

Application Guidelines for 3rd Party Foundation Scholarship Sponsored Student Admissions: Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP) September 2026 Enrollment

Based on its agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Ritsumeikan University is recruiting International Students for the Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP) as explained below.

I. Major, Degree and Number of Students Accepted

Major and Course	Degree	Number of Students Accepted
Major in Economics Master's Program in Economic Development (MPED)	Master's Degree	A Few

*All classes offered in MPED course are conducted in English.

II. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must have nationality designated by ADB, and fulfill at least one of < Criteria 1 >, and fulfill both <Criteria 2 > and < Criteria 3 >.

< Criteria 1 >

- (1) Persons who have graduated from a university* or who are expected to graduate from such before being enrolled at the graduate school
*“University” refers to one of the universities listed in Article 83 of the School Education Act (formal undergraduate programs offered by universities in Japan)
- (2) Persons who have been awarded a bachelor's degree by the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education or who are expected to be awarded such a degree before being enrolled at the graduate school
- (3) Persons who have completed a 16-year program at an overseas school or who are expected to complete such a program before being enrolled at the graduate school
- (4) Persons who have completed a 3-year program or a program of more than 3 years (*2) and have been awarded a degree by an overseas university or school (*1) which is recognized as being equivalent to a bachelor's degree or who are expected to complete such a program before being enrolled at the graduate school (the 2016 ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, No.19).
- (5) Persons who have completed a 16-year program of an overseas school by taking its correspondence course in Japan or who are expected to complete such a program before being enrolled at the graduate school
- (6) Persons who have completed the program of an overseas school in Japan that is recognized as being equivalent to an overseas university by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology or who are expected to complete such a program before being enrolled at the graduate school.
- (7) Persons who have completed a specialized program at a special training school designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology after the date designated by said minister or who are expected to complete such a program before being enrolled at the graduate school.
- (8) Persons who have been admitted to a graduate school under the grade-skipping system and who are recognized as having enough academic ability to study at Ritsumeikan University's graduate schools (*3)
- (9) Persons who have been recognized as having an academic ability equal to or higher than university graduates by Ritsumeikan University's graduate schools as a result of individual preliminary screening and who have reached 22 years of age or who will reach 22 years of age before being enrolled at the graduate school (*3)

*1 The university or the school shall be evaluated by an organization approved by a relevant official institution in the country for their education and research activities or recognized as so by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

- *2 The program shall include a correspondence course which enables students to study in Japan by a university or school which is approved by the educational system of the country and satisfy the above requirements.
- *3 Applicants who intend to apply under category (8) or (9) must contact the Administrative Office, College of Economics no later than the day before the application period begins in order to undergo an individual review.

Notes:

If you have any concerns about foreign education equivalence, your particular degree, or calculation of years of schooling, please contact the Administrative Office, College of Economics no later than the day before the application period opens.

< Criteria 2 >

Persons who have an official language score of at least either TOEFL®iBT or TOEFL®iBT Home Edition 68, or IELTS or IELTS Indicator 5.5, TOEIC® Listening & Reading Test 650 or its equivalent.

*The scores for test(s) taken more than two years before the application start date are deemed invalid.

*Only TOEFL iBT® scores from a single test date will be considered (MyBest™ scores will not be taken into consideration). Same conditions will be applied to TOEFL®iBT Home Edition.

< Criteria 3 >

Persons who fulfill eligibility requirements of ADB-JSP program.

*For the eligibility requirements of ADB-JSP program, please check the following ADB homepage.

<https://www.adb.org/work-with-us/careers/japan-scholarship-program>

Scholarship Program: FAQ

<https://www.adb.org/work-with-us/careers/japan-scholarship-program/faq>

*Each ADB-JSP scholar must pledge to return to their home country after the completion of their master's program, or in the case of withdrawal from their program.

*All applicants currently who apply under the condition of "expecting" a degree award to meet the eligibility requirements and are accepted under this application procedure must meet the requirements above by September 25, 2026, the day before enrollment, or they will not be granted admission to Ritsumeikan University (it is not possible to enroll at Ritsumeikan University under the condition of "expecting" a prerequisite degree award).

III. Screening Method

The Primary Screening will be held based on the submitted documents and if deemed necessary, an online interview (conducted in English).

Ritsumeikan University will recommend those who pass the Primary Screening to the ADB for scholarship.

The ADB will select scholarship recipients based on ADB's own separate screening process.

Final university admission results will be determined by the university after receiving the list of Final Acceptance Applicants from the ADB.

IV. Application Period

Thursday, November 20, 2025 ~ Thursday, December 11, 2025

All application documents must be submitted via post and arrive by the end of the application period. Documents postmarked by the cut-off date that arrive late will not be accepted.

V. Application Procedures

1. Application Fee

35,000 JPY (This fee will be covered by ADB. No payment is required from the applicant.)

2. Required Documents.

All application documents must be submitted together.

- (1) RITSUMEIKAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATION SHEET (Form GS) with a photograph of the applicant's face attached.

*Color facial photo (taken within three months before the application, above the chest level, without a hat or cap, facing front, no background, and 3cm long×2.4cm wide). Digital alteration of the photo is not permitted.

- (2) APPLICATION SHEET FOR NON-JAPANESE APPLICANTS (Form GS 1)

- (3) Copy of passport page containing the applicant's name and date of birth

*If applicant has a valid passport at the time of application. Please submit the copy in color.

- (4) APPLICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

- (5) Research Proposal (Free-Format)

Document should be printed on A4 size paper and written entirely in English. Be sure to include the items listed below. In addition to the hard copy of your research proposal submitted via post, you must separately submit a digital copy of your proposal as well. See Point (5) of "5. Important Points regarding Application" for information about the method of submission.

1. Full name

2. Write "Master's Program in Economic Development (MPED)" for your desired program or course.

3. Theme/Title of proposed research

4. Details of proposed research and research plan after enrollment in the Graduate School of Economics (Approx. 800 words)

- (6) *Optional: Letter of Recommendation (free-format) by the dean, or a person of equivalent or higher position, at the applicant's school or institution. (***original***)

Submission is optional.

Letter must be original and addressed to the "President of Ritsumeikan University, Japan".

- (7) Official certificate of graduation or certificate/letter stating the expected graduation date and academic degree(s) to be awarded from most recent academic institution attended, submitted an envelope sealed by the institution issuing the certificate or letter. (***original***)

[Those who have graduated / who are expected to graduate from universities in China *except for Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau]

Instead of the certificate of graduation / expected graduation, please print and submit the documents below.

<Those who have already graduated>

Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate (English translation of “ 教育部学

子注册 案表 ”)

<Those who expect to graduate>

Online Verification Report of Student Record (English translation of “ 教育部学籍在 告 ”)

- (8) Official certificate of grades from most recent academic institution attended, submitted an envelope sealed by the institution issuing the certificate. (***original***)

*Must include a clear indicator of outstanding performance, such as GPA or individual rank order.

- (9) Thesis related to Economics written for most recent academic degree awarded. (written in English) (If you don't have a Thesis, a term paper or equivalent paper can be submitted as a substitute).

The Thesis/Term Paper must be written in English. In addition to the hard copy of your thesis submitted via post, you must separately submit a digital copy of your thesis as well. See Point (5) of "5. Important Points regarding Application" for information about the submission method.

*Thesis/Term Paper should include your name and the title.

- (10) An abstract of (9) Thesis related to Economics (In English, 200-300 words, on A4 size paper)
In addition to the hard copy of your abstract of thesis submitted via post, you must separately submit a digital copy of your abstract as well. See Point (5) of "5. Important Points regarding Application" for information about the submission method.

*Abstract should include your name and the title.

- (11) Official Test Score of English Language Ability Test (Score reports must be from one of the following: TOEFL[®], IELTS, or TOEIC[®] Listening & Reading Test. Copies are acceptable.)

*Score must satisfy the conditions of "II. Eligibility Requirements", "< Criteria 2 >".

*Scores from tests taken more than two years before the application period start date are deemed invalid.

*Applicants who cannot submit a score certificate from one of the tests above must submit an original, formal certificate of English language ability level, or a formal letter stating as much, issued by their current university, or, if they have graduated, from their alma mater.

(12) INFORMATION SHEET

- (13) Certificate of Employment and Compensation issued by the company (with company's letterhead / logo and signed by authorized signatory). The certificate must state the following details:

a. Start and end date of employment;

Example:

1. January 2019 to December 2020

2. January 2019 to Present (if currently working / connected to the company)

(Note: If employed at your present job for less than 2 years, also submit a certificate of employment from your previous employer).

b. Monthly or Annual Income

Notes:

(i) If in local currency, fill-out and submit the income conversation to USD form provided by ADB-JSP

(ii) A computer-generated proof of income without the signature of the authorized personnel is not acceptable

- (14) Certificate of Family Income issued by the company (with company's letterhead / logo):

a. Parents' Annual / Monthly Income if applicant is single;

b. Spouse's Annual / Monthly Income if applicant is married

c. If neither of the above can be submitted due to unemployment, retirement, or death, an authenticated supporting document must be submitted (e.g. a certificate issued by the local government)

Notes:

(i) If in local currency, fill-out and submit the income conversation to USD form provided by ADB-JSP

(ii) A computer-generated proof of income without the signature of the authorized personnel is not acceptable

*As for certificates Numbers (7) and (8), in case that they cannot be reissued, submit both a copy of the original certificate and its certified copy (certified copy is a copy of an original document that has been verified as being a true copy of the original with a stamp by an authorized institution (preferably by the issuing institution)).

*In accordance with ADB's regulations for scholarship recommendation, applicants may be requested by the university to submit additional documentation. If additional documentation will be required in order for the university to recommend an applicant for scholarship, the applicant will be notified as part of the announcement of their admission results.

- (15) Documents Checklist **【Form GS3】**

Before mailing your application, please check the checklist for any deficiencies and enclose it with the other documents.

3. Submission of Documents

Application documents must be submitted by postal mail.

Place application documents into an envelope suitable for A4 sized paper and send it by an international express mail service (i.e. EMS, etc.) which allows for tracking.

4. Application Mailing Address

Administrative Office, College of Economics

Ritsumeikan University (Biwako-Kusatsu Campus)

1-1-1 Nojihigashi Kusatsu, Shiga 525-8577 JAPAN

TEL: +81-77-561-3940

5. Important Points regarding Application.

- (1) All submitted documents should be printed in English on A4-sized paper by word-processing software. Documents submitted in any language other than English must have Japanese or English translations attached.
- (2) Your name must be written exactly as it appears on your passport in Western alphabet with the following rule. Even if you use Chinese characters in your own country, do not use Chinese characters.
 - * Write your name in the order of Family name (all uppercase), First name (the first letter in uppercase and the rest in lowercase), and Middle name (the first letter in uppercase and the rest in lowercase).
 - * For names without a clear distinction between surname and first name, write the first part of the name in all uppercase and for the rest, make the first letter in uppercase and the rest in lowercase.Example: Family name: RITSUMEI First name: Taro Middle name: Saionji
 - * If the total number of characters in alphabet exceeds the number allowed to enter (40 letters), the middle name should be abbreviated to the initial with a period.
- (3) Submitted documents will not be returned under any circumstances, even if it is determined that the applicant does not fulfill the application eligibilities.
- (4) Please prepare all application documents yourself. If you referenced other publications in your research proposal, etc., be sure to properly cite your sources to avoid suspicion of plagiarism or other acts of academic misconduct.
- (5) In addition to submitting hard copies via postal mail of the (5) Research Proposal and (9) Thesis related to Economics, and (10) Abstract of thesis listed under "1. Required Documents", separately submit digital files as well. Submit digital files as an email attachment to the Graduate School of Economics and ensure that the files are either in PDF or .doc format. All text on PDF must be clearly legible and be recognizable by text recognition software.

Instruction

- Mail to Graduate School of Economics : gs-ec@st.ritsumei.ac.jp
- Title of email: "ADB Admissions: Research Proposal, Thesis and abstract of Thesis".

Be sure to include the following information in email

① Your full name

② Title or theme of research proposal

③ The title of Thesis or Term Paper related to Economics.

④ PDF or word file of research proposal

*Name a file as "your name_researchproposal.pdf (doc)" (Example: ritsumei_taro_researchproposal.pdf (doc))

⑤ PDF or word file of thesis

*Name a file as "your name_thesis.pdf (doc)" (Example: ritsumei_taro_thesis.pdf (doc))

⑥ PDF or word file of abstract of thesis

*Name a file as "your name_thesis abstract.pdf (doc)" (Example: ritsumei_taro_thesisabstract.pdf (doc))

(6) About Security Export Control

Ritsumeikan University has established the "Ritsumeikan University Security Export Control Regulations (立命館大学安全保障輸出管理規程)" in accordance with the "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act", and conducts strict screening of international students at the time of admissions on the basis of these regulations. Please be

aware that international students who fall under any of the conditions set out in the Act may be unable to receive their desired education or conduct their desired research at the university. A stringent screening in accordance with the “Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act” will be conducted after your application documents are received.

VI. Notification of Results

Primary Screening Results: Thursday, February 5th, 2026

Final Acceptance Results (scheduled): Thursday, June 18th, 2026

*Ritsumeikan University will issue a Letter of Conditional Acceptance to each applicant who passes the Primary Screening. The letter will be sent to the email, listed on the applicant’s Ritsumeikan University Graduate Application Sheet.

*Ritsumeikan University will recommend those who passed the Primary Screening to the ADB for scholarship. Passing the Primary Screening does not guarantee that an applicant will be selected for scholarship by the ADB.

*Ritsumeikan University will determine and accept applicants who are selected as ADB-JSP scholarship recipients as a Final Acceptance Applicants. The Final Acceptance Results will be notified by email by Ritsumeikan University.

*If the results of ADB-JSP selection are not available by the time the final acceptance results is made, the final acceptance results date will be postponed until the results are available from ADB.

*Applicants who pass the Primary Screening, but are not selected as an ADB-JSP scholarship recipient, will not be admitted to Ritsumeikan University.

VII. Admissions Procedures

The Final Acceptance applicants will be given detailed instructions at the time of their notification of results.

Nothing follows.