006	Suzaku Campus is established in Kyoto City’s Nakagyo Ward / Ritsumeikan Moriyama Senior High School is established in Moriyama City, Shiga Prefecture / Ritsumeikan Primary School is established in Kyoto’s Kita Ward / Graduate School of Management is established at Suzaku Campus
		2007	College of Image Arts and Sciences is established / Ritsumeikan Moriyama Junior High School is established in Moriyama City, Shiga Prefecture / Graduate School of Public Policy is established at Suzaku Campus / In College of Social Sciences, Department of Social Sciences, and Department of Human Welfare are combined to form Department of Social Sciences / Tokyo Campus is established
		2008	Colleges of Life Sciences and Pharmaceutical Sciences are established
		2009	The Kyoto Studies Program and the Language and Communication Program are established in College of Letters
		2010	College of Sport and Health Science and Graduate school of Sport and Health Science are established
		2011	Global Studies Major is established in College of International Relations / Graduate School of Image Arts and Sciences is established

with American University. As a result of these programs and the extensive global network Ritsumeikan has developed, the university now has one of the largest international student bodies in western Japan, offering numerous invaluable overseas study opportunities to its students.

Today, Ritsumeikan University offers a wide range of courses in advanced studies at Kinugasa Campus in Kyoto, Biwako-Kusatsu Campus (BKC) in Shiga, and Osaka Ibaraki Campus (OIC) in Osaka. The year 2025 will mark the 155th anniversary of the founding of Ritsumeikan private school and the 125th anniversary of the establishment of Ritsumeikan University. Previously, to commemorate the 100th anniversary, Ritsumeikan opened an

international educational institution, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU), in Oita Prefecture in April 2000. The addition of APU has given new momentum to Ritsumeikan as it continues to adhere to its founding spirit into the 21st century. To date, the Ritsumeikan Trust has evolved into a comprehensive educational institution consisting of two universities, four senior high schools, four junior high schools, and one primary school.

Ritsumeikan
Anniversary Site

Futurize.



The Origins of the Name “Ritsumeikan”

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.”



2012	Graduate Schools of Information Science and Engineering and Life Sciences are established / In College of Science and Engineering, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Department of Photonics are combined to form Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering / Department of VLSI System Design changes its name to Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering / Department of Mechanical Engineering and Department of Micro System Technology are combined to form Department of Mechanical Engineering / In College of Letters, 14 majors and programs are combined and 8 programs and 18 majors are established
2013	Community and Regional Policy Studies Major is established in College of Policy Science / Dalian University of Technology-Ritsumeikan University International School of Information Science and Engineering is established
2014	Graduate School of Pharmacy is established / Major in Informatics of Behavior and Cultures is established in Graduate School of Letters and the system of 2 majors with 15 specialized courses is established / Ritsumeikan Junior and Senior High School moves from Fukakusa Campus to Nagaokakyo Campus
2015	Osaka Ibaraki Campus (OIC) is established in Ibaraki City, Osaka Prefecture / College of Business Administration, College of Policy Science, Graduate School of Business Administration, Graduate School of Policy Science, Graduate School of Technology Management, and Graduate School of Management are moved to OIC / Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences is established in College of Pharmaceutical Sciences

2016	College of Comprehensive Psychology is established / Hirai Kaichiro Memorial Library is opened
2017	Graduate School of Professional Teacher Education is established / In College of Information Science and Engineering, Information Science and Engineering course is established to form seven courses in one college / College of Economics is reorganized to form two majors in one department
2018	College of Gastronomy Management is established / American University-Ritsumeikan University Joint Degree Program is established in College of International Relations / Graduate School of Science for Human Services is reorganized / Graduate School of Human Science is established
2019	College of Global Liberal Arts is established
2020	Major in Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Graduate School of Pharmacy is established (Master’s Program)
2021	Graduate School of Gastronomy Management is established
2023	College of Sustainability and Tourism is established at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
2024	College of Image Arts and Sciences, Graduate School of Image Arts, College of Information Science and Engineering, and Graduate School of Information Science and Engineering are moved to OIC

Academy Overview

The Founding Spirit and Educational Ideals of the Ritsumeikan Academy

The Ritsumeikan Academy was founded in 1900 as the Kyoto Hosei School (Kyoto School of Law and Politics), an evening law school open to working people. The school was founded by Kojuro Nakagawa, former secretary to Prince Kinmochi Saionji, liberal statesman of late 19th and early 20th Century Japan. With Saionji's blessing, the name was changed to Ritsumeikan Private University in 1913. The university established itself upon the spirit of "freedom and innovation" and set "peace and democracy" as its core educational philosophy.

The Ritsumeikan Academy has now become an integrated academy with a rich culture of individuality and international awareness accommodating a total of approximately 50,000 students. The current Ritsumeikan Academy has campuses in Hokkaido, Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, and Oita and encompasses two universities, four high schools, four junior high schools, and one primary school. Since Ritsumeikan's establishment, approximately 440,000 students have graduated from Ritsumeikan University and 20,000 from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU).

The Ritsumeikan Academy fosters learning and the development of individual talents in order to nurture just and ethical global citizens.

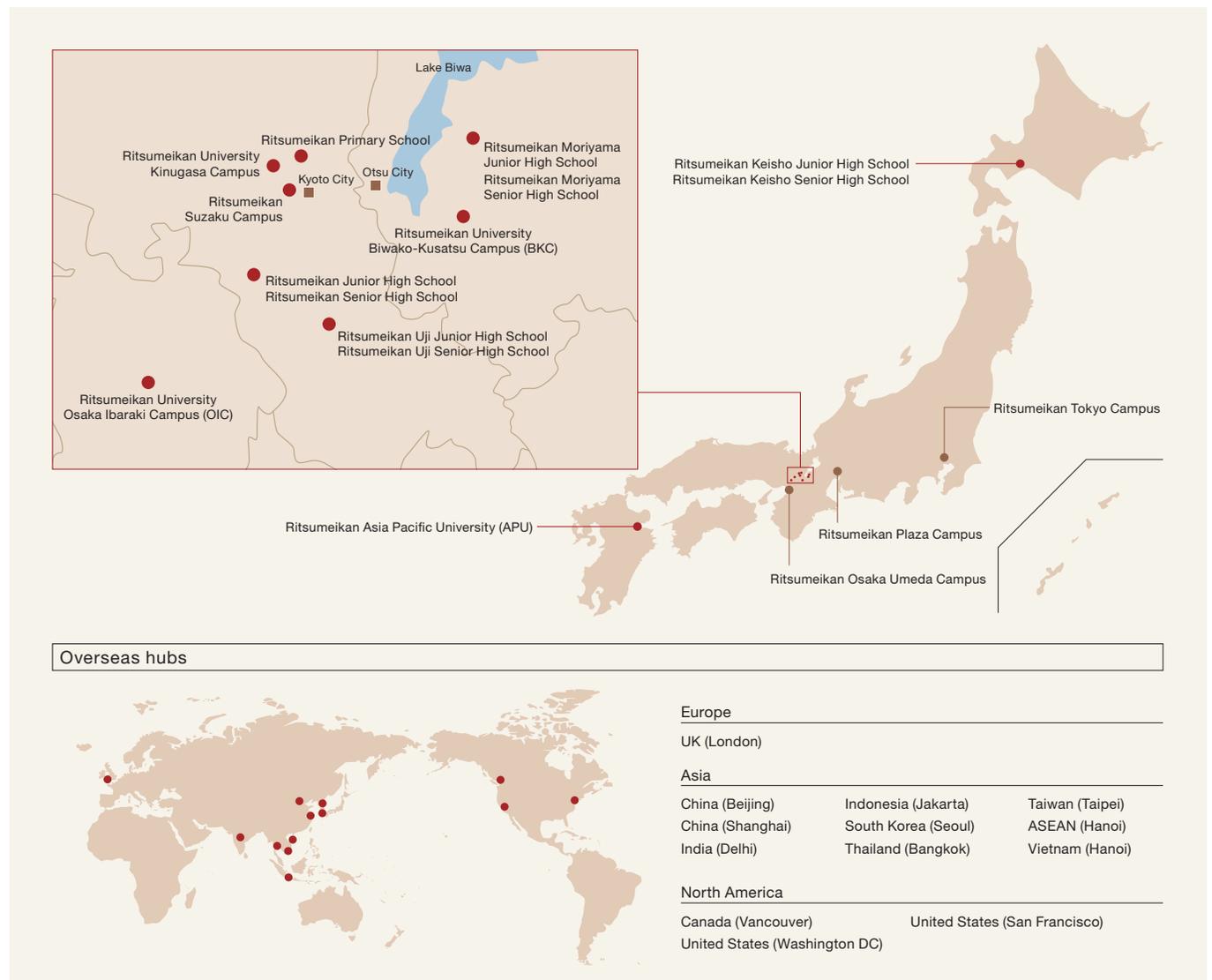


Tomomi Morishima
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
The Ritsumeikan Trust



Yoshio Nakatani Ph.D.
Chancellor of The Ritsumeikan Trust
President of Ritsumeikan University

[Ritsumeikan Academy Member Institutions]



Basic Data of the Ritsumeikan Academy

The Ritsumeikan Academy

Tradition

Ritsumeikan traces its history back to 1869 when Prince Saionji founded a private academy of the same name.

	Years since founding	Years since the establishment of the Academy
	154	124

No. of schools

Universities and schools in the Academy	Universities	Junior/Senior High Schools	Primary School
	2	4	1

Overseas hubs

13

UK (London)	ASEAN & Vietnam (Hanoi)
China (Beijing, Shanghai)	Indonesia (Jakarta)
Taiwan (Taipei)	South Korea (Seoul)
Thailand (Bangkok)	Canada (Vancouver)
India (Delhi)	United States (Washington DC, San Francisco)

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

Accreditations

APU is internationally accredited in the fields of management and tourism studies





No. of international partner institutions (as of May 1, 2024)

492

No. of countries & regions represented by the international student body

168

(since inception)

International student ratio (AY2024)

47.6%

Percentage of domestic students from the Kanto region (AY2024)

26.8%

THE Japan University Rankings 2023

Environment	Overall rank*
1 st	1 st (6 years running)

Alumni Association Chapters

37

(28 countries & regions)

*private universities in Western Japan

Affiliated Schools

Accreditations and Designations






Ritsumeikan Uji Senior High School	Ritsumeikan Uji Senior High School	Ritsumeikan Senior High School Ritsumeikan Keicho Senior High School Ritsumeikan Moriyama Senior High School	Ritsumeikan Keicho Senior High School
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No. of foreign partner schools (as of April 1, 2024)

Primary School	Nagaokakyo	Uji	Keicho	Moriyama
4	16	10	12	8

Rate of internal advancement from high school

75.3%

Ritsumeikan University

No. of students (as of May 01, 2024)

Undergraduate students

34,600

Graduate students

4,144

No. of colleges & graduate schools

16 colleges

21 graduate schools

Percentage of applicants from outside the Kinki region

50.5%

(General examination applicants, AY2024)

No. of alumni and Alumni Association chapters

Alumni approx. 410,000

Prefectural chapters 52 Overseas chapters 34

No. of international student intake (as of May 1, 2024)

3,258 students

from 78 countries & regions

No. of international partner institutions (as of May 1, 2024)

474 universities/institutions

69 countries & regions

QS World University Rankings 2025

Among private universities

3rd 

THE Impact Rankings 2024

Among private universities

1st (tie) 

SDG 1

1st in Japan 15th in the World 

THE Japan University Rankings 2023

Among private universities

6th 

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (AY2023)

Amount

4th among private universities

No.

5th among private universities

Source: Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

Ritsumeikan Advanced Research Academy (RARA)

No. of fellows appointed to raise the level of research

Fellows 20 Associate Fellows 22

No. of research hubs

Research Organizations

6

Research Institutes

16

Research Centers

33

4th Mid-Term Plan for Research Advancement

25 programs supported with an internal budget of approx. 2.3 billion yen

25 programs approx. 2.3 billion yen

No. of students passing the national civil servant examination for career-track positions (2024 Spring exam)

84 3rd in Japan

Source: National Personnel Authority

No. of students passing the CPA Examination (AY2023)

38 9th in Japan

Source: Mitakai survey of CPAs

No. of university-launched ventures (AY2023)

135 10th in Japan (4th among private universities)

Source: METI

No. of International faculty (AY2023)

152 2nd in Japan

No. of female faculty (AY2023)

301 5th in Japan

Source: University Rankings 2025 (Asahi Shimbun Publications)

Futurize.

You determine the future.

What *is* the future?

The future is uncertainty. There are no right answers.

Therefore, YOU can create it yourself.

History can be altered by the will of a single individual.

That individual could be YOU.

All that you dream, everything that inspires and challenges you,
helps shape the future.

Here is where knowledge and society intersect.

... where individuals interact with others, and everyone benefits.
The unknown world beckons, and pathways to the future open up.

Now, come meet the YOU you've never known!

The world as we see it may seem unpredictable,
but together we can see it as something different.

Regardless of how difficult your individual path may be,
you have someone here who will encourage you, and cheer you on.

Do not falter, do not fear.

The future is yours.

About the tagline

■ Primary slogan: Futurize.

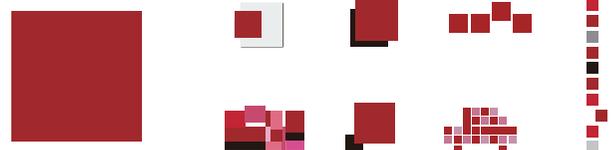
As we approach the year 2030, the world will change at an increasingly rapid pace and become more unpredictable than ever before. There will be no right answers. What we need in times like these is a commitment to the future. At Ritsumeikan, we will not be bound by conventional wisdom, frameworks, or stereotypes, but rather we will question them and propose what the future should look like. We have formulated this slogan with the intention of demonstrating this attitude to our students at every level and our faculty and staff with the aim of inspiring to keep tackling new challenges. It is also intended to present an image of Ritsumeikan to the public as an Academy that takes on the challenges of an ideal future and to create a driving force for both research and education.

■ Secondary slogan: You determine the future.

In a world where there are no right answers, it is important that a diverse array of efforts to tackle challenges emerge from the individuality and values of each and every person. Furthermore, the combination of these efforts will create new values that have never been seen before. This secondary slogan is intended to further develop the culture of diversity that Ritsumeikan has fostered to date and to encourage our students at every level and our faculty and staff to tackle the challenges of the future.

About the logo

The non-regular squares used in the cover design symbolize the free flow of ideas needed to break free from past conventions, to overcome the hesitation to be our unique selves, to dare to be different, and to take on challenges without seeking stability. The dot, the smallest unit of any image, expresses the human potential of the digital age. Starting from a single square, you can freely envision infinite possibilities beyond the defined limits. This square logo has no fixed shape and can be transformed into various other shapes. Ritsumeikan's new tagline, "Futurize," expresses our determination to shape a future with our own hands, and the logo is intended to intuitively convey this concept.



Colleges, Graduate Schools, and Affiliated schools

Ritsumeikan University [16 colleges, 21 graduate schools]

No. of students: 38,744

Kinugasa Campus

No. of students: 13,651

4 Colleges	College of Law	College of Social Sciences	College of International Relations	6 Graduate Schools	Graduate School of Law	Graduate School of Sociology	Graduate School of International Relations
	3,114	3,599	1,532		55	114	206
	College of Letters				Graduate School of Letters	Graduate School of Language Education and Information Science	Graduate School of Core Ethics and Frontier Sciences
	4,534				216	86	195

Biwako-Kusatsu Campus (BKC)

No. of students: 13,906

6 Colleges	College of Economics	College of Sport and Health Science	College of Gastronomy Management	6 Graduate Schools	Graduate School of Economics	Graduate School of Sport and Health Science	Graduate School of Gastronomy Management
	3,325	1,033	1,381		113	114	50
	College of Science and Engineering	College of Life Sciences	College of Pharmaceutical Sciences		Graduate School of Science and Engineering	Graduate School of Life Sciences	Graduate School of Pharmacy
	4,238	1,334	858		1,019	353	88

Osaka Ibaraki Campus (OIC)

No. of students: 10,957

6 Colleges	College of Business Administration	College of Policy Science	College of Comprehensive Psychology	7 Graduate Schools	Graduate School of Business Administration	Graduate School of Policy Science	Graduate School of Human Science
	3,427	1,701	1,241		96	111	225
	College of Global Liberal Arts	College of Information Science and Engineering	College of Image Arts and Sciences		Graduate School of Technology Management	Graduate School of Management	Graduate School of Information Science and Engineering
	389	2,103	791		183	196	475
					Graduate School of Image Arts		
					19		

Suzaku Campus

No. of students: 230

2 Graduate Schools	School of Law	Graduate School of Professional Teacher Education
	166	64

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University [3 colleges, 2 graduate schools]

No. of students: 6,118

3 Colleges	College of Asia Pacific Studies	College of International Management	College of Sustainability and Tourism	2 Graduate Schools	Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies	Graduate School of Management
	2,513	2,754	629		141	81

Affiliated schools

Ritsumeikan Junior High School	Ritsumeikan Senior High School	Ritsumeikan Uji Junior High School	Ritsumeikan Uji Senior High School	Ritsumeikan Keicho Junior High School	Ritsumeikan Keicho Senior High School	Ritsumeikan Moriyama Junior High School	Ritsumeikan Moriyama Senior High School	Ritsumeikan Primary School
733	1,076	545	1,207	565	968	495	1,043	711

As of May 1, 2024