

AY2026 Ritsumeikan University Faculty Research-Priority Program
- Application Guidelines -

1. Overview of the Ritsumeikan University Faculty Research-Priority Program

(1) Definition

Research priority means exemption from classes, etc., and an order to devote oneself to a research project during the relevant period (Article 1-2 of the Ritsumeikan University Regulations on Research-Priority Faculty (hereinafter referred to as the “Regulations”)).

(2) Exemption from classes, etc.

Research-priority faculty members shall be exempted from the following duties during the research-priority period. However, with regard to (i) or (ii), if the President deems that there exist special circumstances, the relevant faculty member may not be exempted from the following duties (Article 3 of the Regulations).

(i) Teaching classes

(ii) Attendance at College Faculty Councils, Graduate School Committees, and Graduate School Faculty Councils

(iii) Appointment to University and Academy positions

(3) Alternative measures for classes

In the event that the appointment of a research-priority faculty member necessitates alternative measures for classes, in principle, the Dean of the College or Graduate School to which the relevant faculty member belongs must take alternative measures. This does not apply in cases where the Executive Board of Trustees decides on alternative measures for research-priority faculty members (Article 10 and Article 10, Paragraph 2 of the Regulations).

(4) Report

At the expiry of the research-priority period, the research-priority faculty member must submit a written report to the President through the head of his/her department in a manner prescribed by the Dean of the Division of Research. When the research-priority period exceeds one year, the relevant research-priority faculty member must submit an interim report to the President through the head of his/her department at a time and in a manner prescribed by the Dean of the Division of Research (Article 11 and Article 11, Paragraph 2 of the Regulations).

(5) Return of research results

Research-priority faculty members shall endeavor to contribute to research and education at the University with the results of their research priority. In principle, the results of the research conducted by the research-priority faculty members shall be made public. In addition, the President may request the research-priority faculty members to hold a debriefing session as necessary (Article 11-2, Article 11-2, Paragraph 2, and Article 11-2, Paragraph 3 of the Regulations).

2. Details of application

Eligibility	Those who are ordered to devote themselves to research shall be those who satisfy all of the following (i) through (iv). (i) Professor, Associate Professor, Lecturer* with no fixed term of employment
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	<p>(ii) Those who have worked for the University for at least three full-years as of the commencement date of research priority.</p> <p>(iii) Those who have at least three years remaining between the end of their research priority and the mandatory retirement age.</p> <p>(iv) Representatives of externally funded research projects designated by the Committee on Research Administration</p> <p>*Those stipulated in the Ritsumeikan Work Regulations</p>
<p>Conditions</p>	<p>Large-scale research projects (large-scale external funds) or extramural research projects with a high research effort rate (research appropriation rate) are eligible, and the research projects must meet one of the following criteria (i) through (iii). In addition, only those projects that can start research priority during AY2025 shall be considered.</p> <p>(i) Research fund category: Representatives (including area representatives and research supervisors) of research funds that are equivalent to the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant-in-Aid for Specially Promoted Research, Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas (Area Representative of the Research in a Proposed Research Area), Grant-in-Aid for Transformative Research Areas (Area Representative of the Research in a Transformative Area (A/B)), Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (S) and (A), Fostering Joint International Research - Overseas Research Fellowships - Strategic Basic Research Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERATO, PRESTO, CREST, RISTEX - Cross-ministerial Strategic Innovation Promotion Program (SIP) - Fusion Oriented Research for Disruptive Science and Technology (FOREST) - External funds with total direct costs of 5 million yen or more*¹ <p>*¹ In order to promote a research environment of diversity, applications based on this external fund shall be accepted only when the principal investigator is an early-career female faculty member in Natural Sciences. The criteria for early-career researchers in the application are as follows: less than eight years after obtaining a doctoral degree (criteria for early-career researchers for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research), or younger than 45 years old.</p> <p>(ii) Research expenses: 50 million yen or more per year (direct expenses)</p> <p>(iii) Effort rate (research appropriation rate): 50% or more*²</p> <p>*² Effort rate (research appropriation rate): Percentage (%) of the total annual working hours of the researcher (including educational activities, etc.) that is 100%, of which time is allocated for conducting the relevant research.</p>
<p>Period of research priority</p>	<p>The research-priority period shall be within the duration of the relevant research project to the extent that it does not interfere with education.</p>

Number of allocations	A few
Budgetary provision	None

3. Application, screening and decision

(1) Application

Those who wish to devote themselves to research shall apply to the President through the head of their department with the prescribed “Research Priority Proposal” along with a “Letter of Confirmation from Department Head” at least three months prior to the commencement date of their research priority.

(2) Screening

The Screening Committee, chaired by the Vice President in charge of research, will be organized to review the appropriateness of the application. The Screening Committee will examine the applications based on the following criteria:

- (i) The applicant shall be able to carry out the contents of the research proposal and have research achievements to support it.
- (ii) The contents of the research proposal shall contribute significantly to the development and enrichment of education and the promotion of academic research at the University.
- (iii) Alternative arrangements for teaching the class have been confirmed by the relevant College or Graduate School.

(3) Decision

Based on the review by the Screening Committee, the President shall appoint research-priority faculty members.

4. Schedule and procedures

(1) Application period

As needed. However, up to three months prior to the commencement date of the relevant research priority.

(2) Application documents

- (i) Ritsumeikan University Faculty Research-Priority Program: Research Priority Proposal
- (ii) Ritsumeikan University Faculty Research-Priority Program: Letter of Confirmation from Department Head

(3) Submission and inquiries

Ogaya (Ms.)/Nakamura (Ms.) at the Office of Research Strategy and Integrity
(E-mail: gai-sen@st.ritsumei.ac.jp)

(4) Notification of screening results

Screening results will be notified in writing.

5. Other

Procedures for implementation will be announced separately.