

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.
- 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.
- ③ Those who, in addition to being aware of their responsibility as a researcher/engineer, possess the ability to pose and solve problems in specialist areas 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 a specialized field, 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 communications 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 3, 2025 – Thursday, April 17, 2025	Thursday, May 15, 2025	Thursday, May 29, 2025	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 2025 or September 2025 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, 2025 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 your research plan (University-designated Form 1), make sure it includes the name of the professor who gave you pre-counseling.

IV. Required Documents

1. Required Documents

Regarding the Notice on Application including the information of certificates, etc., please refer to “Points to Note when Applying for Admission” specified in the “Application Guidelines (For all Graduate Schools)”.

Application forms designated here by Ritsumeikan University are included at the end of this Application Guidelines.

Please also refer to “How to Submit Application Documents” on page 29.

Please check the documents marked ✓ and * in the “Admission Method” column you are applying for, and check the explanation of each document.

	Required Documents	Admission Method
		Regular
(1)	Application Sheet	✓
(2)	Application Sheet for Non-Japanese Applicants	*
(3)	Certificate of Completion / Expected Completion	✓ *
(4)	Academic Transcript	✓ *
(5)	Certificate of Language Ability	*
(6)	Research Plan Form	✓
(7)	Declaration of Financial Resources	✓
(8)	Questionnaire	✓
(9)	Letter of Recommendation	*

✓ : 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.

(1) Application Sheet

Must be printed out from “Ritsu-Mate” after you complete your application information on the same website with a photograph of the applicant’s face attached.

*Color facial photo (taken within three months before the application, above the chest level, without a hat or cap, facing front, no background, and 3 cm long × 2.4 cm wide). Digital alteration of the photo is not permitted.

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

Only required from applicants who do not have Japanese nationality.

(3) Certificate of Completion / Expected Completion

Certificate issued by Graduate School you attended, which meets the application criteria.

Only original is accepted.

*For those who have completed graduate schools abroad, the degree such as Master, etc. must be confirmed with this document.

*Those who cannot submit the original certificate are required to consult it by email.

email: gs@st.ritsumeikan.ac.jp

【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 print and submit both ① and ② below.

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 print and submit the documents below.

Online Verification Report of Student Record (English translation of “教育部学籍在线验证报告”)

(4) Academic Transcript

Academic Transcript must be issued by the Graduate School which meets the application criteria.

Only original is accepted.

*Those who cannot submit the original certificate are required to consult it by email.

email: gsls@st.ritsumei.ac.jp

(5) 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.

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).

*Photocopies are acceptable.

② TOEIC® L&R IP Test, TOEFL® ITP Test and EIKEN® are not accepted, whereas TOEIC® L&R IP Test and TOEFL® ITP Test conducted within 2 years in Ritsumeikan University are valid.

③ Applicants who cannot submit a score certificate from one of the tests above must submit an original, 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.

(6) Research Plan Form 【Form SK 1-E】

Please download a Word file from the following link to fill out.

<https://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/gsls/application/>

(7) Declaration of Financial Resources 【Form SK 2】

In case the acceptance of scholarship from the outside foundation, please submit the notification of scholarship award.

(8) Questionnaire 【Form SK 3】

(9) Letter of Recommendation (optional) 【Free form or Form SK 4】

Should be written by the dean, person of higher position, or an academic advisor at applicant's school or institution.

2. Important Notes for Application

(1) All submitted documents should be printed in English on A4-sized paper or US-letter sized paper by word-processing software. For certificates, the original or "certified copy of original"* should be submitted. Please attach an official translation with the translator's name, address, contact information and signature or official seal for documents that are written in neither English nor Japanese. Translation by the issuing institution, translation agency, or qualified translator should be acceptable.

*A certified document is one that has been marked as being equivalent to the original with a stamp or seal by the issuing institution (preferred) or a notary public.

(2) Submitted documents cannot be returned for any reason.

V. How to Submit Application Documents

1. Prior to Submission of Application Documents

After completing the payment of the application fee during the application period, send all specified application documents by email. Scan all the application documents and send them as the attached data to the email address. You will receive a confirmation email once the data is confirmed.

Email: gsls@st.ritsumei.ac.jp

2. How to Submit Application Documents

Hard copy of the specified application documents must be submitted. Applications can either be mailed or submitted in person at the Administrative Office, College of Life Sciences. Applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm on the final day of the application period if submitted in person.

Please check the delivery status on your own, using the tracking number offered when used the tracking service. If your submitted documents are incomplete, the administrative office will contact you.

A. When applying from within Japan

- (1) Prepare an envelope that is big enough to fit unfolded A4 documents.
- (2) Download the address label, using “Ritsu-Mate” and print out the label.
- (3) Paste the address label (mentioned in (2)) on the envelope (mentioned in (1)), enclose all your application documents and send them by Kani-kakitome Sokutatsu-yubin (simplified registered express mail). They must be sent from a post office. Mailing your application from a mailbox is unacceptable.
- (4) Must be sent postmarked on or before the deadline.

B. When applying from overseas

- (1) Prepare an envelope that is big enough to fit unfolded A4 documents.
- (2) Write all necessary information on the envelope and put all your application documents in the envelope and send them by express mail with tracking number (EMS, FedEx, DHL etc.).
- (3) All documents must arrive by express mail on or before the deadline.

3. Mailing Address for Application

Administrative Office, College of Life Sciences

Ritsumeikan University Biwako-Kusatsu Campus

1-1-1 Noji-Higashi, Kusatsu, Shiga, Japan 525-8577

TEL: +81-(0)77-561-5021 email: gsls@st.ritsumei.ac.jp

Office Hours of the Administrative Office, College of Life Sciences (2nd floor Link Square Building)

Monday: 12:30–17:00

Tuesday-Friday: 10:00–11:30, 12:30–17:00 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and National Holidays)

VI. 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.

VII. Notification of Results

The results will be posted on “Ritsu-Mate” at 10:00 am (Japan time) on the day of the result announcement.

The documents regarding enrollment procedures will be sent out to successful applicants at their own addresses on the same day.

If your address changes after you submitted the documents for application, send your name, your Application Number, and the new address to Administrative Office, College of Life Science by email.

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.