

Ritsumeikan University Policy on Support for Students with Disabilities

I. Introduction

In keeping with the spirit of the Ritsumeikan Charter, Ritsumeikan University strives to create an inclusive university that supports students with disabilities, where all students are able to study together while respecting each other's personality and character regardless of disabilities.

The "Ritsumeikan University Policy on Support for Students with Disabilities" was drafted based upon the "Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities" (hereinafter, "Disability Discrimination Act") and the "Handling Guidelines for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities in Projects under the Jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)" (hereinafter "Handling Guidelines"). In accordance with this policy, we will individually consider the details of reasonable accommodation (hereinafter, "details of support") based on the learning characteristics of the colleges and graduate schools that students with disabilities are affiliated and their specific needs.

The term "reasonable accommodation" as it is defined in Article 2 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, "necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms", shall apply.

The term "students with disabilities" are persons with disabilities as defined in Article 2 Item 1 of the Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities, "persons with physical disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with mental disabilities (including developmental disabilities), and other persons with disabilities affecting the functions of the body or mind (hereinafter referred to collectively as "disabilities"), and who are in a state of facing substantial limitations in their continuous daily life or social life because of a disability or social barrier".

II. Core Concepts

Ritsumeikan University is committed to creating an inclusive university that supports students with disabilities through the following three concepts.

- Provide students with disabilities the support needed to ensure an equal opportunity to receive quality education.
- Contribute to the learning and development of all students through the provision of support for students with disabilities.
- Aim to enhance the university's educational competency by bringing an awareness to faculty and staff regarding support for students with disabilities.

III. Ritsumeikan University Policy on Support for Students with Disabilities

Ritsumeikan University supports students with disabilities to become active members of society who can "learn and act on their own" through their studies at the university. To achieve this, while respecting the identity and independence of students with disabilities, we work with students directly to consider, form and adjust support to meet their individual needs, and work with members of the university to provide support.

1. Objectives

Through our support, we aim for students with disabilities at Ritsumeikan University to develop the following three skills.

- **Self-Awareness**

We will foster students' self-awareness of what they can do, what they are good at, and what they can achieve with a little ingenuity and support.

- **Self-Advocacy**

We will foster students' ability to verbalize their own goals, hopes, weaknesses and needs, to consult and request support, and to select resources and support suitable for them.

- **Self-Management**

We will foster students' ability to design their own support plan and network, utilizing various on- and off-campus resources in order to solve problems and achieve goals.

2. Eligibility and Framework

Persons who satisfy the following three conditions are eligible for support.

- ① Student with a disability who is enrolled at Ritsumeikan University
- ② Student with a disability who experiences severe restrictions on academic learning
- ③ Student with a disability who wishes to receive support and whose need is recognized by the university (includes temporary impairment due to illness or injury, etc.).

Support is provided within the framework of academic related matters after taking into consideration the students' individual needs.

For prospective students (applicants) with disabilities who wish to enroll at Ritsumeikan University, the university will consider details of support, within the framework of the university entrance exam, based on the individual needs of the prospective students.

3. Building Consensus About Details of Support

If students with disabilities express a desire to receive support, we will respect the identity and independence of these students and consider the details of support based on the learning characteristics of the colleges and graduate schools that the students are affiliated and the individual needs of students.

- ① **Actions of Ritsumeikan University**

- The university will provide students with disabilities enrolling in Ritsumeikan University

and prospective students (applicants) with disabilities who wish to enroll at Ritsumeikan University with information regarding academic learning and opportunities for consultation.

- The university will verify the needs of students based on the individual characteristics of their disability.
- The university will consider the details of support based on the characteristics of learning at Ritsumeikan University and the needs of the student.
- The university will make timely adjustments and changes while striving to conduct information coordination and consensus building based on dialog with students with disabilities.
- The university provides expert assessment and support know-how through dedicated departments to support students with disabilities, and builds a university-wide cooperative network consisting of the students' colleges and graduate schools, class instructors, other related departments and support staff.

② Actions of Students with Disabilities

- Students should understand the human resource development goals and educational aims of their colleges and graduate schools along with the characteristics of their own disabilities, and strive to study and use the support available to them at Ritsumeikan University independently.
- Students should provide information and documentation that shows the characteristics of their disabilities and the basis of their needs.
- Students should understand that the details of reasonable accommodation are determined by striving to conduct information coordination and consensus building based on dialog with members of the university.

4. Support System

The details of support and related issues are examined by a university organized committee, taking into account the needs of students with disabilities and the characteristics of learning at Ritsumeikan University. The committee is central to helping the university promote support for students with disabilities university-wide.

In addition, dedicated departments to support students with disabilities (e.g., Disability Resource Center) provide expert assessment and support know-how.

Actual support is provided through a university-wide cooperative network consisting of the students' colleges and graduate schools, class instructors, other related departments and support staff.

5. Consultation

Students can contact dedicated departments such as the Disability Resource Center, and their affiliated college or graduate school office.

6. Awareness and Information

Ritsumeikan University will make efforts to provide students with disabilities enrolling in Ritsumeikan University and prospective students with disabilities who wish to enroll at Ritsumeikan University with sufficient information regarding support policies and consultation services.

In addition, the university will strive to provide necessary awareness training and education to all members of the university in order to better achieve our aim of creating an inclusive university that supports students with disabilities.

7. Enactment, Amendment and Abolition

Enactment, amendment and abolition of the Ritsumeikan University Policy on Support for Students with Disabilities shall be determined by the university organized committee concerned with the support of students with disabilities.