



Department		College of Global Liberal Arts
Degree		RU : Bachelor of Global Liberal Arts ANU : Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Affairs
Enrollment Period		April / September
Location	April Enrollment	Semester 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 : RU, Osaka Ibaraki Campus Semester 4, 5 : ANU, Acton Campus (Canberra, Australia)
	September Enrollment	Semester 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 : RU, Osaka Ibaraki Campus Semester 5, 6 : ANU, Acton Campus (Canberra, Australia)
Duration		4 Years
Annual Student Intake		100 The intake includes 10 students enrolling into ANU

Information

GLA Website
<https://www.ritsumeai.ac.jp/gla/>



RU International Admissions Website
Latest information on Admissions and Events
en.ritsumeai.ac.jp/e-ug/



 **YouTube**
Ritsumeikan University International Admissions



CONTACT

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• Publication Version [June, 2025] The content of this booklet is accurate at the time of publication. Please check the GLA website for updates.
• The information in this booklet is for students applying to enter the College of Global Liberal Arts, Ritsumeikan University.

Study in Japan and Australia

College of Global Liberal Arts



That's why GLA

A multi-faceted education in a multi-cultural background

Isobel Florice Maretza Fincher
Graduate
Attended West Buckland School, U.K.

Why I chose GLA

When looking at universities, I really struggled to find one that I thought would cover all my interests. In my home country of the U.K., it was difficult to find a course that allowed for a varied programme featuring mostly humanity-based subjects, but with options such as psychology and Japanese. Unusually, GLA offers a course that allows for a multi-faceted education in a multi-cultural background in Japan, a country that I have come to love. The location is also excellent, as the Osaka Ibaraki Campus offers a peaceful environment that is nevertheless conveniently located halfway between Kyoto and Osaka rail stations. One big concern for international students is finance, but Ritsumeikan and GLA both offer very generous scholarship opportunities. Those are the reasons why I decided to apply to GLA and I was very happy when I got the acceptance letter!

The best things about studying at GLA

The relationship between the students and the professors is the most appealing aspect of learning at GLA. As the teaching staff and the student body are both small, you get to know the lecturers a lot better and receive more direct feedback on assignments and essays. Despite the small size of the student body, GLA is an incredibly diverse community, filled with individuals both accommodating and accepting, no matter an individual's background. Building meaningful connections between students feels effortless as those within GLA supports an individual's journey.

Message to prospective students

Don't worry if you arrive at university not knowing what you want to do or who you need to be: There is often pressure to decide your career path immediately after high school, but you will likely finish university with a completely new career in mind. Moving away from home is also a challenge, but the experience is definitely worth sacrificing familiarity for.



GLA — the perfect place to explore your options

Seojin Park
Fourth-year Student
Attended Michuhol Foreign Language High School, Korea

Why I chose GLA

During my time in high school, I realized I wanted to explore the world more and study beyond what was typically expected of a Korean student, but it was difficult to find a university that satisfied me. GLA turned out to be the only college that fulfilled my criteria. Firstly, GLA is one of the very few places in Japan that offers a dual degree program. Secondly, it provides a rare opportunity to study at ANU, which is one of the most prestigious universities in the world. As my field of interest is international relations, being able to study at both Ritsumeikan and ANU was a huge merit for me. Thirdly, the internationality within GLA provides a unique space for not only domestic students, but also us international students. Fourthly, the GLA curriculum offers a wide variety of courses, from history and politics to business, design, and computer programming. That means you are free to pursue your own interests and goals by selecting from the great variety of subjects within the GLA curriculum. In short, GLA provides an experience that is not available at any other university in Japan.

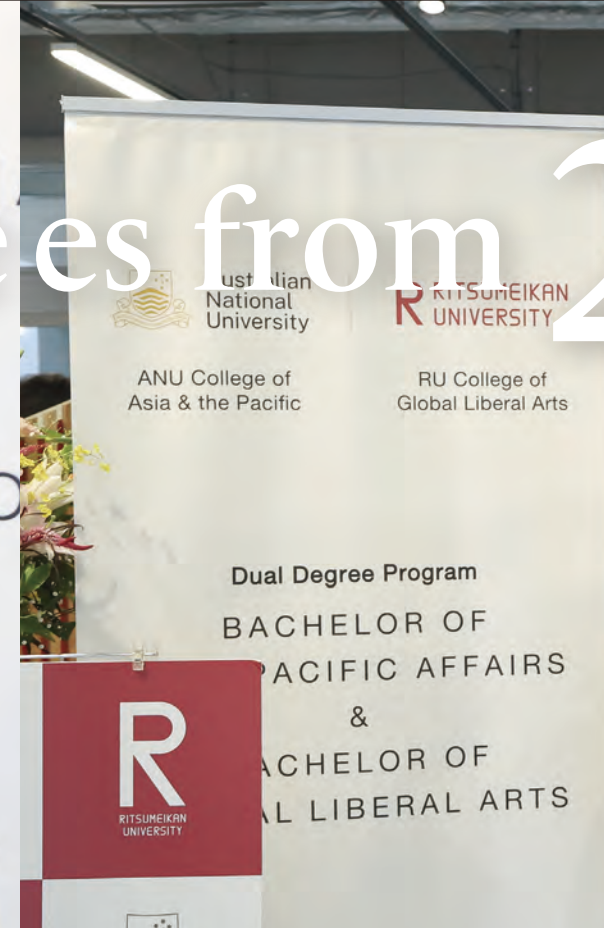
The best things about studying at GLA

Thanks to the variety of courses and excellent teaching staff of both Ritsumeikan and ANU, you will be able to learn a great deal and enhance your skill set. You will also be able to broaden your perspective as you study with staff and students from many different international backgrounds. What is really good about studying at GLA is that you get to study in small-sized classes. That means you can ask more questions and participate more actively in the class. Moreover, many GLA courses adopt a one-lecture, one-tutorial system, which really supports two-way communication with teachers and classmates. GLA is the perfect place for students who seek more than just a series of lectures.

Message to prospective students

A university is about exploring what you want to do in the future and GLA is the perfect place to discover your options if you do not have a clear career path. As long as you put in the effort, you will reap a reward in the end. The GLA community is waiting to welcome you, so I wish you all the best of luck!

Graduate with 2 degrees from 2 universities



History
120+
Years

Ritsumeikan University

Ritsumeikan University is a leading comprehensive private university in west Japan with over 120 years of history. It was selected to lead the globalization of Japanese higher education as part of the "Top Global University Project" funded by the Japanese government. Today, around 38,000 students are studying and conducting research on its four campuses in Kyoto, Shiga, and Osaka. Ritsumeikan University is pioneering new programs utilizing Japan's well-developed education with their English-medium Bachelor Programs.



College of Global Liberal Arts

The College of Global Liberal Arts (GLA) was inaugurated in April 2019 at the Osaka Ibaraki Campus. Under the partnership with the College of Asia and the Pacific at the prestigious Australian National University (ANU), all GLA students pursue a four-year dual degree program leading to degree qualifications from both Ritsumeikan and ANU. The Ritsumeikan component provides thorough training in the liberal arts education and is aimed at promoting social progress through the application of wide-ranging knowledge of the arts and sciences. GLA provides a great deal of global career support to students from a diverse range of international backgrounds.



2900+
International
Students

The Australian National University

Founded in 1946, ANU is Australia's national university and is a research-centered institution focused on finding solutions to global problems. Occupying a high position in a range of university ranking systems, it is equally renowned for its outstanding alumni, who include Australian prime ministers and Nobel Prize winners. The university's campus is centrally located in the Australian capital city of Canberra, and enjoys a parkland setting of great natural beauty where approximately 4,500 overseas students (as of 2023) pursue research activity.



ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

GLA's partner, the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, has one of the world's largest concentrations of English-speaking researchers specializing in the Asia-Pacific region. It plays an important role not only as a source of expertise on Australia's domestic public policy, but also as a knowledge base for the societies, cultures, and economies of the Asia-Pacific region. Meanwhile, the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs (Bell School for short), in which students from GLA are enrolled, is a world-leader in Asia-Pacific and international politics, society, strategy, security, and diplomacy.



Australia's
Leading
University

#8

in the World
for Politics

*QS World University Rankings
2024

#30

in the World

*QS World University Rankings
2025

Define yourself and make a difference to the world

KEY FEATURES

Dual degree program with ANU

Through the four-year program, students will graduate with a Bachelor of Global Liberal Arts from RU and a Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Affairs from ANU upon completion of the requirements and credits of both universities. In Japan, students study liberal arts with a focus on becoming a proactive member of the global society in the twenty-first century. In Australia, students experience the dynamism of globalization firsthand and deepen their studies of the Asia-Pacific region. To be eligible to take the ANU courses, students must take the admission evaluation conducted by ANU.

3 Years at RU in Japan + 1 Year at ANU in Australia

In this 4-year program, students spend 3 years in total at RU in Osaka and 1 year at ANU in Canberra. Students will have an opportunity to learn from ANU faculty members at OIC before they go abroad to ANU. Upon their return to Japan, students continue taking ANU courses at OIC to complete their studies of Global Liberal Arts and Asia-Pacific Affairs.

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4	
April Enrollment	Spring 1	Fall 2	Spring 3	Fall 4	Spring 5	Fall 6	Spring 7	Fall 8
	RU Courses		RU+ANU Courses		ANU Courses		RU+ANU Courses	
September Enrollment	Fall 1	Spring 2	Fall 3	Spring 4	Fall 5	Spring 6	Fall 7	Spring 8
	RU Courses		RU+ANU Courses		ANU Courses		RU+ANU Courses	

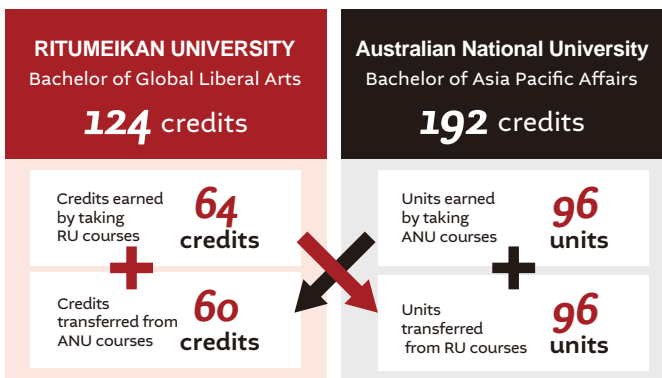
Liberal Arts education to nurture global citizens

GLA provides students with a flexible yet rigorous interdisciplinary education through systematic exposure to fundamental knowledge from diverse disciplines. With an eye to their career or study path after graduation, students can freely decide the contents of their own study program by selecting courses from a wide range of options spanning the arts and sciences.

Philosophy	History	Political Science	Economics	Sociology	Cultural Studies	International Relations	Information Science and Engineering
Business Management	Design	Psychology	Sustainable Society	Education	Disability Studies	Linguistics	

Graduate with 2 degrees from 2 universities

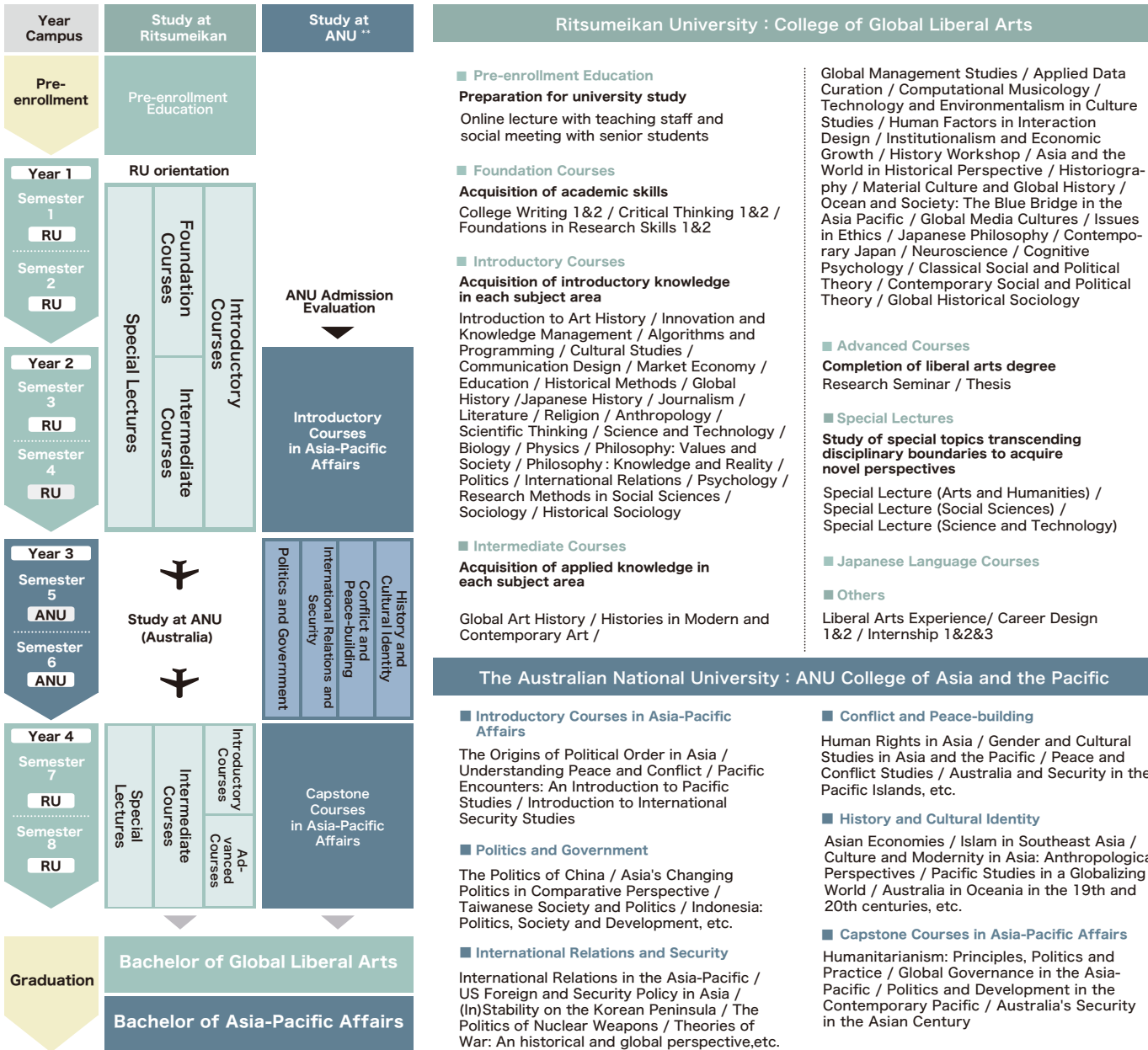
Typically, students must earn a minimum of 124 credits to be awarded the RU degree and 192 units to be awarded the ANU degree. However, under the agreement between the two universities in the dual degree program, 64 credits transferred from RU courses are recognized as 96 units at ANU, and 96 units transferred from ANU courses are recognized as 60 credits at RU. This arrangement allows students to obtain both degrees in four years by completing 64 credits of RU courses and 96 units of ANU courses.



CURRICULUM

College of Global Liberal Arts study flowchart* (September enrollees)

** For more information, check the ANU website



* ANU TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12002 (Australian University) | ANU CRICOS Provider Code: 00120C

ANU Admission Evaluation

After admission to RU, students who meet both the English Language Requirement and the Academic Requirement at the end of the semester in which they have taken courses totaling 32 credits (in principle, at the end of the second semester) will be eligible for an admission evaluation conducted by ANU. If admitted by ANU, students will be able to begin taking courses offered by ANU and continue working toward earning degrees from both universities. The admission evaluation by ANU is conducted only once while enrolled at RU. Students who do not meet the requirements or who are not admitted through ANU's evaluation will continue in the RU Major (the single degree track) and pursue the Bachelor of Global Liberal Arts degree awarded by RU.

English Language Requirement

Students must meet the English language requirements specified in the ANU Policy: English language admission requirements and post-admission support that applies during the ANU admission evaluation.

Academic Requirement

Students must achieve a GPA of 2.00 or higher at RU.

For more details on the English Language Requirement and the Academic Requirement, please refer to the GLA website.



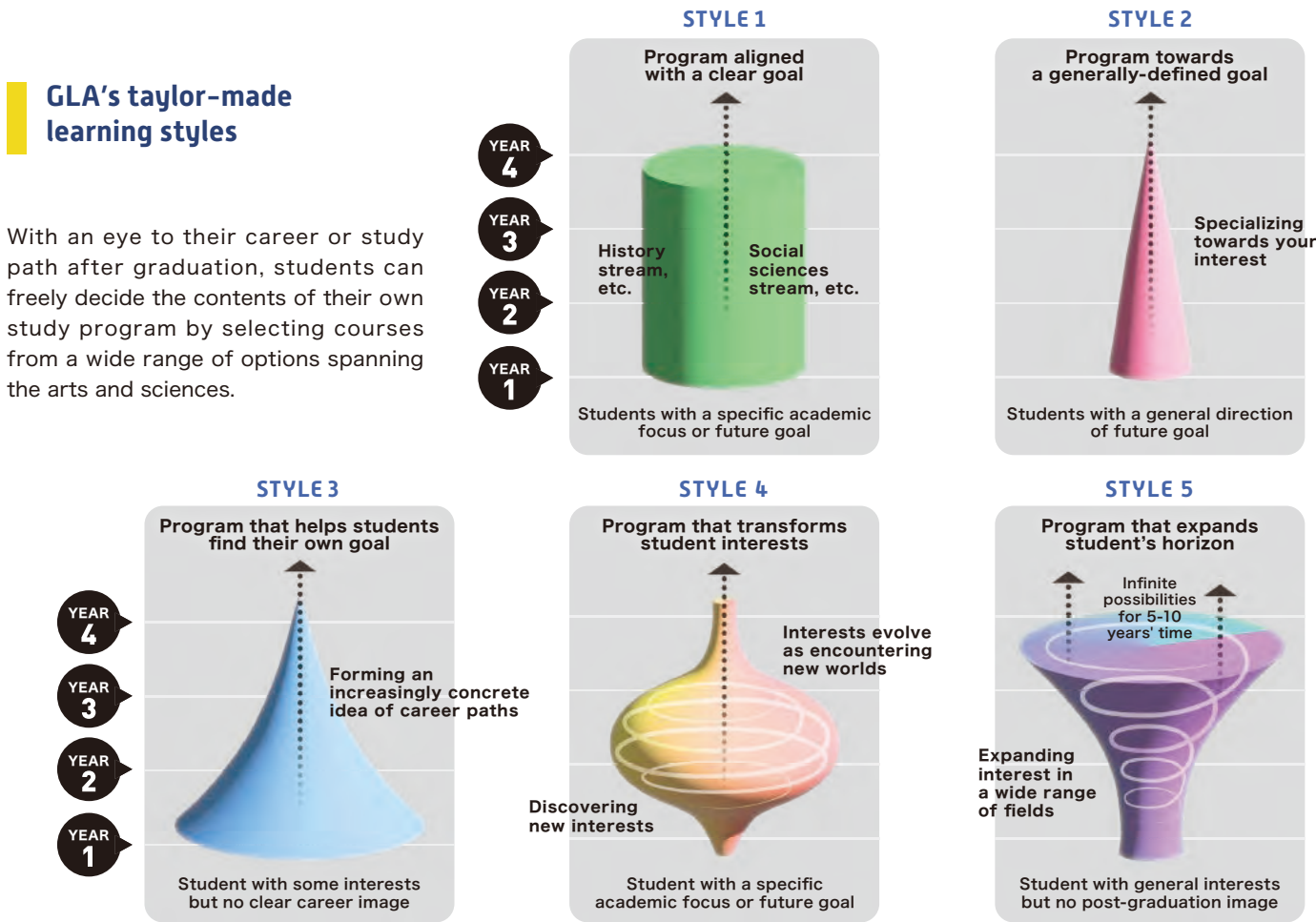
Learning at GLA

Truly international learning environment

GLA has 100 students per year, about 70% of whom are international students from around the world. 90 students start studying at RU and the remaining 10 at ANU. Outside of the classroom, both domestic and international students live in an on-campus dormitory. This international learning environment helps students develop cross-cultural communication skills.

GLA's tailor-made learning styles

With an eye to their career or study path after graduation, students can freely decide the contents of their own study program by selecting courses from a wide range of options spanning the arts and sciences.



Through learning about both Japan and Australia, I was able to develop a perspective that allows me to view global issues from multiple angles.

Do Ngan An
Third-year Student
Attended Chu Van An National Highschool for the Gifted, Vietnam

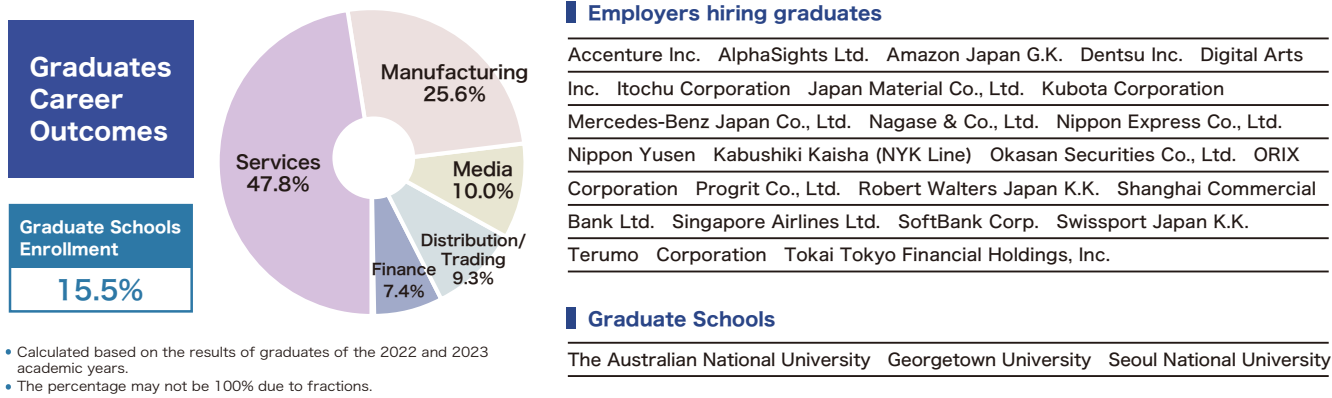
The greatest outcome from studying in the dual degree program was developing a perspective that allows me to view global issues related to the Asia-Pacific region from multiple angles. I've learned to approach conflicts and various problems with an attitude of understanding rather than simply criticizing them. In classes, there are also abundant opportunities for discussion. By being exposed to various opinions, I feel that I have gained critical thinking and interpretive skills, as well as improved my ability to work collaboratively with others. I would like to continue my research by pursuing graduate studies.



Career

Carving out World-Class Careers

GLA graduates are employed by global companies in Japan and overseas (IT businesses, trading companies, advertising agencies, consultancies, etc.), or continue studying at top-ranking graduate schools such as those in the Australian National University and in the USA. Further deepening their specialisms at graduate school will throw open the path to global careers in government agencies, international organizations, NGOs, and other activities at the international level.



The Value of the Dual Degree Program – Understanding where we live

Kim Kunhee
Seoul National University Graduate School of International Studies
B.A. in Global Liberal Arts, Ritsumeikan University, and B.A. in Asia-Pacific Affairs, the Australian National University, 2023

Throughout the dual degree program, I was able to get a thorough understanding of the Indo-Pacific. Being aware of what is happening in the region cannot be done only by looking into political relations, but also requires understanding economic flows, technological developments, and cultural exchanges. My professors were very active in supporting me in these diverse areas of study, and through this I was able to acquire the knowledge I needed to understand the region. After graduating, I am continuing my studies at graduate school. I plan to use the expertise I have developed to work on the international stage as a diplomat.



Beyond Borders: How My Dual Degree Shaped Me

Chan Jun Hao
MUFG Bank
B.A. in Global Liberal Arts, Ritsumeikan University, and B.A. in Asia-Pacific Affairs, the Australian National University, 2023

The four-year journey was intense yet deeply enriching. The Dual Degree Program pushed me to step out of my comfort zone. Despite the challenges, the program offered a unique blend of academic and cultural insights. At Ritsumeikan, I honed my critical thinking and adaptability through a liberal arts curriculum, while ANU provided a rigorous foundation in Asia-Pacific affairs, economics, and regional strategy. The journey won't always be easy, but it will surely be transformative. Stay open-minded, embrace different cultures, and see every challenge as an opportunity to grow. This is more than just earning two degrees — it's a journey beyond borders. Are you ready to take the first step?



WATCH ON YouTube

The message from graduates is available on RU International Admissions channel.



Live & Learn

OIC Global House for GLA students



The diverse shared spaces encourage interaction and communication.

Kotaro Matsuo
Third-year Student
Attended junior & senior high school of Kogakuin University



OIC Global House is known for its open environment, making communication between residents easy. Especially notable are the various shared spaces that facilitate interaction. Shortly after moving in, I became close with other residents through playing billiards, which helped me to quickly adapt to dormitory life. Trying my hand at cooking in the communal kitchen was also a valuable experience. Before moving in, I had never cooked for myself and was even afraid to hold a knife. Thanks to my fellow residents who taught me how to cook, from the basics of utensil handling to the nuances of seasoning, I have mastered several dishes. Additionally, the convenience of having the residence on campus makes time management easier. Unlike high school, university classes leave gaps in the schedule depending on how courses are taken. During such free periods, I was able to return to my dorm room to study or enjoy playing table tennis with friends. As someone who grew up in California, USA, I believe that the greatest allure of living in an international dormitory is the opportunity to experience a global environment. Living alongside peers from various countries and regions exposed me to diverse cultures and values, contributing to my personal growth.

Living and learning in the international dormitory on campus

OIC Global House is an international dormitory that forms part of the Wakebayashi International Plaza completed at the Osaka Ibaraki Campus (OIC) in 2019. Many students of the College of Global Liberal Arts reside here to enjoy an experience of shared learning and shared living within the campus environment. Alongside 200 single bedrooms, the facility also offers a traditional tea room, a Japanese-style garden, a multipurpose hall with a Noh performance stage, and other spaces promoting diverse international encounters within a Japanese-themed cultural setting.



For more details, check the RU website.



Faculty Members



Saeeda Batool
Development Economics, Gender Inequality, Health Economics



Helena Ćapková
Interdisciplinary Visual Art Studies, Exhibition Curating, Japanese Art History, Architecture and Design History



Kayoko Fujita
History of Japanese Foreign Relations, Maritime Asian History, Global History of Material Culture



Paul Haimes
Design Studies, Digital Design, Interaction Design (IxD), Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), Aesthetics, Interactive Art



Miwa Hirono
China, Peacebuilding, Peacekeeping, Humanitarianism, Disasters, Conflict, East Asia, Developing Countries, Foreign Policy



Miki Horie
Education, Intercultural Education, Educational Policy and Administration



Yuko Ishihara
Kyoto School Tradition, Phenomenology, Comparative Philosophy, Philosophy of Play



Kiyu Itoi
Internationalization of Higher Education, Translanguaging, Globalization of English



Christopher Johnson
Moral Philosophy, Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Sport



Chika Kitano
Sociolinguistics, Gender Studies in Japan, Sociology of Language Learning



Gian Powell Marquez
Biomass and Bioenergy, Sustainability Science, Marine Science, Environmental Biotechnology, Systematic Innovation



D. Moritz Marutschke
Data Science, E-Learning Technology, Software Engineering Education



Saeko Ogiso
Foreign/Second Language Education, Japanese Language Education, Second Language Vocabulary Learning



U. Aytun Ozturk
Management Science, Operations Research, Business Analytics



Huseyin Rasit
Revolutions, State-Building, Ideologies, Media and Propaganda, Social and Political Theory, Middle East Studies



Mayumi Shimura
Intersection of International Politics and International Law, Peace Studies



Christophe Thouny
Cultural Studies, Modern Japanese Visual Culture/Literature, Urban Studies, Ecocriticism, Critical Theory



Noriko Yamagishi
Cognitive Psychology, Cognitive Neuroscience, Psychological Sciences, Vision, Attention, Emotion, Brain Science



Norihisa Yamashita
Historical Sociology, Social Theory, Historiography



Eri Yamashita
Philippines Area Studies, Disability Studies

Scholarships

The two scholarships indicated below are open to GLA students studying at ANU in the Dual Degree Program.

Tuition Reduction for International Students with the "Student" Status of Residence

- 100% Reduction** – The amount of reduction will be notified with admission results.
- 50% Reduction**
- 20% Reduction** – Scholarship awards are based on merit: admissions results for the 1st year and academic grades for each year from the 2nd year onwards.

Scholarships Awarded to All Students Studying at ANU in the Dual Degree Program

- 1. College of Global Liberal Arts Scholarship for Study Abroad 700,000 JPY** – Though students can receive both scholarships at the same time, neither of them can be awarded in combination with other scholarships specified in RU policies.
- 2. Ritsumeikan University Study Abroad Challenge Scholarship 300,000 JPY** – These scholarships are awarded to the dual degree students only once.

The scholarship systems may be subject to change.

Fees

In taking the Dual Degree Program, tuition fees of ANU shall not be charged separately. However, travel expenses, dormitory fees, living expenses, etc. shall be paid by students. In addition, admission fees and miscellaneous membership fees are required. Tuition fees for 2026 Enrollees may change. For more details, please check the RU International admissions website.

Admission Fees and Tuition Fees 2025 Enrollees

(Unit : JPY)

Year 1				Year 2 and onwards		
Admission Fee	Tuition Fee for Spring Semester	Tuition Fee for Fall Semester	Total	Tuition Fee for Spring Semester	Tuition Fee for Fall Semester	Total
200,000	1,150,000	1,150,000	2,500,000	1,150,000	1,150,000	2,300,000

Miscellaneous Membership Fees 2025 Enrollees

(Unit : JPY)

Student Government Board		Parents Association of Student Education Assistance		Total
Registration Fee	Annual Membership Fee	Registration Fee	Annual Membership Fee	
3,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	23,000

*Membership fees for the Alumni Association and the Parents Association for Student Education Assistance are payable only in the first year of enrollment.



RU International Admissions Website (Tuition & Fees)