

## Basic Policy on Quality Assurance for Micro-Credentials at Ritsumeikan University

### Purpose

Ritsumeikan University (hereinafter referred to as “the University”) issues micro-credentials as credentials representing more granular units of learning outcomes within educational programs, primarily those based on regular coursework.

In issuing micro-credentials, the University applies common domestic and international guidelines as proof of learning outcomes. For the purpose of providing and utilizing micro-credentials, the University hereby establishes the following policy on quality assurance.

### Definition

The definition of micro-credentials issued by the University is as follows, based on discussions conducted by the Joint Working Group on Micro-Credentials<sup>i</sup>.

- 1) A micro-credential certifies what a learner knows, understands, or is able to do, and constitutes a record of learning outcomes with a focused scope.
- 2) It is issued by an issuing body of the University based on assessments conducted in accordance with criteria clearly defined in the syllabus or equivalent documents.
- 3) It has standalone value and may also form part of, or complement, other micro-credentials or degrees (macro-credentials), including cases in which requirements are fulfilled through the recognition of credits earned at institutions other than this University.
- 4) It meets established quality assurance standards.

### Scope

Micro-credentials issued by the University shall apply to components of educational programs or courses for which learning outcomes have been assessed by the University, either independently or in collaboration with other institutions.

Participation in courses or seminars for which the University cannot verify the actual assessment process, as well as the completion of a degree itself, are excluded from the scope of micro-credentials.

## Quality Assurance Standards

### 1. Basic Policy on Quality Assurance

In the University's educational programs, a course overview and learning objectives are defined for each course, and a syllabus is prepared for each class. The syllabus clearly specifies the course content and learning objectives, as well as assessment methods and criteria, thereby ensuring objective and rigorous evaluation.

### 2. Micro-Credential Framework

The quality of micro-credentials issued by the University is ensured by adherence to the "Framework for Micro-Credentials" established by the Joint Working Group on Micro-Credentials. Furthermore, by transparently presenting the content of micro-credentials using descriptors commonly required both domestically and internationally, the University maintains a high level of social recognition and trust.

### 3. Technical Standards for Digital Issuance of Micro-Credentials

For micro-credentials issued by the University, Open Badges—one of the international technical standards established by 1EdTech Consortium Inc.—are adopted as digital badges, thereby technically ensuring that information has not been tampered with or falsified. In addition, the metadata of digital badges complies with the "Guidelines for Issuing Digital Credentials for Micro-Credentials Using Digital Badges" established by the Joint Working Group on Micro-Credentials, thereby maintaining social acceptance.

## Issuing Institution

The issuing institution of micro-credentials shall be the respective issuing organization. Administrative matters related to the issuance of micro-credentials shall be handled by the issuing organization and its relevant departments.

This Basic Policy shall come into effect on March 16, 2026.

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## Notes

<sup>i</sup> The Joint Working Group on Micro-Credentials was established to examine and develop a common domestic framework for micro-credentials.

While the Working Group has since concluded its activities, its outcomes have been succeeded and further developed by the Japan Micro-Credentials Organization.