Research Capability of Ritsumeikan University Shown in Data

■ Number of Funded Research Projects Commissioned from Private-sector Industries

Every year, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) publishes the Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration Implementation Status of Universities. Ritsumeikan University has continually ranked high, coming in first place in Japan in AY2012, AY2014, and AY2015 and in second place in AY2013, AY2016 and AY2017 for the number of funded research projects commissioned from private-sector industries.

These results are based on the Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration Implementation Status of Universities survey that MEXT conducts every year with the purpose of reflecting upon the plans of industry-academia-government collaborations and other initiatives. In AY2016, the survey was conducted with 1,071 institutions, including national, public and private universities (including junior colleges), national, public and private technical colleges and inter-university research institutions throughout Japan.

In 1995, Ritsumeikan University was the first university in Japan to establish a liaison office for industry-academia-government collaborations, and since AY2006, which was the first year of the Ritsumeikan University Research Enhancement Mid-Term Plan*, the university has consistently promoted industry-academia-government collaborations as a key pillar for contributing to society through the results of research, especially focusing on collaborations with local industries based in Kyoto, Shiga and Osaka. In AY2017, the university also maintained its AY2015 first place position as a private university in the Kansai region for the "Number of Commissioned Collaborative Research Projects Implemented with Local Industries and Public Organizations (data by local area)".

The university has been making efforts to improve its research support system through the promotion of the policies introduced in the Ritsumeikan University Research Enhancement Mid-Term Plan as well as trying to generate research achievements which lead to the university acquiring external funds and creating new centers for research. It could be said that these efforts, particularly the number of research projects commissioned from private-sector industries, have contributed to our high performance and achievements over the past few years.

*A set of 5-year plans developed by Ritsumeikan University starting in AY2006 to promote advanced research. The plan is currently in Phase 3 (AY2016 - AY2020).

Commissioned research: A system in which Ritsumeikan University researchers conduct research based on research themes from companies, etc., and then report the results to the party commissioning the research
Collaborative research: A system where researchers from Ritsumeikan University and companies both share research responsibilities for a common research theme or where researchers from companies are invited to do research at the university.

■ Number of Commissioned Collaborative Research Projects Implemented with Local Industries and Public Organizations (data by local area)
〈Kansai area in AY2017〉

Name of Institution	Number of projects	Area	Category*
1. Osaka University	379	Osaka	Nu
2. Ritsumeikan University	158	Kyoto	Pr
3. Kyoto University	154	Kyoto	Nu
4. Kobe University	147	Hyogo	Nu
5. Kinki University	143	Osaka	Pr

■ Number of Funded Research Projects Commissioned from Private-sector Industries
〈Results and National Rankings of Past Years〉

Year	Number of projects	Rank
2017	248	2
2016	248	2
2015	287	1
2014	247	1
2013	242	2
2012	235	1

<AY2017>

Name of Institution	Number of projects	Category*
1. Kinki University	325	Pr
2. Ritsumeikan University	248	Pr
3. Keio University	226	Pr
4. Nihon University	204	Pr
5. Waseda University	162	Pr
6. Takushoku University	157	Pr
7. Osaka University	148	Nu
8. Tokyo University	144	Nu
9. Yamagata University	140	Nu
10. Tokyo City University	127	Pr

<AY2016>

Name of Institution	Number of projects	Category*
1. Kinki University	257	Pr
2. Ritsumeikan University	248	Pr
3. Keio University	198	Pr
3. Nihon University	198	Pr
5. Tokyo University	161	Nu
6. Waseda University	155	Pr
7. Takushoku University	140	Pr
8. Tokyo City University	135	Pr
9. Kyushu University	130	Nu
10. Osaka University	126	Nu

<AY2015>

Name of Institution	Number of projects	Category*
1. Ritsumeikan University	287	Pr
2. Kinki University	275	Pr
3. Keio University	196	Pr
4. Nihon University	169	Pr
5. Waseda University	155	Pr
6. Takushoku University	131	Pr
7. Tokyo Women's Medical University	126	Pr
8. Tokyo City University	123	Pr
9. Osaka University	117	Nu
10. Kyushu University	108	Nu

＊Pr: Private University Pu: Public University Nu: National University
＊Excerpt from the Industrial-Academic-Government Collaboration Implementation Status of Universities published by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
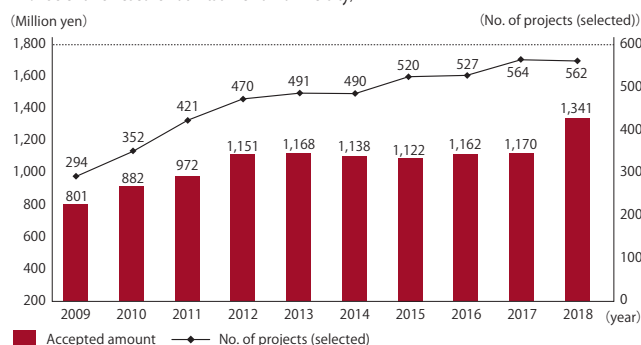
■ Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research —KAKENHI—

According to the "Distribution of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research for Fiscal Year 2018" published in October 2018, Ritsumeikan University ranked 24th in Japan for the amount of funding received, 3rd among private universities in Japan (1st within the Kansai region). The university also ranked 25th in Japan for the number of grants awarded, 4th among private universities in Japan (1st within the Kansai region). It is also worth noting that the amount of funding received, which had remained at the 1.1 billion yen level for 6 consecutive years, exceeded 1.3 billion yen for the first time.

As for the number of selected projects by Review Section (the top 10 institutions for the number of selected projects by Medium-sized Section), we ranked among the top 10 institutions nationwide in 7 sections out of a total of 65, ranking 3rd in Japan for "Sociology and related fields", 1st among private universities in Japan for "Mechanical dynamics, robotics, and related fields", "Human informatics and related fields", and "Environmental conservation measure and related fields", exemplifying our ability to utilize the university's strengths to conduct unique and ground-breaking research in a variety of fields. The ratio of selected projects by female researchers was 21.2%, marking a fourth consecutive yearly increase. Such a significant increase in the number of selected projects by women researchers is also one of the outstanding features of Ritsumeikan University.

Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) are competitive research funds provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and are intended to develop all scientific research from basic to applied research in all fields, ranging from the humanities and the social sciences to the natural sciences. The annual budget exceeds 200 billion yen, making KAKENHI important and essential research funds for the development of science and technology in Japan.

〈Research Funds Ranking〉

	■Amount		■No. of projects (selected)
1	Keio University	1	Keio University
2	Waseda University	2	Waseda University
3	Ritsumeikan University	3	Nihon University
4	Juntendo University	4	Ritsumeikan University
5	Nihon University	5	Juntendo University
6	Tokyo University of Science	6	Kinki University
7	Doshisha University	7	Tokyo University of Science
8	Kinki University	8	Doshisha University
9	Tokai University	9	Tokai University
10	Meiji University	10	Kitasato University

＊AY2018 amount and no. of selected projects (new + on-going) for private universities only.

■ Medium-sized Sections that were ranked (top 10 institutions for the number of selected projects): Sociology and related fields, Human informatics and related fields, Political science and related fields, Environmental conservation measure and related fields, Philosophy, art, and related fields, Mechanical dynamics, robotics, and related fields, and Economics, business administration, and related fields.

〈Changes in the amount of funding received and the number of projects selected for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research at Ritsumeikan University〉

For details, please visit the website ▶ ritsumei research 🔍

Research Organizations, Institutes, and Centers

Research organizations at Ritsumeikan University deploy various efforts to develop cutting-edge research. Such research contributes to society, and in turn leads to the advancement of research and education within the graduate schools. In order to promote research in the fields of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, RU has established various research institutions and conducts a wide variety of research activities from basic to applied research. Those institutions also facilitate collaborations with industry and government institutions, working to get results that give back to society.

* The following outlines information regarding research organizations, research institutions, and research centers as of Feb.1, 2019.

■ Ritsumeikan Global Innovation Research Organization (R-GIRO)

R-GIRO is a research organization under the direct supervision of the University President that was established in 2008 with the goal of "forming a research hub specifically for policy-driven research" and "strengthening the development of young researchers who will lead the next generation." The organization aims to contribute to the next generation of society by producing valuable research findings and actively disseminating those findings through the promotion of interdisciplinary research activities that integrate the fields of natural science with those in the humanities and social sciences in order to achieve a society that maintains a type of harmony between humans and nature.

■ Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization

The Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization is a research organization under the direct supervision of the University President. With the mission, "Cultivating Asia-literate, globally-capable human resources and contributing to the development of a common vision for the future of Asia and Japan," it promotes research that contributes to the "Asian Era" that is both strategic in nature as well as possessing concepts one would come to expect from Ritsumeikan. Serving as the nucleus of a diverse research network in collaboration with various institutions within Japan and overseas, it aims to promote Asia-Japan research from a global perspective. The organization focuses its efforts on conducting comprehensive practical research that possesses the essence of the keywords, "Symbiosis," "Co-creation," and "Reconciliation," and disseminating the results of such research.

■ Asia-Japan Research Institute

■ Kinugasa Research Organization

Kinugasa Research Organization was founded in 1998 and it supports research activity as a research organization which manages the research institutes and research centers. The organization's goal is to contribute to human welfare and social progress under the four principles of "autonomy," "democracy," "openness," and "peaceful use".

■ Institute of Humanities, Human and Social Sciences ■ Institute of International Relations and Area Studies
■ International Institute of Language and Culture Studies ■ Institute of Human Sciences ■ Art Research Center
■ Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage
■ The Shirakawa Shizuka Institute of East Asian Characters and Culture ■ Research Center

■ BKC Research Organization of Social Sciences

The BKC Research Organization of Social Sciences is composed of one research institute and two research centers. It aims to contribute to the development of academic culture and human well-being through fundamental and applied research in social sciences and interdisciplinary fields with a basic focus on social networks, internationalism and openness.

■ Institute of Social Systems ■ Research Centers

■ Research Organization of Science and Technology

Research Organization of Science and Technology was established in 1994 as the Research Organization of Science and Engineering to contribute to the development of science and technology and local society. The organization's goal is to contribute to the development of science and technology and contribute to local society through joint research in industry-academia-government partnerships.

■ The Institute of Science and Engineering ■ Synchrotron Radiation Center ■ VLSI Research Center
■ Research Centers

■ OIC Research Organization of Open Innovation and Collaboration

Respecting the three core concepts of Osaka Ibaraki Campus, Asia's Gateway, Regional Cooperation, and Urban Co-creation, Research Organization of Open Innovation and Collaboration's goal is to foster human recourses who can play an important role in the global society, create innovation, and serve as a key player in the regional community.

■ The Research and Development Institute of Regional Information ■ Research Centers