

## 2026 Enrollment AO Admissions (English Basis)

### **Community and Regional Policy Studies Major, Department of Policy Science, College of Policy Science**

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#### **1. Number of Applicants, Successful Applicants, etc.**

No. of applicants	No. of successful applicants in the first screening	No. of successful applicants
276	85	38

#### **2. Target of this Admission Method**

The Community and Regional Policy Studies Major of the College of Policy Science encourages students to acquire the skills necessary to solve policy problems in current societies.

The purpose of this major is to motivate students to learn how to better understand the issues which have been occurring in communities and/or regions in the local and global context, how to elucidate the cause of the problems as well as how to create solutions, especially through the understanding of social science theories and research methodologies.

As it is expected that students from all over the world will enroll in this major, ample opportunities will be given to study a wide variety of global issues using multiple perspectives. Students will study the following subject areas within the three CRPS programs: Sustainable Urban Policy, Regional Economy and Development; Multi-level Governance.

We are seeking ambitious and innovative students who are dedicated to developing a better future and to solving various global policy issues with the knowledge and experience acquired in our English-based major.

#### **3. Content of Screening**

##### **(1) 1st Screening (document screening)**

The application documents were reviewed holistically.

The topics of the essays were as follows:

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| #1 Write reason(s) why you want to study in the Community and Regional Policy Studies (CRPS) Major at Ritsumeikan University. (within 200 words)               |
| #2 Write about an experience that you are proud of and how you intend to apply this experience in the CRPS Major at Ritsumeikan University. (within 250 words) |
| #3 Which contemporary social issues would you like to study in CRPS and why?<br>*This essay must be titled. (within 300 words)                                 |

##### **(2) 2nd Screening (interview)**

An online interview was conducted.

#### **4. Intent of Essay Topics, Interview Questions, etc.**

##### **(1) 1st Screening (document screening)**

The intent of the essay topics above is as follows:

- Essays #1 and #2: To determine whether applicants have a strong motivation to study in the CRPS Major and whether they understand the educational goals and curriculum of the CRPS Major.
- Essay #3: To determine whether applicants have an interest in contemporary social issues and whether they possess the necessary basic knowledge and academic skills to pursue the program.

## **(2) 2nd Screening (interview)**

The interview was intended to determine whether applicants have (1) sufficient English language communication skills to take specialized courses in English and acquire advanced knowledge related to policy science, and (2) the ability to logically explain and discuss their academic plans after entering the CRPS Major.

## **5. Key Points of Evaluation**

### **(1) 1st Screening (document screening)**

Application documents, including essays, English test scores, high school grades, and letters of recommendation were evaluated to determine if applicants have sufficient intellectual ability and the aptitude to study in the CRPS Major. Essays were evaluated to determine whether applicants' motivation to study in the CRPS Major is clear and whether they could explain how their past experiences are connected to their future learning at university, and clearly express their thoughts in writing.

### **(2) 2nd Screening (interview)**

Applicants were evaluated to determine if they have (1) a clear motivation to study in the CRPS Major, (2) sufficient English language ability to take courses in the CRPS Major, and (3) the ability to answer the interviewers' questions logically considering objective viewpoints.

## **6. Summary of Screening Results**

### **(1) 1st Screening (document screening)**

Most applicants were able to explain why they applied to the CRPS Major and what they want to study at the University. However, some applicants were unable to clearly explain how the topics they want to study and the fields covered in the CRPS Major are connected.

### **(2) 2nd Screening (interview)**

The evaluation varied depending on whether the applicant was able to express their reasons for applying to the CRPS Major in a concrete and logical manner, and whether their responses were accurate or not. Most applicants were able to answer the interviewers' questions in an appropriate manner. However, some struggled in explaining how the social issues they are interested in are connected to the academic discipline of policy science.

## **7. Advice for Next Year's Applicants**

Policy science is an interdisciplinary field that combines the humanities and sciences. Carefully review the admissions policy and curriculum of the CRPS Major and prepare yourself to be able to explain why you want to study in this program. In addition, try to acquire information related to social issues daily and think about how they are related to policy science or how they can be solved through an interdisciplinary policy science approach. Finally, try to imagine in concrete terms how you want to become after graduating from the University. By doing so, you will be able to clearly identify and explain specific issues or subjects you would like to study in the CRPS Major.