

March 9, 2026

Dear Students

Ritsumeikan University
Dean of Students Affairs Michinori Ozawa
Dean of Students Affairs, in Charge of Sports Promotion Kenji Ueta

Warning about Illegal Drugs

Recently, there have been several incidents involving university students possessing or using illegal drugs (such as marijuana and novel psychoactive substances) or being suspected of possession or use. You may think this does not concern you, but products containing ingredients that could lead to drug intake or drug dependence are increasingly being sold on the internet and social media sites and even at discount stores under names that do not seem dangerous or illegal, claiming to have "relaxing", "concentration enhancing", or "weight loss" effects. Regardless of personal intent, everyone faces the risk of drug exposure in their daily lives.

Many people have also reported feeling that illegal drugs are prevalent, such as being approached during overseas travel or study abroad to use marijuana under the pretense that it is "legal." In December 2023, the Act Partially Amending the Cannabis Control and the Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Act was enacted, and part of this law went into effect on December 12, 2024. With this, the use of marijuana (including gummies and liquids containing ingredients exceeding the prescribed values) is also now prohibited by law and subject to penalties (imprisonment for up to seven years). There are also many cases where drugs that were considered legal later became illegal. The use of drugs, such as marijuana and novel psychoactive substances, is not only harmful to your health over your lifetime, it can also lead to crime, financial troubles, and the loss of trust from others, which can ruin your life. On top of this, you are subject to social sanctions, including severe disciplinary action from the university, which may affect many other people, including your family, friends, and the fellow members of your clubs.

It is important not to be influenced by words like "legal" or "safe," by casual attitudes, or by misinformation, and to absolutely refrain from involving yourself with anything that could negatively affect your future.

Although we have been issuing warnings for some time, an increasing number of students are encountering or hearing about drugs through people or places close to them. Once again, we ask that you develop a firm understanding of the dangers of drugs and act with self-awareness, responsibility, and moderation in order to protect your future and stay safe during your time at university.

【参考リンク】

[TIPS ON CAMPUS LIFE FOR STUDENTS ~your guide to a safe and comfortable campus life~2025](#) (P.18~)

[Information about Drug Abuse](#) (Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

[Contact for consultation]

If you have a problem or see or hear information about illegal drugs, please contact the following university office for advice.

Office of Student Affairs (Kinugasa) : 075-465-8167

Office of Student Affairs (BKC) : 077-561-3917

Office of Student Affairs (OIC) : 072-665-2130

Center of Athletics &Sports Services : 077-561-3977