Doctoral 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 doctoral program applies these strengths to engage in research and development with a spirit of inquiry, extend one's knowledge in life sciences and related fields, and develop new technologies.
Our ultimate goal is to develop future researchers and engineers capable of contributing to a rich and sustainable society that is in harmony with nature and human well-being.

Educational Objectives

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

① Individuals who possess specialist knowledge and the ability to engage in creative research in the natural sciences and specialist areas.
② Individuals with high-level logical writing skills, presentation abilities, and communication skills in Japanese or English within specialized fields.
③ Individuals with the ability to set out and solve problems in specialist areas and the leadership qualities required to work toward their resolution, on the basis of their awareness of their own responsibility as researchers or technicians.

Diploma Policy

In the Doctoral Program, a doctoral 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, Doctor 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 doctoral program. Doctor of Engineering degree recipients must have submitted a dissertation that contributes to the advancement of a sustainable society and passed an evaluation of their academic dissertation based on dissertation evaluation standards for the doctoral program.

① Those who possess advanced knowledge and creative research abilities in the natural sciences and specialized fields.
② Those who possess advanced logical writing skills, presentation skills and communication skills in Japanese and 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 as well as leadership skills in problem-solving.

Curriculum Policy

In the Doctoral Program, the curriculum is formed as described below, in accord with the educational objectives.
The Graduate School will establish 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 Major Subjects: Subjects established to cultivate advanced knowledge in the natural sciences and specialized fields.
② Research Subjects: Subjects established to cultivate students' ability to independently conduct research which either deepens the pursuit of truth in specialized fields, or which contributes to the advancement of a sustainable society, as well as to develop advanced logical writing skills, presentation skills, communication skills, the ability to pose and solve problems, and leadership skills for addressing challenges.

Admission Policy

In the Doctoral Program, in light of our professional training objectives, we admit individuals with the following qualities.

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.
③ Individuals who are strongly motivated to develop the ability to set out and solve social problems in society and the leadership qualities required to work toward their resolution, 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	Admission Method	Number of Students Accepted
Advanced Life Sciences	**Regular** Regular Admissions (English-based Program)	A Few

– 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 26 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)".
– The application fee will be exempted for those who have completed or are going to complete a Master's Degree program or Professional Degree program in March 2027 or September 2027 at any Graduate Schools of Ritsumeikan University and will continue their study in the Doctoral program.

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 (7):

(1) Persons who have been awarded a master's degree or professional degree or who are expected to be awarded such a degree before being enrolled in the graduate school

(2) Persons who have been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree abroad or who are expected to be awarded such a degree before being enrolled in the graduate school

(3) Persons who have been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree by completing a correspondence course offered by an overseas school in Japan or who are expected to be awarded such a degree before being enrolled in the graduate school

(4) Persons who have been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree or professional degree by completing the program of an overseas school in Japan that is designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology as corresponding to an overseas graduate school or who are expected to be awarded such a degree before being enrolled in the graduate school

(5) Persons who have been awarded a degree equivalent to a master's degree by completing a program at United Nations University or who are expected to be awarded such a degree before being enrolled in the graduate school

(6) Persons who have been engaged in research activities at a university or research institute for at least two years after graduating from a university or its equivalent and who have been recognized by Ritsumeikan University's graduate schools as having an academic ability equal or above to holders of a master's degree (the 1989 Notification of the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture No. 118) (*1)

(7) Persons who have been recognized by Ritsumeikan University's graduate schools as having an academic ability equal to or higher than holders of a master's degree or professional degree as a result of individual preliminary screening and who are above 24 years of age or who will reach 24 years of age before being enrolled in the graduate school. (*1)

*1 Persons who intend to apply under category (6) or (7) should be subject to the individual preliminary screening. Please 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 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.

<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 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.

(2) Certificate of Completion / Expected Completion

Certificate issued by Graduate School you attended, which meets the application criteria.
Color-scanned PDF of the original document.
File extension: .pdf, .PDF
*For those who have completed graduate schools abroad, the degree such as Master, etc. must be confirmed with this document.

【Those who have completed / who are expected to complete a program at Graduate School in China
*except for Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau】
〈Those who have already completed〉
Instead of the certificate of completion, please submit a single file (PDF) that includes both ① and ② below, scanned in color from originals.

① 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")
② Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate (English translation of "中国高等教育学位在线验证报告")

〈Those who expect to complete〉
In addition to the certificate of expected completion, please submit a single file (PDF) scanned in color from the original documents below.
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 documents issued by the Graduate School which meets the application criteria.
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 sbumit 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】
In case the acceptance of scholarship from the outside foundation, please submit the notification of scholarship award.
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.

Individual Preliminary Screening (Only if applicable)

Ritsumeikan University offers individual preliminary screenings for prospective adult learners, etc. with the academic capacity and motivation to study at the graduate level, but whose academic credentials do not meet the minimum application requirements. Those who wish to apply for enrollment into a Master's Program who have been determined through the preliminary screening to have academic ability equal to or greater than that of a university graduate will be allowed to apply for the admission screening. Likewise, those who wish to enroll into a Doctoral Program who have been determined through the preliminary screening to have academic ability equal to or greater than that of a Master's or Professional Degree Program graduate will be allowed to apply for the admission screening.
If you wish to apply for the individual preliminary screening, complete the necessary procedures by the designated deadline.
*It should be noted that the purpose of the individual preliminary screening is only to check whether or not you meet the requirements for application regarding academic ability. It is completely separate from the entrance examination. Passing the individual preliminary screening will simply allow you to apply to take the entrance examination, which you will then need to pass in order to be granted admission to the graduate school.

1. Procedures for the Individual Preliminary Screening

STEPS 1: Request for the individual preliminary screening to the administrative office of the graduate school.
STEPS 2: Obtain required documents to be submitted for the screening.
STEPS 3: Submit required documents by the designated deadline.
STEPS 4: Receive a result of the screening. If you pass the screening, apply for the graduate school in accordance with the application guidelines of the graduate school.

2. Screening Method

Document Screening (plus an interview, if necessary)

3. The matters to be considered during the screening consist of the academic history and qualifications of the individual applicants to be recognized as having an academic ability equal to or higher than university graduates, which include

- Any learning programs that the applicant has completed at a special training school or vocational school, etc.
- Work experience and qualifications the applicant has got
- Certain credits that the applicant has earned as a degree / a non-degree student
- Learning programs that the applicant has completed at a school under the prewar educational system.

4. Deadline to Request for the Individual Preliminary Screening and Submit Documents

<Deadline to request a screening>
Please contact the Administrative Office, College of Life Sciences by Wednesday, March 10, 2027.
<Deadline to submit documents>
The date will be notified individually.

5. Documents to be Submitted

Documents once accepted cannot be returned under any circumstances.
Documents should be submitted by email to gsls@st.ritsumei.ac.jp as attached files.

(1) Applicants for admission to a Master's Program are required to submit the following documents.

Documents to be submitted	Remarks
(1) Application form for an individual preliminary screening (which doubles as a personal resume) (2) Essay on your reason for applying for admission and Research plan (3) Certificate of academic background and academic record (e.g.) certificate of graduation, certificate of enrollment, academic transcript etc. (4) Other documents required by the administrative office	– Regarding the forms of (1) and (2), inquire at the administrative office of the graduate school. – If you wish, you may submit additional materials, such as another certificate, essay, piece of work, or reference data, together with these documents. – All attached files must be in PDF format.

(2) Applicants for admission to a Doctoral Program are required to submit the following documents.

Documents to be submitted	Remarks
(1) Application form for an individual preliminary screening (which doubles as a personal resume) (2) Essay on your reason for applying for admission and Research plan (3) Certificate of academic background and academic record (e.g.) certificate of graduation, certificate of enrollment, academic transcript etc. (4) Research achievement that corresponds to a master's thesis (5) Other documents required by the administrative office	– Regarding the forms of (1) and (2), inquire at the administrative office of the graduate school. – All attached files must be in PDF format.

6. Inquiry

Administrative Office, College of Life Sciences
email: gsls@st.ritsumei.ac.jp

7. Screening Fee

None

8. Result of the Screening

The result of the individual preliminary screening will be sent to you by email at least one week prior to the deadline of the application for admission.

9. Validity of the Qualification

The qualification for applying for admission granted as a result of the individual preliminary screening is valid for any application for the same admission in each graduate school.