

## 2026 Enrollment AO Admissions (English Basis)

### **RU-ANU Major, Department of Global Liberal Arts, College of Global Liberal Arts**

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

No. of applicants	No. of successful applicants
643	111

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

The College of Global Liberal Arts provides students with the comprehensive liberal arts education in English required for our globalized times. We strive to produce graduates who can put knowledge into practice to take the initiative in identifying and solving problems and can keep learning throughout their lives in a globalized society. We are looking for students who are eager to collaborate with others in a multi-cultural environment through dual-degree courses offered in Japan and Australia, and are strongly motivated to take on leadership roles contributing not only to Japan and Asia, but to the entire international community. The dual undergraduate degree program is offered jointly by GLA at Ritsumeikan University and the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University (ANU). The two undergraduate degree programs together form an extensive, coherent system of learning, in which students aim to earn two degrees, one from each university. They study at both campuses, taking courses with the aim of generating synergies between the two degrees. This admission method is designed to admit students with the academic aptitude, skills and interests stated in the GLA admission policy. Decisions to admit students are made based on academic records and the essay.

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

The application documents were reviewed holistically.

The topic of the essay was as follows:

Write an essay that demonstrates how your academic interests align with the dual-degree program at the College of Global Liberal Arts (GLA). Discuss your current academic interests by reflecting on the experiences and academic insights you have gained through various opportunities. Then explain how you plan to pursue these interests through your studies in this program. (within 300 words)

#### **4. Intent of Essay Topic**

The intent of the essay topic is to examine how applicants understand “liberal arts education” at the time of application, and to have them articulate, in their own words rather than in general terms, their academic motivation and areas of intellectual interest. In addition, it is intended to assess how applicants understand the structure of the dual undergraduate degree program offered by the College, and how they have proactively prepared for their studies after enrollment.

Furthermore, through applicants’ diverse past experiences, we aim to understand how they perceive the nature of globalization and social issues, how they intend to engage with them, and to identify their behavioral characteristics, such as their patterns of thinking and action. Based on these perspectives, the essay is assessed comprehensively to determine whether applicants possess the qualities and competencies specified in the College’s admission policy.

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

While the essay is evaluated comprehensively, special emphasis is placed on the following points based on the intent described above.

First, applicants are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental structure and nature of the dual undergraduate degree program based on publicly available information. This program enables students to deepen their liberal arts education at the College (Ritsumeikan University) while studying Asia-Pacific affairs at the Australian National University (ANU). In principle, students are expected to earn two degrees from the two universities within four years. Accordingly, an important aspect of the evaluation is whether applicants show sufficient preparation as proactive learners, including clear study plans and readiness for study abroad after enrollment.

In addition, applicants are expected to reflect on their diverse experiences from their own perspectives and areas of interest, and to express these in their own words. The essay should not present generalized motivations or study plans that could be generated by AI; rather, essays that contain content unique to the applicant and demonstrate originality, thoughtful structure, and expressive ability are highly valued.

With regard to writing, applicants are also assessed on whether they are able to produce appropriate and well-structured English expressions suitable for application documents.

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

Many applicants demonstrated strong English proficiency, writing ability, and logical explanation skills required by the College. However, in terms of content, the evaluation results were broadly divided into three groups.

High-scoring essays demonstrated a clear understanding of the characteristics of liberal arts education at GLA and the structure of the dual undergraduate degree program, and presented concrete and logically consistent study plans that were well connected to the applicants' past experiences and academic interests.

Mid-range essays often described applicants' experiences and perspectives in a concrete and convincing manner; however, they lacked sufficient academic depth or did not adequately explain the connection to liberal arts education or Asia-Pacific studies.

Lower-scoring essays tended to remain at the level of general or abstract statements of motivation, and in some cases reflected misunderstandings of liberal arts education or the dual degree program that differed significantly from publicly available information.

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

At the College of Global Liberal Arts, all courses are conducted in English. After enrollment, students further develop their expressive ability and language proficiency through academic communication with faculty members and classmates. Therefore, it is essential to possess a solid foundation in English prior to enrollment. Applicants are encouraged to develop balanced skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking so that they can actively participate in classes. The College offers a dual undergraduate degree program in which students earn degrees from both Ritsumeikan University and the Australian National University (ANU). In the application essay, it is necessary to clearly and specifically explain not only what and how applicants wish to study at the College, but also what they plan to study at the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs at ANU.

Both English proficiency and critical thinking skills are developed through continuous daily effort. Applicants are encouraged to pay close attention to various social issues, deepen their own understanding and perspectives, and remain mindful of differing viewpoints while engaging earnestly in their studies.