

# WAGING **PEACE**

SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE,  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY



American University – Ritsumeikan University  
Joint Degree Program

## **PEACE** AND DEMOCRACY

RITSUMEIKAN UNIVERSITY

**R** RITSUMEIKAN  
UNIVERSITY

College of International Relations  
Ritsumeikan University

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# American University - Ritsumeikan University Joint Degree Program

2027



**R** RITSUMEIKAN  
UNIVERSITY



# BE A PEACE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE US AND JAPAN



## American University-Ritsumeikan University Joint Degree Program

A joint degree program is a combined program of study offered by two different universities which jointly organize a single curriculum and confer a single degree on students who complete the program. Ritsumeikan University (RU) and American University (AU) have been close partners for the past 30 years. The joint degree is a unique program built on the basis of this longstanding partnership, it aims to develop human resources who have a global outlook with the ability to critically examine IR from multiple theoretical, historical, cultural, and ethnic perspectives. They will also possess a deep understanding of global issues, especially those related to East Asia and the United States. Through their studies at AU and RU, students will gain the ability to become leaders within the international community, in fields such as international organizations, government, global business, and media and non-governmental organizations, as well as serving as a bridge between Japan and the US.

### Degree Awarded

Bachelor of Arts in Global International Relations

\*A single degree jointly awarded by AU and RU

### Diploma Policy (Educational Goal)

Students should, by the time of graduation:

- Have the ability to critically examine IR from multiple theoretical, historical, cultural, and national perspectives and standpoints
- Possess a deep understanding of global and regional challenges, especially those related to East Asia and the United States
- Have the ability to lead within the international community
- Are able to design and conduct research questions and research projects
- For non-native Japanese speakers, demonstrate at least intermediate proficiency in Japanese.

# Ritsumeikan University

## Ritsumeikan University



Ritsumeikan University (RU) is a private university with 17 Colleges and 22 Graduate Schools, accommodating a total of approximately 39,000 students. It has four campuses across Kyoto, Shiga and Osaka. The university was established in the spirit of “freedom and innovation” and has taken “peace and democracy” as its core educational philosophy. It has worked consistently to develop individual talent in order to nurture just and ethical global citizens. As part of its educational globalization, RU has exchange agreements with 471 universities and institutions, in 69 countries and regions. Approximately 3,400 international students are currently studying on campus (as of AY 2025). The launch of the first dual undergraduate degree program in Japan is an RU’s initiatives aimed at contributing to the globalization of the Japanese education system. As a recognition of its advanced efforts, RU was selected for the “Global 30 (G30) Project” in 2009 and the “Top Global University Project” in 2014 by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), these are both initiatives encouraging the nurturing of internationally competent individuals.

## College of International Relations



RU’s College of International Relations was established in 1988 in Kyoto, it was the first college of IR in Western Japan. Since its establishment, it has maintained a firm position as a pioneer constantly embarking on new challenges to further internationalize itself. In 1994, upon concluding an agreement with AU, RU became the first university to offer a dual undergraduate degree program in IR. In 2011, the College launched the Global Studies Major, this is an undergraduate major teaching a complete IR curriculum entirely in English. In 2018 this was followed by the establishment of the American University-Ritsumeikan University Joint Degree Program, which was the first joint undergraduate degree to be offered in Japan. These international programs attract students from all over the world, representing 49 different countries and regions (as of AY2026). Another distinguishing feature of the College is the diversity of its teaching staff; in terms of countries of origin, fields of specialization and approaches to education. This is a major attraction of studying IR at RU. In the 38 years since its establishment, the College has fostered more than 9,000 graduates, who are now working across the world, and within Japan, as key staff in companies, governmental agencies, international organizations, educational and research institutions, non-profit organizations, and in other settings.

# American University

## American University



American University (AU) a private university, which was chartered by Congress in 1893 after the first US President, George Washington, had called for a “great university” in the nation’s capital. It has always been defined by its core values of social responsibility, practical idealism and a commitment to international diversity. Located in the heart of Washington, DC, the nation’s epicenter of global policymaking, AU accommodates a total of more than 13,000 students on campus. Its rich culture of diversity and openness attracts international students from about 130 countries and regions. More than 40 percent of AU faculty is made up of former policy-makers, diplomats and business managers. The university is known as the place where President John Kennedy and Barack Obama delivered speeches calling for international peace. One of the greatest advantages to studying in Washington, DC, is the unparalleled access to internships and opportunities for field work. More than 90 percent of AU students intern prior to completing their degree programs.

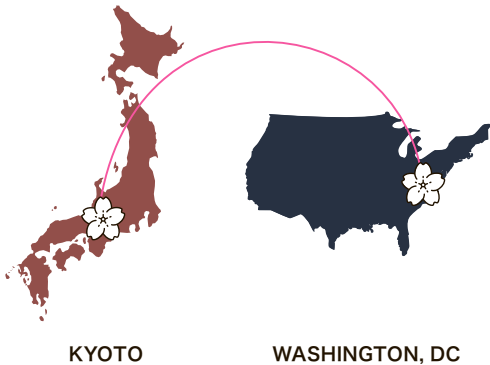
## School of International Service



Since its founding in 1957, AU’s School of International Service (SIS) has been renowned as one of the nation’s largest schools of international affairs with global academic reputation, preparing more than 3,000 graduate and undergraduate students to “wage peace”. In EduRank(2026),AU ranks #6 among Top Universities for International Relations and Diplomacy in North America. In 2023, AU SIS’s Model UN team was ranked first in North America. SIS’s active international network includes more than 25,000 alumni with global careers in government, nonprofits, and business.

# JDP

### Joint Degree Program



The first joint degree undergraduate program between the United States and Japan

## Top 16 Universities for International Relations and Diplomacy in North America (2026)

(Updated: March 15, 2026 EduRank)

|   |                                   |    |                                    |
|---|-----------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Ohio State University             | 9  | University of California, Berkeley |
| 2 | Columbia University               | 10 | University of Toronto              |
| 3 | Georgetown University             | 11 | University of British Columbia     |
| 4 | University of Southern California | 12 | Johns Hopkins University           |
| 5 | Princeton University              | 13 | Yale University                    |
| 6 | American University in Washington | 14 | Cornell University                 |
| 7 | George Washington University      | 15 | Harvard University                 |
| 8 | University of Chicago             | 16 | Stanford University                |



# FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM



## A single degree jointly awarded by AU and RU

Upon completion of the program, students are conferred one diploma endorsed by both AU and RU, and become a degree holder of both institutions. For future career planning, students can make use of both AU and RU career recourses.



## Fulfilling four years of study

Under dual undergraduate degree programs, students study for two years each at two different institutions and are required to earn more than 160 credits to complete two different degrees\*. The JDP offers a single curriculum and students are required to earn 124 credits for a joint diploma conferred by the two institutions. This allows students to experience extra-curricular activities both on and off campus.

\*Based on the RU-AU Dual Undergraduate Degree Program (DUDP) requirements



## Spending two years in Washington, DC and two years in Kyoto

Students will study for two years each at AU and RU. Both institutions collaborate closely to support students and ensure that they are taught in a consistent manner through their studies in the program.



## Cultivating globally minded leaders

The program will deliver active learning in Washington, DC, the center of international politics, and Kyoto, the center of Japanese culture. Students can expand their network and cultivate a global mindset through such environments.



## Jointly enrolled at both AU and RU

Students will be jointly enrolled at both AU and RU and have access to the resources and support programs of both institutions, ranging from use of databases to career consultation, for the duration of the program. The admission selection process will be conducted jointly by both institutions.



## Sakura Scholars

The cherry blossom or “sakura” is an iconic image of Japan and Washington, DC celebrates the gift of cherry blossom trees from Japan over 100 years ago, a symbol of the lasting friendship and exchange between the two countries. Sakura Scholars will represent a unique community of learners, with ties to the United States, Japan and beyond. As they complete the joint degree, the Sakura Scholars will have multiple opportunities to meet their fellow classmates through online orientations, in-person cohort classes, and other on-going activities.

## Student’s Voice

Through an English debate class, I took in high school, my perspective shifted from “learning English” to “learning through English.” Around that time, I happened to come across the term International Relations and was immediately drawn to it. At first, I did not fully understand what the field involved, and I certainly never imagined that I would spend two years living in Washington D.C., the capital of the United States where global events intersect. Although I felt a great deal of uncertainty, the program struck me as both challenging and deeply appealing. Thinking, “I don’t know much yet—and that’s exactly why I want to try,” I decided to apply to the JDP. Both the College of International Relations and the United States provide environments where individual interests and personalities stand out. Studying and living through the JDP, which allowed me to experience each two years at Kyoto and D.C., became a truly valuable time in which I could freely explore my interests and take on new challenges.

KOGURE Mone, JDP alumnus (RU Home student fifth cohort)



I was initially motivated to apply to the American University-Ritsumeikan University Joint Degree Program due to my interest in Asia-Pacific diplomacy, specifically regarding the relationship among the United States, Japan, and the Philippines. I learned about the relationship among these countries at a young age, since my grandmother lived in the Philippines during the American and Japanese occupation periods. Her stories and experiences with these two countries inspired and intrigued me to learn more about colonialism, imperialism, and how these concepts operate from an international relations perspective. Additionally, as somebody born and raised in Florida, I was interested in studying in such different places from my hometown by exploring and living in these two cities across the globe, I realized that I could develop a more global perspective and experience different cultures than I was accustomed to.

Miles Brian Mariano-Ortilla, JDP alumnus (AU Home student third cohort)



Ritsumeikan University

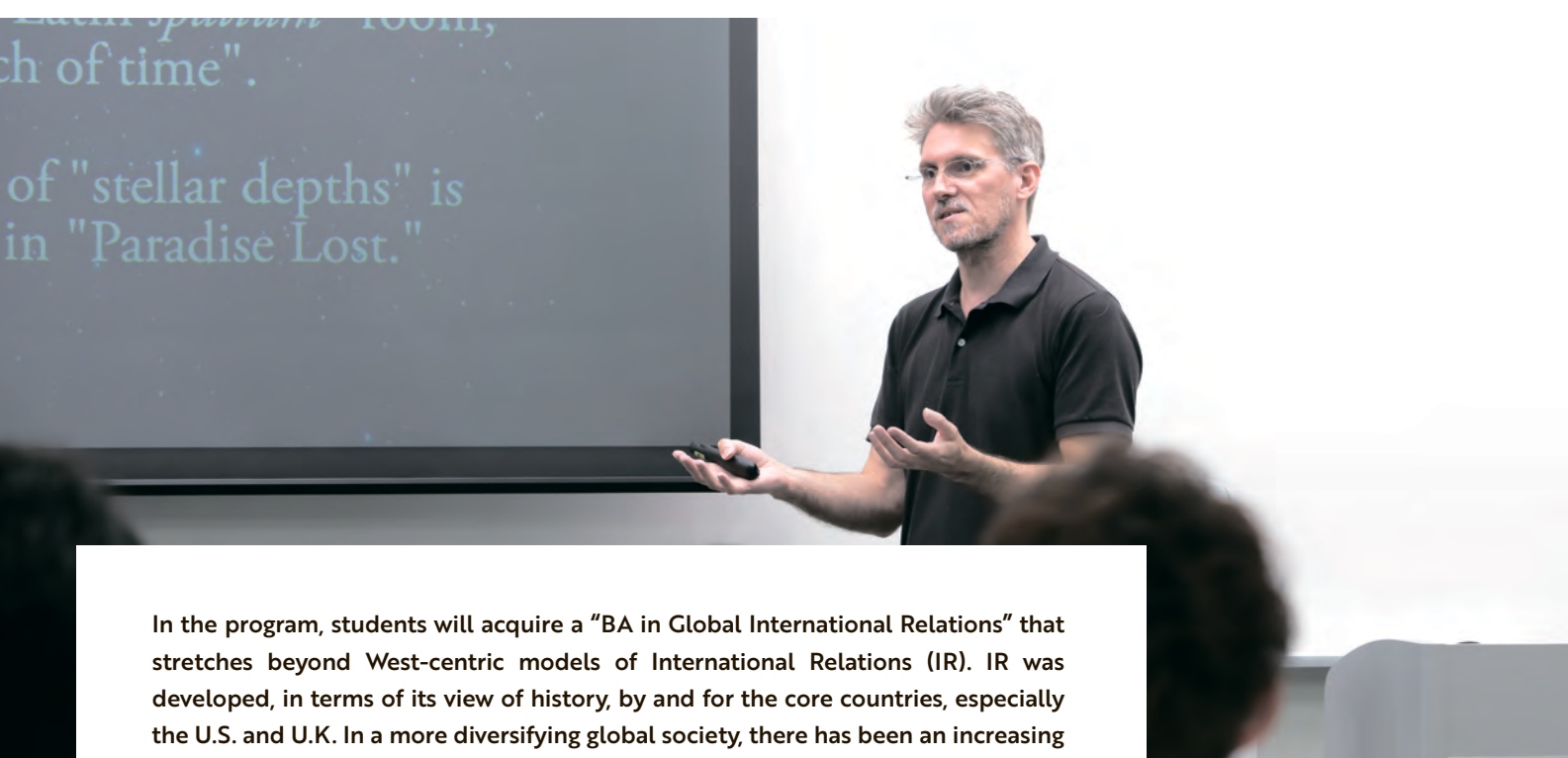


American University





WHAT IS GLOBAL IR?



In the program, students will acquire a “BA in Global International Relations” that stretches beyond West-centric models of International Relations (IR). IR was developed, in terms of its view of history, by and for the core countries, especially the U.S. and U.K. In a more diversifying global society, there has been an increasing need to include non-Western perspectives into IR’s disciplinary theory. In Japan, a non-Western country that carried out its rapid modernization modeled after the West, it is becoming more and more crucial to learn a new IR theory that transcends the divide between the West and the non-West. The program is a new attempt by two different universities, in the U.S. and Japan, to explore IR from multiple perspectives.



Truly global degree in International Relations taught from both US and Japanese perspectives

The study of International Relations was written and taught in the dominant centers of knowledge in the West. Today we are witnessing a shift from Eurocentric international order. The aim of the Global International Relations is to advance a new discipline that brings in experiences of both Western and non-Western societies. Learning GIR will equip you with a broader perspective to make a difference in our global society.

ATAKA Hiroaki, Professor, College of International Relations

The best environment for studying IR with people with diverse backgrounds and cultures

I chose the Joint Degree Program because I really wanted to meet people from different backgrounds and learn about international relations from a variety of perspectives. Global IR is a very interesting field of study that exposes you to all kinds of themes in humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences beyond disciplinary boundaries. The program also allows you to explore yourself deeply while learning new values from your fellow students' multiple perspectives. I find these learning environments very stimulating and attractive.

SUGIMOTO Taira, JDP alumnus (RU Home Student third cohort)



LEARNING SCHEDULE

|                                                                           |        | 1st year                                                  |                                | 2nd year                      |        | 3rd year                   |                                                            | 4th year                                                   |        |      |                         |                                   |        |      |      |        |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|------|------|--------|----|
| <div>R</div> <div>RITSUMEIKAN</div> <div>University</div> <div>HOME</div> | spring | 1                                                         | fall                           | 2                             | spring | 3                          | fall                                                       | 4                                                          | spring | 5    | fall                    | 6                                 | spring | 7    | fall | 8      |    |
|                                                                           |        | RU                                                        |                                | RU                            |        | RU                         |                                                            | AU                                                         |        | AU   |                         | AU                                |        | AU   |      | RU     |    |
|                                                                           |        | Core/Foundation/Cohort Courses                            |                                |                               |        |                            |                                                            | Instruction linked to Seminars and Senior Capstone Program |        |      |                         | Senior Capstone Program (Seminar) |        |      |      |        |    |
|                                                                           |        | Academic Skills (Building foundation of Academic Writing) |                                | Research Methods              |        |                            |                                                            |                                                            |        |      |                         |                                   |        |      |      |        |    |
|                                                                           |        | Japanese/English (if necessary)                           |                                | Thematic and Regional Courses |        |                            |                                                            |                                                            |        |      |                         |                                   |        |      |      |        |    |
|                                                                           |        |                                                           |                                |                               |        |                            |                                                            |                                                            |        |      |                         |                                   |        |      |      |        |    |
| <div>AU</div> <div>American University</div> <div>HOME</div>              |        | fall                                                      | 1                              | spring                        | 2      | fall                       | 3                                                          | spring                                                     | 4      | fall | 5                       | spring                            | 6      | fall | 7    | spring | 8  |
|                                                                           |        |                                                           | AU                             |                               | AU     |                            | RU                                                         |                                                            | RU     |      | RU                      |                                   | RU     |      | AU   |        | AU |
|                                                                           |        |                                                           |                                |                               |        | Research Methods, Seminars |                                                            |                                                            |        |      |                         |                                   |        |      |      |        |    |
|                                                                           |        |                                                           | Core/Foundation/Cohort Courses |                               |        |                            | Instruction linked to Seminars and Senior Capstone Program |                                                            |        |      | Senior Capstone Program |                                   |        |      |      |        |    |
|                                                                           |        |                                                           | Japanese                       |                               |        |                            |                                                            |                                                            |        |      |                         |                                   |        |      |      |        |    |
|                                                                           |        |                                                           |                                |                               |        |                            | Thematic and Regional Courses                              |                                                            |        |      |                         |                                   |        |      |      |        |    |

All courses are taught in English / Prospective AU Home Students begin their application process to AU/RU does not have September entry admissions for RU Home Students

Students beginning their studies at RU and AU are referred to as RU and AU Home Students respectively. They will form a cohort within and across academic years and learn together on both campuses through the four years of study.

**RU Home Students** will spend their first 1.5 years at RU, and take classes completely in English. Classes are taken with students in RU's Global Studies Major\*, as well as with second and their year AU Home Students who are studying at RU. They will spend their next two years at AU. After returning from AU in their 4th year, they will spend their final semester at RU and carry out their Capstone Project, as a culmination of their four years of learning. AU and RU collaborate continuously to provide students with academic support during their four years in the program. Academic advisors from both AU and RU collaborate and update each other regularly on the academic situation of each individual student. A unique advantage of this program is that students are able to continue their studies in a coherent manner at both their home and host institutions.

\* The Global Studies Major is an English-medium degree program that accommodates approximately a total of 100 students per year and half of them are international students.

Building a strong foundation at RU, pursuing specialized interests at AU



Before transferring to AU, I studied the fundamentals of international relations at Ritsumeikan University (RU), including IR theory and academic writing. At AU, I was able to build on the foundation I had developed at RU and explore my academic interests in greater depth. Classes at AU required extensive preparation before each session. Drawing on that preparation, students engaged in discussions, exchanged ideas, and gave presentations. These activities were followed by lectures from professors and further discussion. Although the workload was much heavier than what I had experienced in Japan, it gave me a much deeper understanding of the subject matter and helped the knowledge stay with me.

KATSURA Nodoka, JDP alumnus (RU Home Student fourth cohort)

AP/IB Credits for JDP

In the American University - Ritsumeikan University Joint Degree Program, it is possible for students to receive credit for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations taken prior to enrollment. For details, please see the Joint Degree Program homepage.

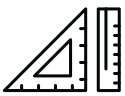
- ① In the JDP curriculum, it is possible to receive credit for the following three courses.

「WRT-100」(WRT-IB/ WRT-AP)  
「ECON-100」  
「ECON-200」
- ② Although these credits will not count towards the minimum number of credits which must be earned at each university, by receiving these credits, RU Home Students can elect to have some of their first- and second-year introductory courses waived, allowing them to choose from a wide range of courses to take instead.
- ③ For details on credit articulation criteria and process, please see the Joint Degree Program homepage.

# CURRICULUM

## Core Courses

Core Courses enable students to gain the broad range of liberal arts background knowledge needed to take an active role in global society. The curriculum is designed to prepare students to acquire the basic knowledge and critical intellectual disposition to learn about Global IR from multiple perspectives.



## Foundation Courses

The program will offer foundation courses that consist of Basic Economics, World Politics, and International Economics. There are also 'Cohort Courses' specifically designed for JDP students. These studies are considered to be the fundamental elements comprising the foundation of Global IR.



## Research Methodology

Basic research methodology courses will allow students to obtain the appropriate research methodology skills needed for the study of Global IR. The courses include training in data collection, research design, and statistical analysis, as well as advanced and subject-specific research methodologies.



## Thematic Area Courses

A systematic approach to studying topics in Global IR is important and in order to promote this the program offers courses in three thematic areas: "Global and Comparative Governance (GCG)," "Identity, Race, Gender and Culture (IRGC)," and "Peace, Global Security and Conflict Resolution (PGSCR)."



## Regional Focus

Students will deepen their understanding of global and regional issues through diverse area studies courses. These courses cover a broad selection of regions, focusing particularly on East Asia and the Pacific.



## Capstone Project

All students will complete a capstone project in their final year in the program as the culmination of their four years of learning. Students will design and conduct research under the guidance of faculty members from both institutions.



## Other Unique Courses

In addition to a variety of Elective courses offered by the program, students can take classes outside the program while studying at AU. Students will be offered the opportunity to take internships courses at AU, gaining valuable applied experience in Washington, DC.\*



\*Students must consult with their academic advisors and obtain their permission when taking these courses.

# Thematic Areas

Gateways are the introductory classes students take in their first two years to explore their interest in the various different fields of Global IR in the JDP. From the three Gateways students choose a primary and secondary Thematic Area focus, which leads into their thematic classes.

1

## Global and Comparative Governance (GCG)

The Global and Comparative Governance Thematic Area is designed for students who are interested in how a range of actors—local, national, global—seek to understand and solve the compelling security, development, environmental, and economic problems of our time. This thematic area focuses on the role that states, regional and global institutions (the United Nations, EU, World Bank, etc.), civil society, and the private sector play in addressing regional and global problems. Students also have the option of specializing in a geographical region. Students will take a multidisciplinary approach and will acquire the skills to empirically evaluate phenomena, anticipate emerging trends, and interpret data through an innovative curriculum that emphasizes theory and applied knowledge.

### Course Example

#### Gateway Courses

RUIR-1411  
Introduction to the United Nations  
RUIR-2412  
Comparative and Global Governance

#### Thematic Area Courses

RUIR-2511  
International Human Rights  
SISU-393  
International Relations Theory  
SISU-329  
Global Economic Governance

2

## Identity, Race, Gender, and Culture (IRGC)

Issues of identity, whether avowed or ascribed and socially constructed or naturally derived, fundamentally shape people's lives and society. In particular, race, gender, class, religion, sexual orientation, and nationality are determinate identities for many, though in reality, everyone holds multiple identities at the same time. Although these identities often appear to be static and fixed from the outside, they are dynamic and ever-changing, driven by the broader cultural and social influences in which they arise and exist. Courses in this Thematic Area examine the nature of these identities in a world in transition. Our courses, embodying both theoretical and grounded approaches, explore each of these identities in their own right, as well as in a historical and an intersectional manner that explores the relationship between them.

### Course Example

#### Gateway Courses

RUIR-1421  
Introduction to Gender Studies  
RUIR-2422  
Race and Ethnicity in the Modern World

#### Thematic Area Courses

RUIR-3521  
Media and Society  
SISU-360  
Topics in Identity, Race, Gender, and Culture  
SISU-369  
Topics in Public Diplomacy

3

## Peace, Global Security, and Conflict Resolution (PGSCR)

The Peace, Global Security, and Conflict Resolution Thematic Area explores the causes and consequences of war as they relate to competing understandings of peace and security. Courses in this area help students assess the choices as well as challenges involved in preventing, resolving, and managing conflict. Students engage theories and historical cases from international security, strategic studies, human security, peace studies, and conflict resolution to conceptualize war and insecurity. The Gateway course begins this journey by establishing the broader philosophical traditions associated with competing schools of thought. Students examine the different definitions of peace, security, and conflict as well as general patterns of violence and insecurity in the world. The course builds on this foundation by introducing students to the dynamics of political violence and different peacebuilding and conflict resolution mechanisms.

### Course Example

#### Gateway Courses

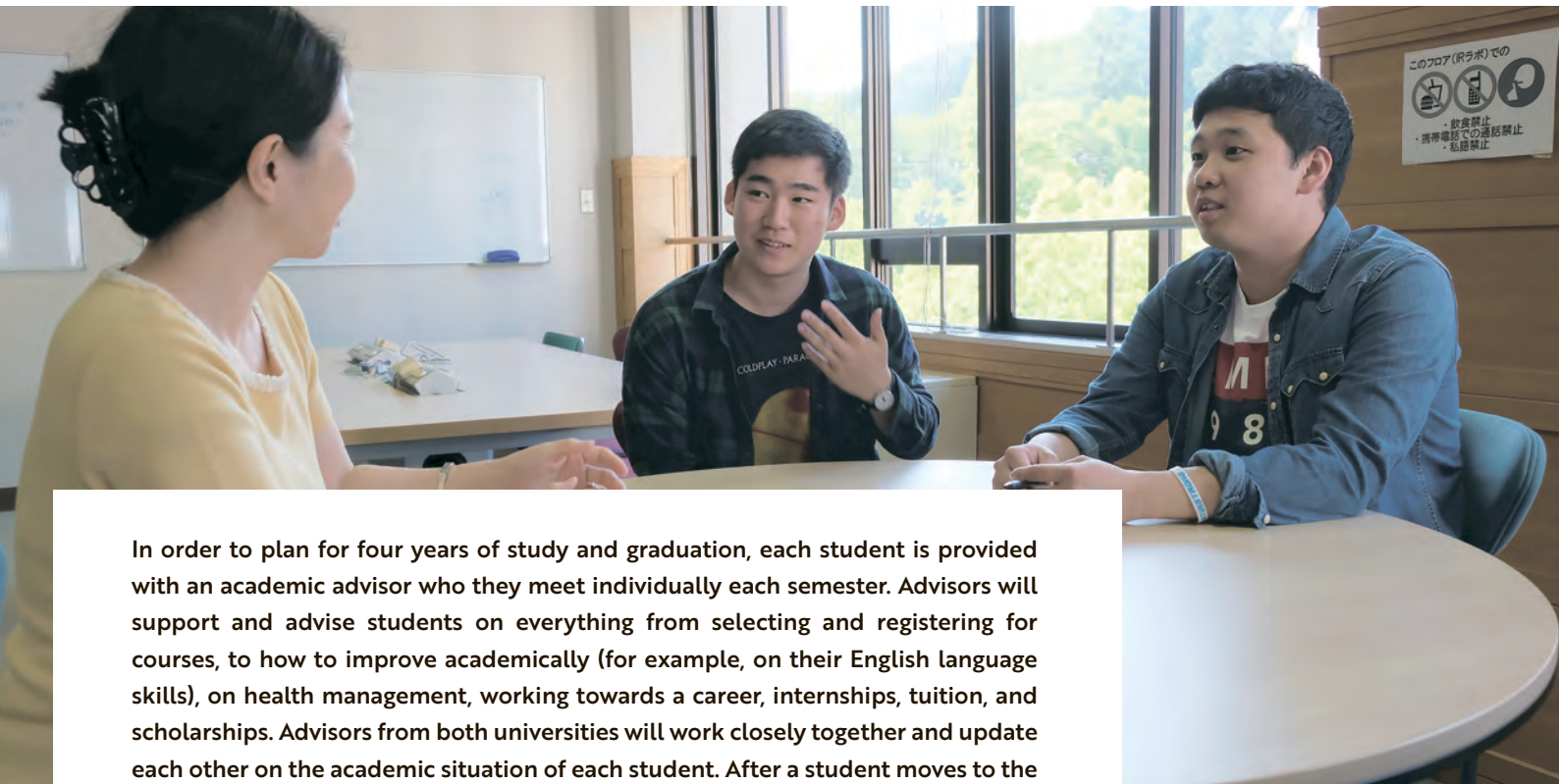
RUIR-1431  
Introduction to Peace Studies  
RUIR-2432  
Security Studies

#### Thematic Area Courses

RUIR-2548  
Global Simulation Gaming (PGSCR)  
SISU-312  
Governance, Development, and Security in Asia  
SISU-359  
Environment, Conflict, and Peace



# ACADEMIC SUPPORT



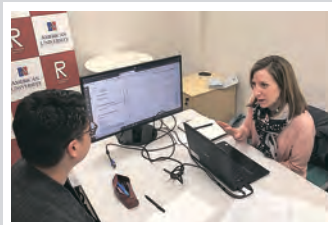
In order to plan for four years of study and graduation, each student is provided with an academic advisor who they meet individually each semester. Advisors will support and advise students on everything from selecting and registering for courses, to how to improve academically (for example, on their English language skills), on health management, working towards a career, internships, tuition, and scholarships. Advisors from both universities will work closely together and update each other on the academic situation of each student. After a student moves to the U.S. they will receive support from their advisor at AU.

### Strong support system for classroom success and English language acquisition

Having never lived in foreign countries, I am appreciative of the fact that many faculties and advisors are highly experienced in English as a second language. They always give me advise on how to upgrade my English during their office hours and through email. In addition to academic support for classroom success, the JDP has a variety of life support resources provided to students. One of the great things is that you can learn different perspectives through different learning styles of the Japanese and U.S. universities. In the classes of JDP students, I spend a lot of time discussing Japanese and U.S. societies with my AU Home peers. With these experiences as a Sakura Scholar, I want to develop objective viewpoints and serve as a bridge between Japan and the U.S.

ANDO Jin (RU Home Student fourth cohort)

## ENGLISH LEARNING SUPPORT



RU Home Students must meet the English proficiency level required to study at AU by the end of their first year at RU. The JDP offers courses such as Academic Skills and Introductory Seminar that help familiarize students with how to learn in English while obtaining knowledge of basic research methodology skills such as data gathering. Students who do not meet the English proficiency level must take Intensive English courses in order to reach the required score for TOEFL iBT® or IELTS tests. Writing tutorial support, to help develop English writing skills, will also be available in the library. Thus, non-native English speakers will be given sufficient language support to begin their studies at AU from their fall semester in their second year.

# CAREER SUPPORT

Specialized support for job-hunting in Japan, attending graduate school in Japan or abroad, and students' post-graduation career will be provided to meet the unique needs of JDP students, who will be spending two years in the U.S. In the Spring Semester of the students' 2nd year, a career guidance session (to help students start preparing early) and a get-together with internationally active alumni (including those attending graduate school) will be held, increasing career awareness even before leaving Japan. Students can receive online career support from RU through Skype even while studying in the U.S, this ensures a smooth transition back to Japan, when they will begin job-hunting or applying to graduate schools. Of course, students are more than welcome to receive additional advice on careers and internships from AU's Career Center, as well as attend job fairs in the U.S.\*

\*Students cannot work in the U.S. on OPT (Optional Practical Training) visa.

### Pursuing graduate studies in International Relations at AU

I chose to go to graduate school because I wanted to continue my studies in the field of international relations, especially in the global security area. Studying back in D.C. will also give me an opportunity to work full-time or intern while continuing my studies which benefits me in reaching my full potential after graduation. This program is a unique program that provides multiple opportunities to study and absorb diverse perspectives from various professors who are very qualified in the area of international relations. I gained interest in human rights and transnational crime by taking various courses throughout my 4 years of studying with the JDP. This program will not only help you find your spark and passion but also develop you into a global leader. Let's lead the world together.

KIM Brencis, JDP alumnus (RU Home Student first cohort)

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

In addition to the regular curriculum, a variety of extra-curricular activities and programs are provided. These include a special lecture given by AU's senior professors, a seminar given by a Washington DC-based renowned entrepreneur. In 2020, AU and RU co-hosted an event for JDP students at both schools to discuss what might change in international relations after the presidential election in the U.S. JDP provides opportunities for students to participate in internship at both Ritsumeikan University and American University. After the internship has finished, students are able to earn academic credits if certain conditions are fulfilled.

### I learnt so much from my internship experience

While studying at AU, I interned at the Washington, D.C. bureau of a Japanese newspaper. My primary responsibilities included translating interview recordings into Japanese and preparing background materials based on English-language news articles. One day, my supervisor learned that I had a connection with someone involved in politics and asked me to help arrange an interview. It was my first time coordinating an interview entirely in English, and I also had the opportunity to serve as an interpreter during the interview itself. The experience was both challenging and rewarding, and I learned a great deal from it.

INADA Mimi, JDP alumnus (RU Home Student fourth cohort)

TUITION AND SCHOLARSHIP

RU Home Students

RU Home Students will pay the tuition fee for RU during their studies at RU and for AU during their studies at AU. Tuition reduction offered by RU while studying at RU.

International students (who hold the visa status of residence of ‘Student’ while studying at RU) are guaranteed at least a 20% reduction, with 50% and 100% reductions offered to the most outstanding applicants. The RU Tuition Reduction Scheme is offered initially for one year, based on the students’ admission evaluation. For 2nd and subsequent years, the tuition reduction will be awarded based on students’ grades during the previous year of study.

Tuition (AY2025)

| 1st year      |          |          | 2nd year |          | 3rd year |          | 4th year |          |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Admission Fee | spring   | fall     | spring   | fall     | spring   | fall     | spring   | fall     |
| ¥200,000      | ¥719,600 | ¥719,600 | ¥719,600 | \$31,340 | \$31,340 | \$31,340 | \$31,340 | ¥719,600 |
| RU            |          |          |          | AU       |          |          | RU       |          |

- The cost of tuition may change from AY 2027 onwards. The tuition for AY 2027 onwards will be posted on RU’s International Admissions website once finalized. Please check the site.
- The cost of tuition listed for AU is the cost per semester for registering 12-17.5 credits. The cost of tuition will be higher if registering for 18 or more credits.
- The tuition fees at AU are as of May 2026. Tuition, housing, and other costs at AU are subject to change annually. Please check the AU website for the latest information.

Scholarship

RU Home Students who meet the conditions described later may use Ritsumeikan University Study Abroad Challenge Scholarship. It is a grant-type scholarship that does not need to be repaid, aimed at assisting students while they study at AU.

\* Any information provided below is for students enrolled in April 2026. For students enrolled in the academic year 2027 and thereafter, RU’s scholarship system may be subject to change.

Ritsumeikan University Study Abroad Challenge Scholarship

Award amount and period

JPY 1,000,000 per year, for the 2 year period during which the student studies at AU

Scholarship Requirements

- (1) After enrollment, the students must achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 up to the end of the second semester and earn a minimum of 32 credits for graduation by the end of the second semester.
- (2) The student must achieve the English test score stipulated by AU (equivalent to 85 or higher for TOEFL® iBT) .

Tuition reduction offered by AU while studying at AU

RU Home Students will be guaranteed a scholarship of 30% of their AU tuition fee for the first two semesters at AU and must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on the AU grading scale\*, assessed initially after the first two semesters at AU, and then each semester thereafter, to maintain the award.

\* RU’s scale is 5 point scale (A+ to F) and AU’s scale is 4 point scale (A to F).

Estimated Cost of Tuition and Housing

|         |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuition | RU (2years): Approx. ¥3,000,000<br>AU (2years): Approx. ¥18,800,000                                                                                                  |
|         | Scholarships&Tuition Reduction<br>Ritsumeikan University Study Abroad Challenge Scholarship: ¥2,000,000<br>American University Tuition Reduction: Approx. ¥5,600,000 |
| Housing | RU (2years): Approx. ¥1,950,000 *<br>AU (2years): Approx. ¥3,950,000                                                                                                 |
| Total   | Approx. ¥20,050,000                                                                                                                                                  |

Note:  
•The conversion rate used in the estimated costs to study in the U.S. is 1 USD = 150 JPY.  
•In order to receive the scholarship or tuition reduction, students must meet the academic requirements.

\*Estimated cost of living off-campus (single occupancy) near RU Kinugasa Campus in Kyoto (Approx. ¥70,000 per month for rent)

Certification of Finances for International Students:CFIS

RU Home Students will need to be able to submit a CFIS in order to meet the visa requirements to enter the United States and enroll at AU.

The process will require financial documents to demonstrate the ability to meet financial obligations for the first year of their program of study (including tuition, fees, and living expenses).

ADMISSION

RU Home Students

Admission Policy

American University-Ritsumeikan University Joint Degree Program is looking for globally minded students who can be effective leaders both on and off campuses. We expect our graduates to take an active role in their professional fields and contribute directly and indirectly to the deepening of mutually beneficial relations between the U.S., Japan and the rest of East Asia, as well as to the peace and prosperity of the international community.

Admission Process

Both RU and AU will select applicants jointly for the JDP. Applicants need to be prepared for admission to a US university.

How Applications Will Be Evaluated

A first screening, consisting of a review of the application documents will be conducted and followed by a second screening, consisting of an interview held in English.

Note: Some types of admission only require a review of the application documents.

Academic Transcripts

The JDP places great importance on the grades from the three years of high school. GPA information of students who have been admitted to AU can be found on the AU homepage.

The Maximum Number of First-year Students to be Admitted

25 (totaling both AU and RU Home Students)

Main Application Documents

- Academic transcripts for the three years of high school or equivalent.
- English language proficiency test score
- One essay (in English)
- Letter of reference (in English)  
Criteria for selecting applicants and findings from past admission screening can be found on the JDP homepage.

Required English Score to attend American University

The scores listed below are required both for eligibility to apply for the English-based AO Admissions and English-based Recommendation Admissions, and as the English proficiency scores required prior to the commencement of study at AU.

- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) Internet based test (iBT): score of 85 or higher.
- IELTS (International English Language Testing System) Academic Module: An Overall Band-score of 6.5 or higher.
- Pearson Test of English (PTE): Score of 60 or higher.
- SAT Digital version(EBRW): Score of 610 or higher.
- ACT English Test: Score of 25 or higher.
- Duolingo English Test: Score of 120 or higher.
- Cambridge Assessment English: Score of 176 or higher.

Please note that the required scores differ for other admission categories depending on the timing of application submission. Be sure to carefully review the admissions guidelines for details.

ADMISSION INFORMATION

Please visit our website for more information for RU Home Students. If you would like to apply the program starting from American University (AU Home Students), please visit AU website

Ritsumeikan University  
www.ritsumei.ac.jp/ir/jdp

American University  
www.american.edu/sis/undergrad/sakura/