

AY2026 Application Guidelines for Ritsumeikan University Early-career Researcher Development Program

1. Purport of the Early-career Researcher Development Program

Developing early-career researchers is an important issue in building a next-generation research university with the Ritsumeikan Knowledge Nodes concept at its core, as set forth in the R2030 Academy Vision. In the Fourth Ritsumeikan University Mid-term Plan for Research Advancement, the basic goal is “to realize a next-generation research university that generates new social symbiotic values and emergent human resources,” and one of the University’s visions is to enhance individual research capabilities by providing support for early-career researchers and other researchers according to their career stage as well as by providing basic research support. As such, this program will be implemented to nurture early-career researchers who are expected to be active in domestic or overseas education/research institutions or companies (as research workers). It aims to help early-career researchers who have obtained their degrees at the University cultivate their research capabilities within the network of researchers at the University’s research centers, etc., and to facilitate the creation of research results that will lead to the acquisition of their subsequent career posts. The program also attempts to nurture human resources who will become core researchers at the University in the future, and who will be able to play an active role while involving other researchers.

The research focus is not confined to specific fields, but covers all fields from Humanities and Social Sciences to Natural Sciences. We offer recruitment for all levels, from basic research to applied research.

For this year’s program, we would welcome the active participation of female researchers, based on the policy of enhancing research capabilities through the promotion of gender equality and the establishment of a diverse environment at the University.

Furthermore, the University will set out the Fifth Ritsumeikan University Mid-term Plan for Research Advancement from AY2026 onwards. The details of this program to be provided in AY2026 and beyond for the Fifth Ritsumeikan University Mid-term Plan for Research Advancement are scheduled to undergo changes and revisions.

2. Details of application

Post title	Senior Researcher *Those younger than 35 years of age, as of April 1, 2026, are qualified to call themselves Postdoctoral Fellows.
Number of positions to be offered	Approximately 15
Affiliation after appointment	Research Organizations at Ritsumeikan University
Date of appointment	April 1, 2026
Term of office	It shall be on an annual basis for a period not exceeding one year. The contract may be renewed up to two times, with each year’s renewal subject to the adoption of a continuing application for review.
Eligibility	Those who satisfy all the requirements of (1) to (5) below. If you cannot meet the requirements by the end of March 2026, decision on your appointment may be revoked. (1) Those who have held a doctoral degree of Ritsumeikan University for less than seven years, as of April 1, 2026 (i.e. those who obtained the doctoral degree on April 1, 2019 or thereafter). <u>*A certificate of degree acquisition must be attached to the application except for those who are expected to obtain a degree henceforward.</u> (2) The University has an environment in place where you can start research on arrival. (3) Those who have not previously been adopted for this program (or the former Senior Researcher Program). ^{*1} (4) Those who have been approved by their host faculty member and are able to submit a reference (a development plan by the relevant host faculty member) (5) Those who satisfy the employment requirements stipulated in the Ritsumeikan University Work Regulations for Fixed-term Research Staff. ^{*2}

	<p>Requirements for a host faculty member:</p> <p>(1) A full-time faculty member (Professor/Associate Professor) of the University who does not have a fixed employment period, or a Tokunin/Tokumei Professor who is expected to remain employed until the end of the relevant applicant's research plan.^{*3}</p> <p>(2) No restriction shall be set for the number of applications for this program.</p> <p>(3) Those who are able to fulfill the role of research guidance and development through research activities</p> <p>(4) Those who have a record of application for external funding including the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) (limited to those as Principal Investigators) in AY2021 or thereafter.</p>
Duties and responsibilities	Under the responsibility of the host faculty members, successful applicants will conduct active research activities in order not only to enhance research capabilities but also to establish and expand networks among researchers.
Remuneration, etc.	<p>(1) Work: 5 days a week</p> <p>The Discretionary Labor System for Professional Work <u>shall be applied, in principle.</u></p> <p>(2) Salary: 3,960,000 yen (tax included) per year [No raise due to renewal of contract]</p> <p>(3) Transport allowance/support allowance/housing allowance: Not to be provided.</p> <p>(4) Private School Mutual Aid/Employment insurance: To be provided.</p> <p>(5) To the extent that there is no hindrance to the research, subject to the approval by the Steering Committee of each Research Organization to which he/she belongs, it is possible for him/her to be in charge of classes up to four teaching class hours in total on year-round average in and outside the University (one teaching class is 95 minutes).</p> <p>(6) Place of work: Campus where the primary research location is located.</p> <p>(7) Other working conditions shall be prescribed in the employment rules and appointment contracts of the University.</p>
Obligation to payment	<p>(1) During the appointment period, successful applicants shall apply for the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI).</p> <p>(2) Successful applicants shall submit a report at the end of every academic year during the appointment period.</p> <p>(3) Successful applicants shall adhere to the University's research ethics guidelines.</p>
Expected roles	Successful applicants shall make efforts to actively present research results and establish networks with faculty members and students at open lectures and events organized by the University. ^{*4}
Expected roles to be played by host faculty member	The host faculty members shall focus on forming a career path for Senior Researchers employed in this program and also make efforts to be kept informed of their career path.

^{*1} Those who have been employed as Senior Researchers on a budget other than this program can also apply; however, the number of consecutive renewals of employment contract is limited to four times.

In addition, please understand that those who are employed by the University at the time of application will be required to resign from your current position when adopted for this program. If any points regarding your eligibility are unclear, please make inquiries before applying.

^{*2} Please refer to the following URL for the Ritsumeikan University Work Regulations for Fixed-term Research Staff.
https://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/research/member/researcher_appointment/ra02/file/yukisyokuin_syugyokusoku_english.pdf

^{*3} For example, if the expected length of employment of the host faculty member is two years, the applicant's research plan should be for up to two years.

^{*4} We expect Senior Researchers to actively utilize and participate in the programs, such as the "Rice Ball Seminar," that each Research Organization conducts to help early-career researchers further their career.

3. Screening procedure

1) The Screening Committee on Advanced Research Programs screens applications based on evaluation items and

determines adoption/non-adoption.

- 2) Conduct hearings through interviews or e-mails as necessary.
- 3) Report the screening results at the Screening Committee to the Committee on Research Administration.
- 4) Based on the screening results, the Steering Committee of each Research Organization determines employment.

4. Screening criteria

Based on the following criteria, make a comprehensive judgment and decide adoption/non-adoption, having screened the submitted Research Plan and Development Plan.

Target	Screening criteria	Score
Applicant	(1) The applicant has sufficient potential to be an excellent researcher who will play a leading role in the future of academia.	10 points
	(2) Based on their research experiences, research achievements are excellent, and their abilities to carry out the research plan in cooperation with other researchers in the University and the preparation status of the said research are demonstrated.	
	(3) The research plan is specific and of high-quality.	
*Adoptees for Research Fellowships for Young Researchers by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) or those who are currently on the waiting list are taken into consideration for the score.		
Host faculty member (reference)	(1) Development plan (2) Details of research framework, support for research network formation, career path, and dissemination of research results *Clearly state if there is a specific research project, etc. in which the Senior Researcher is expected to participate.	

*Based on the policies of promoting gender equality and establishing a diverse environment at the University, female researchers will be given priority if screening results based on evaluation items are comparable.

5. Notification of screening result

Regarding notification of screening results, we will inform the applicants by e-mail on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 (tentative).

6. Handling of application documents and personal information

- (1) Submitted materials including the application form and supporting documents shall be used for screening only. Please note that submitted materials will not be returned.
- (2) Personal information obtained from the application form and supporting documents shall not be used for any purposes other than that of screening.

7. Application procedure

(1) Host faculty members

- Host faculty members shall prepare a development plan (Form 3) and submit it during the application period using the Form at the following URL.

- Submission Form URL: <https://forms.office.com/r/qk7jX6s1Ac> (for on-campus access only) (in Japanese/English)

- (Form 3) Development Plan by Host Faculty Member:

<https://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/research/member/news/detail/?id=126> (in Japanese/English)

(2) Applicants

- Applicants shall register with the electronic application system below, and submit application by attaching the prescribed forms (Form 1) Curriculum Vitae, (Form 2) Research Plan, a certificate of degree acquisition (for those who have held a doctoral degree only), and those adopted for the Research Fellowship for Young Scientists by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) shall attach a copy of the screening result notification.

- Submission Form URL: <https://rw.ritsumei.ac.jp/survey/SVA20D0.html?key=SUR20250910170212540204919> (in

Japanese/English)

- Forms: <https://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/research/member/news/detail?id=126> (in Japanese/English)

(3) Points to note

- Applications will only be accepted if both the applicant and the host faculty member have completed the application during the application period. Please note that applications will not be accepted if either the applicant or host faculty member has not completed the application by the due date.

- Those adopted for the Research Fellowship for Young Scientists by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) shall attach a copy of the screening result notification. (If you cannot submit the screening result notification due to misplacement, etc., please print and attach the list of adoptees from the JSPS website (https://www.jspss.go.jp/j-pd/pd_saiyoichiran.html)).

- Those who are currently applying for the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (to be adopted for AY2026) and have been put on the waiting list shall attach the screenshot of the “details of screening results” on the JSPS Electronic Application System after printing it out in PDF.

- In addition, if the result of the primary screening (document screening) finds the applicant to be on the waiting list after applying for the Early-career Researcher Development Program, first contact the staff in charge below, and submit the screenshot of the “details of screening results” as e-mail attachment after printing it out in PDF.

Application period: Between Wednesday, October 1 and 23:59 on Monday, December 1, 2025

*Please complete your application by clicking the “Submit application” button on the online application form by the end of the application period above.

Applications submitted past the application period will be deemed invalid.

Contacts:

Campus	Office/persons in charge
Suzaku	Office of Research Planning & Development Nakahara (Mr.), Ikuta (Ms.) 5th floor, Nakagawa Hall Ritsumeikan Suzaku Campus 1 Nishinokyo-Suzaku-cho, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto 604-8520 JAPAN Phone: 075-813-8199/Extension: 510-2425, 510-2413 E-mail: resplan4@st.ritsumei.ac.jp
Kinugasa	Research Office at Kinugasa Campus Nishimura (Mr.), Muramatsu (Ms.) 1st floor, Shugakukan Hall Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Campus 56-1 Toji-in Kitamachi, Kita-ku, Kyoto 603-8577 JAPAN Phone: 075-465-8233; Extension: 511-2378 E-mail: k-seido@st.ritsumei.ac.jp
Biwako-Kusatsu (BKC)	Research Office at Biwako-Kusatsu Campus Ritsumeikan University Biwako-Kusatsu Campus (BKC) 1-1-1 Noji-higashi, Kusatsu, Shiga 525-8577 JAPAN <<Natural Sciences>> Yamamoto (Mr.), Goto (Ms.) 3rd floor, Research Center for Disaster Mitigation System Phone: 077-561-3488/Extension: 515-6522, 515-6521 E-mail: b-kodoka@st.ritsumei.ac.jp <<Humanities and Social Sciences>> Yamamoto (Mr.), Miyake (Ms.) 5th floor, Across Wing Phone: 077-561-3945/Extension: 515-6522, 515-2501 E-mail: b-kodoka@st.ritsumei.ac.jp
Osaka Ibaraki (OIC)	Research Office at Osaka Ibaraki Campus Matsumoto (Mr.), Nagata (Ms.) 8th floor, Building A Ritsumeikan University Osaka Ibaraki Campus (OIC)

	2-150 Iwakura-cho, Ibaraki, Osaka 567-8570 JAPAN Phone: 072-665-2570/Extension: 513-2991, 513-3501 E-mail: oiro-k@st.ritsumei.ac.jp
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8. Others

- (1) In the screening, among those who are judged to be particularly excellent, we will provide them with extra support for research encouragement.
- (2) Trends in applications and numbers of adoptions for the former Senior Researcher Program (AY2020-AY2022) and the Early-career Researcher Development Program (AY2023-AY2024)

Humanities and Social Sciences

	AY2020	AY2021	AY2022	AY2023	AY2024	AY2025
Number of applications	39	39	46	27	30	28
Number of adoptions	8	9	10	11	11	12
Of which, Ritsumeikan University Ph.D. (No.)	5	5	7	11	11	12
Of which, Ritsumeikan University Ph.D. (%)	62.5%	55.6%	70%	100%	100%	100%

Natural Sciences

	AY2020	AY2021	AY2022	AY2023	AY2024	AY2025
Number of applications	11	10	10	11	10	6
Number of adoptions	3	3	2	4	4	3
Of which, Ritsumeikan University Ph.D. (No.)	1	2	1	4	4	3
Of which, Ritsumeikan University Ph.D. (%)	33.3%	66.7%	50%	100%	100%	100%

Overall

	AY2020	AY2021	AY2022	AY2023	AY2024	AY2025
Number of applications	50	49	56	38	40	34
Number of adoptions	11	12	12	15	15	15
Of which, Ritsumeikan University Ph.D. (No.)	6	7	8	15	15	15
Of which, Ritsumeikan University Ph.D. (%)	54.5%	58.3%	66.7%	100%	100%	100%

To the host faculty members

Ritsumeikan University Researcher database (hereinafter referred to as Researcher DB)

Researcher DB is a database for publishing research achievements and profiles on the internet.

The research achievements entered in the Researcher DB will be the materials for screening, so we would kindly request you to enter as much information as possible. For details, please visit the website of the Division of Research: (https://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/research/member/researcher_login/index.html) (in Japanese/English)

How to Apply for the AY2026 Early-career Researcher Development Program on the Web

Applicant

(1) Please access the URL provided in the Application Guidelines and register as a member. (If you have already registered as a member of RISING-FDC for other applications, etc., please log in and proceed to (4).) Please enter information in the Basic Information Registration Form.

(The following are screen images of the registration form)

The screenshot shows the Ritsumeikan website's login and registration interface. At the top left is the Ritsumeikan logo. Below it are two input fields: "メールアドレス / Email Address" and "パスワード / Password". A link "パスワードを忘れた場合 / Forgot password?" is positioned below the password field. A blue button labeled "ログイン / Login" is centered below the fields. Underneath the button is a link "会員登録はこちらから / Create Account". A yellow callout box with an arrow pointing to the "Create Account" link contains the text: "Click on 'Create Account' to proceed to registration." At the bottom of the page, it says "(c) Ritsumeikan Trust. All rights reserved."

The screenshot shows the "Create Account" page on the Ritsumeikan website. The Ritsumeikan logo is at the top left, followed by the text "新規会員登録を行う / Create Account". Below this is a message: "[会員登録] ボタンを選択してください。" (Please select the [Create Account] button). There are two blue buttons: "会員登録 (日本語ページ)" (Create Account (Japanese page)) and "Create Account (English page)". A yellow callout box with arrows pointing to both buttons contains the text: "Select a language. The language selected here will also be applied on the application screen." At the bottom of the page, it says "(c) Ritsumeikan Trust. All rights reserved."

(2) You will receive an e-mail containing a URL for registration at the e-mail address you have entered. Please click to complete registration.

(3) After completing registration, access the URL provided in the Application Guidelines again, and you will see the login screen. Please log in with the registered information.

(4) Please fill out the Application Form.

AY2026 Application Form for Early-career Researcher Development Program

Key dates
Application period: Between Wednesday, October 1 and Monday, December 1, 2025
Screening result: To be notified to the applicants by email on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 (tentative)

Q1 Basic Information

*** Required field**

Email Address *

Email Address(Confirm) *

Name *

Name(Furigana)

Date of Birth *

*Name (Furigana): No need to fill out this item in English.

Required item
Age (As of April 1, 2026) years old

Q2 Host Faculty

Required item
Responsible Research Office

*Please ask your host faculty about which Research Office is in charge of you and select one from KIC, BKC, or OIC .

Required item
Host Faculty's Name

Required item
Host Faculty's Affiliation

(College, Graduate School, et c.)

Required item
Graduate School of Ritsumeikan University

Information regarding the host faculty member should be entered after verifying with the relevant faculty member.

(5) Please upload the prescribed form posted on the University's website for attaching files.
(<https://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/research/member/news/detail/?id=126>)

Q5 Research Plan

Required item

Planned research period

1year 2years 3years

Required item

Research theme

.....

Required item

Form No. 1 (Curriculum Vitae)

ファイルを選択 | test1.pdf | Clear

Required item

Form No. 2 (Research Plan)

ファイルを選択 | test2.pdf | Clear

Attach prescribed forms.

(6) After entering the information, click the “Proceed to entry confirmation screen” button and verify whether the application has been made properly. Please check the information carefully, as it is not possible to revise the Application Form after the application is complete. If there are no problems, click the “Submit” button.

<Suzaku> Office of Research Planning & Development Nakahara (Mr.), Morishita (Ms.), Ikuta (Ms.)
resplan4@st.ritsumei.ac.jp
Phone:075-813-8199 Extension:510-2425, 2414, 2413

Return to My Page Proceed to entry confirmation screen > Save

Verify your entry before submitting your application.

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Return to My Page < Return to entry screen Submit

(c) Ritsumeikan Trust. All rights reserved.

(7) When you receive an application completion e-mail to the registered address, the application process is complete.

[Continue to the next page](#)

Host Faculty Member

(1) Please access the URL provided in the Application Guidelines to download the (Form No. 3) Development Plan, and fill in the required information.

(2) Please access the URL for the Form to be submitted with an on-campus ID, fill in the required information, and upload the prepared Development Plan to submit it.

*This is the Application Form for an on-campus ID only.

English (United States)

AY2026 Early-career Researcher Development Program: Submission Form for Development Plan

Submission deadline: 23:59 on Monday, December 1, 2025 (to be strictly observed)
This form is for host faculty members of the applicants for the AY2026 Early-career Researcher Development Program to submit their development plan. If the application is not submitted during the application period, it will be deemed null and void and will not be accepted. Please be sure to submit this form by the submission deadline above. After submitting the form, please be sure to inform the relevant applicant that you have submitted it.

Hi, IKUTA AKANE. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

* Required

Host faculty member (You)

Please provide information about the host faculty member who is submitting the Development Plan

1. Name *

Enter your answer

2. Affiliated campus *

Kinugasa
 BKC
 OIC
 Suzaku

3. Affiliated College/Graduate School/Research Organization *

E.g. College of Letters, Graduate School of Law, Research Organization of Science and Technology, etc.

Enter your answer

Submitting Development Plan

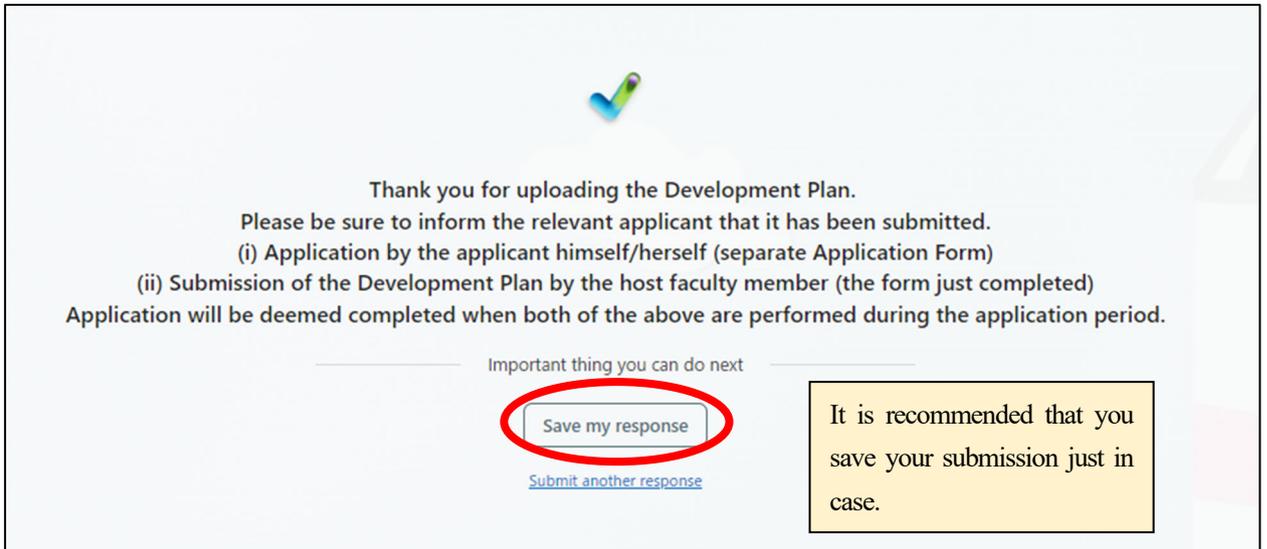
6. Please upload a Development Plan prepared by the host faculty member himself/herself. (Non-)

File number limit: 1 Single file size limit: 10MB Allowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video, Audio

Please click to attach the prescribed form.

Continue to the next page

(3) The application on the part of the host faculty member is complete when the following screen appears. It is recommended that you save your submission.



The screenshot shows a confirmation message with a green checkmark icon at the top. The text reads: "Thank you for uploading the Development Plan. Please be sure to inform the relevant applicant that it has been submitted. (i) Application by the applicant himself/herself (separate Application Form) (ii) Submission of the Development Plan by the host faculty member (the form just completed) Application will be deemed completed when both of the above are performed during the application period." Below this, a section titled "Important thing you can do next" contains a button labeled "Save my response" which is circled in red, and a link labeled "Submit another response". To the right of this section is a yellow box with the text: "It is recommended that you save your submission just in case."

Note: Due to regular maintenance, the application form will not be available during the following times.

- Every day from 4:30 AM to 5:30 AM (during the registration period: from 2:00 AM to 6:30 AM)
- Every Wednesday from 7:30 PM to 9:00 AM the following morning (maintenance may not be performed in some cases)