Master's Program

Professional Training Objectives

The phenomena of life are considered to be a system of energy conversion and information transmission comprising a wide range of complex, stratified structures at the molecular, cellular, individual, and surviving environmental levels. Life sciences that focus on these phenomena require a wide range of knowledge about natural science and the capacity to understand them in an orderly and integrative manner.

Our graduate school conducts cutting-edge research on substances, functional materials, energy, microorganisms, plants, and higher animals, including humans, through interdisciplinary collaboration based on chemistry and information science. The master's program applies these strengths to contribute to the development of life sciences and their related fields while fostering innovative researchers capable of contributing to a rich and sustainable society that is in harmony with nature and human well-being.

Applied Chemistry Course

In the Applied Chemistry Course, students acquire a high level of expertise and research ability in the field of applied chemistry, allowing them to explain the functions of existing substances, and to invent new substances as well as develop a greater international presence. Students able to complete this course should be able to make applicable developments in a variety of fields ranging from materials to energy science.

Biotechnology Course

In the Biotechnology Course, students inquire into the phenomena of life on individual, cellular, and molecular levels. Building upon the fundamental research topics focused on environment, food, resources, and energy, students will be able to make applicable developments in related fields such as fermentation, the chemical industry, pharmaceuticals, and biomass conversion.

Bioinformatics Course

In the Bioinformatics Course, students incorporate research from a wide range of natural sciences, from mathematics and physics to chemistry, in addition to biology and information science, and use information science as their method of analysis. Students should be able to analyze and understand phenomenon down to the molecular level, and capable of contributing to the progression of the life sciences as whole.

Biomedical Sciences Course

In the Biomedical Sciences Course, students develop an integrative understanding of complex life phenomena.

Students in this course will acquire specialized skills and research knowledge in foundational medicine, preventative care, and social medicine along with the capability to actively contribute to solving problems facing the field such medical, health care, food and environment issues.

Educational Objectives

In the Master's Program, in light of our professional training objectives, our educational objectives are to train people to acquire the following capabilities.

① Individuals with reliable knowledge and research abilities in the natural sciences and specialist areas.

② Individuals with logical writing skills, presentation abilities, and communication skills in Japanese or English within specialized fields.

③ Individuals who are capable of setting out problems and solving them in specialist areas, on the basis of their awareness of their own responsibility as researchers or technicians.

Diploma Policy

In the Master's Program, a master's degree will be conferred upon individuals who have fulfilled the educational objectives and earned the prescribed credits as specified by the Graduate School of Life Sciences. Furthermore, Master of Science degree recipients must have submitted a dissertation aimed at the pursuit of truth in their specialized field and passed an evaluation of their academic dissertation based on dissertation evaluation standards for the master's program. Master of Engineering degree recipients must have submitted a dissertation aimed at applications toward a sustainable society, and passed an evaluation of their academic dissertation based on dissertation evaluation standards for the master's program.

① Those who possess sound knowledge and research abilities in the natural sciences and specialized fields.

② Those who possess logical writing skills, presentation skills and communication skills in Japanese or English within specialized fields.

③ Those who, in addition to being aware of their responsibility as a researcher / engineer, possess the ability to pose and solve problems in specialized fields.

Curriculum Policy

In the Master's Program, the curriculum is formed as described below, in accord with the educational objectives.
The Graduate School will establish Common Subjects, Major Subjects, and Research Subjects as subject categories, where educational objectives will be achieved through the systematic completion of these subjects.
The definition of each subject type is as follows.

① Common Subjects: Subjects established to support career formation and to cultivate sound knowledge in the natural sciences and the ability to communicate in Japanese or English.
② Major Subjects: Subjects established to cultivate sound knowledge in specialized fields.
③ Research Subjects: Subjects established to cultivate the ability to conduct research aimed at the pursuit of truth in specialized fields, or research that contributes to the advancement of a sustainable society, as well as logical writing skills, presentation skills, communication skills in Japanese or English, and the ability to pose and solve problems.

Admission Policy

In the Master's Program, in light of our professional training objectives, we admit applications from individuals with the following qualities.

① Individuals with basic academic abilities in the natural sciences and specialist areas and full of intellectual curiosity.
② Individuals with sufficient language skills to understand science and technology in Japanese or English.
③ Individuals who are strongly motivated to acquire the ability to set out and solve problems in specialist areas, on the basis of their awareness of their own responsibility as researchers or technicians.

I. Admission Method, Number of Students Accepted and Schedule

1. Admission Method and Number of Students Accepted

Major	Course	Admission Method	Number of Students Accepted
Advanced Life Sciences	Applied Chemistry	Regular Regular Admissions (English-based Program)	A Few
	Biotechnology		
	Bioinformatics		
	Biomedical Sciences		

- The Number of Students Accepted includes all Course.
- Depending on the applications received and results of the entrance examination, the number of successful candidates could be less than the Number of Students Accepted.

2. Schedule

Month	Application Period	Examination Date	Notification of Results	Admission Method
May	Thursday, April 1, 2027 – Thursday, April 15, 2027	Tuesday, May 11, 2027	Thursday, June 10, 2027	Regular

- In "Ritsu-Mate", the application registration can be made from 10:00 am (Japan time) of the first day of the application period.
- Persons who want to apply for the graduate school must contact the prospective supervising professor and get pre-counseling on what they can study at the graduate school, etc. before submitting an application. For detail, please see page 17 of the "III. Contacting a Prospective Supervising Professor prior to Your Application".

3. Application Fee

5,000 yen

- The payment must be completed during the application period.
- Payment can be made by credit card, using the convenience store payment system, PayPal, Alipay or Overseas Remittance. For detailed information, please see "(3) Application Fee", "1. How to Apply / Application Process" specified in the "Application Guidelines (For all Graduate Schools)".

II. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be those who have the residence status of "student" in Japan or who will obtain the one before being enrolled in graduate school and meet at least one of the following application criteria from (1) to (10):

(1) Persons who have graduated from a university (Universities must meet the criteria established in Article 83 of the School Education Act) or who are expected to graduate from such before being enrolled in the graduate school

(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 in 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 in 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 in 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 in 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 in 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 in the graduate school

(8) Persons who hold a specialized or first-category teaching license for elementary schools, junior high schools, high schools, kindergartens, or schools for disabled children under the Educational Personnel Certification Law or who are expected to obtain such a license before being enrolled in the graduate school and who are above 22 years of age or who will reach 22 years of age before being enrolled in the graduate school, or who have other teaching licenses and are designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (or who are expected to meet specific requirements before being enrolled in the graduate school) (the 1953 Notification of the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, No. 5–10 to 12)

(9) 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)

(10) 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 are above 22 years of age or who will reach 22 years of age before being enrolled in 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 Persons who intend to apply under category (9) or (10), they will be subject to the individual preliminary screening. They should refer to page 31 and complete the necessary procedures by the specified dates.

– Contact the Administrative Office, College of Life Sciences before the deadline to request for the individual preliminary screening (please refer to page 31 for the request Deadline) if you have any inquiries about the requirements above, such as the number of years you received education overseas or a degree obtained at an overseas educational institution.

– Those who do not meet the criteria stated in "(2) Certificate【Certificate issued by universities in China】", "2. Points to Note when Applying for Admission" specified in the "Application Guidelines (For all Graduate Schools)" must take the individual preliminary screening. For example, persons whose final academic background is zhuanke (专科) (3-year college degree) in China. For information about the individual preliminary screening, please refer to page 31.

– Those who pass the admission screening who, at the time of application, only fulfilled the criteria above based on expecting to complete their academic program, etc. by the time of enrollment but who do NOT actually complete that program by September 25, 2027 will have their admission revoked.

– In addition to the above criteria, applicants must have the ability to understand lectures in English at Ritsumeikan University's graduate school.

III. Contacting a Prospective Supervising Professor prior to Your Application

(1) Applicants must contact the prospective supervising professor and get pre-counseling on what they can study at the graduate school etc. before submitting an application.
*Your course will be the course which your prospective supervising professor is involved in.

<How to contact the prospective supervising professor>

(1) Find prospective supervising professors on the graduate school website, or Ritsumeikan University Researcher database.
■ Website of the Graduate school of Life Sciences
https://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gsls/eng/academics/researchers.html/
■ Ritsumeikan University Researcher database:
https://research-db.ritsumei.ac.jp/rithp/TOP?lang=en

(2) Access the following link and fill in the application form for pre-counseling.
https://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/gsls/application/
After your application confirmed, we will arrange pre-counseling accordingly.

(3) When you submit Research Plan Form【FORM SK 1-E】, make sure it includes the name of the professor who gave you pre-counseling.

IV. Required Documents

1. Required Documents

You need to submit the required documents through Ritsumeikan University Graduate School Online Application System "Ritsu-Mate". Please check the documents marked ✓ and ✻ in the "Admission Method" column in the list below, and check the required documents and the upload (submission) destination on Ritsu-Mate.

	Required Documents	Admission Method	Upload (Submission) Destination on Ritsu-Mate
		Regular	
(1)	Application Sheet for Non-Japanese Applicants	✻	Application Sheet for Non-Japanese Applicants
(2)	Certificate of Graduation / Expected Graduation	✓※	Certificate of (Expected) Graduation/Completion
(3)	Academic Transcript	✓※	Academic Transcript
(4)	Certificate of Language Ability	✻	Certificate of Language Ability
(5)	Research Plan Form	✓	Research Proposal
(6)	Declaration of Financial Resources	✓	Other Documents (1)
(7)	Questionnaire	✓	Other Documents (2)
(8)	Application Photo	✓	Application Photo
(9)	Copy of Japanese Residence Card (Both Sides)	✻	Copy of Japanese Residence Card (Both Sides)
(10)	A photocopy of applicant's passport information page	✻	Copy of Passport (Passport Data Page)

✓ : Necessary ✻ : If applicable

※ Those who are enrolled in undergraduate schools or graduate schools of Ritsumeikan University as regular students at the time of application DON'T need to submit.

2. Preparing Required Documents

Regarding the required documents for which we designate specific forms, please download them from the Ritsumeikan Entrance Examination Information Website and prepare them. Please also refer to 2. Points to Note when Applying for Admission in the Application Guidelines (For all Graduate Schools) regarding the preparation of required documents, such as the submission of certificates.

(1) Application Sheet for Non-Japanese Applicants【FORM GS 1】

Only required from applicants who do not have Japanese nationality.
PDF file downloaded and filled in with the required information.
File extension: .pdf, .PDF

(2) Certificate of Graduation / Expected Graduation

Certificate issued by the higher education institution you attended, which meets the application criteria.
Color-scanned PDF of the original document.
*For those who have finished undergraduate abroad, the degree must be confirmed with this document.
File extension: .pdf, .PDF

【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 submit the color-scanned PDF of the original document below.
〈Those who have already graduated〉
Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate (English translation of "教育部学历证书电子注册备案表")
〈Those who expect to graduate〉
Online Verification Report of Student Record (English translation of "教育部学籍在线验证报告")

(3) Academic Transcript

A scanned PDF of the original document issued by the higher education institution, which is related to the applicant's eligibility/requirements

File extension: .pdf, .PDF

(4) Certificate of Language Ability

- Applicants whose first language is English do not have to submit this document.
- Applicants whose last attended institution where they graduated or are expected to graduate that uses English as a lecture language do not have to submit this document. Instead, submission of the Medium of Instruction Certificate is required.

File extension: .pdf, .PDF

① Official scores of TOEIC® Listening & Reading Test, TOEFL iBT® Test or IELTS etc., taken no more than 2 years before the starting date of application period.
Only TOEFL iBT® scores from a single test date will be considered (MyBest™ scores will not be taken into consideration).

② TOEIC® L&R IP Test, TOEFL® ITP Test and EIKEN® are not accepted, whereas only the "paper-based" TOEIC® L&R IP Test conducted within 2 years in Ritsumeikan University is valid. (TOEIC® L&R IP Online Test is not accepted.)

③ Applicants who cannot submit a score certificate from one of the tests above must submit a formal certificate of English language ability level issued by their current university.
Applicants who cannot submit certificate of English language ability level issued by their current university must consult with the Administrative Office, College of Life Sciences.

(5) Research Plan Form【FORM SK 1-E】

The completed form filled in with the required information using the downloaded template and converted into PDF format.

File extension: .pdf, .PDF

(6) Declaration of Financial Resources【FORM SK 2】

The completed form filled in with the required information using the downloaded template and converted into PDF format.

File extension: .pdf, .PDF

(7) Questionnaire【FORM SK 3】

The completed form filled in with the required information using the downloaded template and converted into PDF format.

File extension: .pdf, .PDF

(8) Application Photo

The color photo must be taken within three months before the application, above the chest level, without a hat or cap, facing front, no background, and not be digitally altered.

File extension: .jpg, .jpeg, .gif, .png

(9) Copy of Japanese Residence Card (Both Sides)

Applicable only to applicants who fall under residence statuses B-1 or B-2 as indicated on the Application Sheet for Non-Japanese Applicants.

PDF file scanned from the original document

File extension: .pdf, .PDF

(10) A photocopy of applicant's passport information page

Must include name and date of birth

- Only those who have a valid passport at the time of application and who do not have Japanese nationality except for special permanent residents.

PDF file scanned from the original document

File extension: .pdf, .PDF

3. Important Notes for Application

(1) Application documents should be typed in English.

(2) Regarding how to enter /write your name in application formats, be sure to refer to "(1) How to enter/write your names","2. Points to Note when Applying for Admission" specified in the "Application Guidelines (For all Graduate Schools)".

4. Uploading the Required Documents

Please prepare all required document files in the specified file formats and upload them to "Ritsu-Mate". You must complete the upload within the application period (Japan Time). Submissions cannot be made after the application period. For detailed instructions, please refer to the "Ritsu-Mate" manual.

"Ritsu-Mate" User Manual: https://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/applicants/manual/

V. Screening Method and Examination Sheet

1. Screening Method

Applicants will be screened based on submitted application documents and an interview conducted online or in person.

2. Examination Sheet

The examination sheet will be used to check your application number. It is downloadable from "Ritsu-Mate" about one week before the examination date. Applicants do not need to bring the examination sheet on the day of the exam.

VI. Notification of Results

The results will be posted on "Ritsu-Mate" at 10:00 am (Japan time) on the day of the result announcement.
Successful applicants will also be informed of the admission procedures.
Regarding the enrollment procedures, please refer to "Enrollment Procedures (Information)" specified in the "Application Guidelines (For all Graduate Schools)".

URL of the "Ritsumeikan University Graduate School Entrance Examination Information Website":
https://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gr/en/exam/supplement_e.html/
– Please note that the university will not respond to any inquiries regarding results of the entrance examination.