

**Ritsumeikan University Academic Year 2024**  
**Application Guidelines for**  
**Program Coordinated with Graduate schools to Foster a New Generation of Researchers**

**1. Program Objectives**

This program aims to train young researchers who obtained a PhD at Ritsumeikan University graduate schools so that they can further advance their academic careers. We hope that training such researchers under the program will lead to enhancing a young researcher development system at the university, which strives to become a Social Prototyping Research University, and preparing young researchers to play active roles in universities, research institutions, and corporate research positions in Japan and abroad. We also hope that developing young promising researchers through the program will ultimately enhance the university's research base as a whole and promote the dissemination of value-creating research findings.

Young researchers selected by the Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization will conduct dynamic research under the guidance of host researchers and supervisors in their fields of expertise. The researchers are expected to produce outstanding research outcomes by utilizing the Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Institute (AJI) as a place to conduct research and present their findings. They are also expected to develop the ability to advance their careers, and build and expand their networks of researchers in Japan and abroad.

The research fields that are included in this program are not limited to specific fields, and cover Asia-Japan related fields ranging from humanities and social sciences to natural sciences, at every level from fundamental research through to applied research.

This academic year, we strongly welcome applications from female researchers in line with Ritsumeikan University policies to promote gender equality and enhance the university's research capabilities in a diverse environment.

**2. Position Details**

Position name	Senior researcher
Number of positions	Approx. 2
Affiliation	Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization
Date of taking up the position	1st April 2024, in principle
Period of employment	Up to 1 year on an academic year basis The contract may be renewed up to 2 times following a continuation review each year. (*2)
Eligibility	<p>You must satisfy all the conditions stated below in 1-3. Also, in the event that these conditions are not satisfied by the end of March 2024, your acceptance may be revoked.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Applicants who have completed a PhD program in a graduate school at Ritsumeikan University, and are within 7 years of having been conferred with a PhD by a graduate school at Ritsumeikan University as of 1st April 2024</li><li>2) Applicants who have a permanently employed tenured faculty member (professor or associate professor) at Ritsumeikan University as a supervisor in their fields of expertise, and have established an environment for receiving guidance in their fields of expertise</li><li>3) Applicants who are or will be working in the fields of 'Asian Studies', 'Japanese Studies', or 'Asia-Japan Research', and are aiming to gain a tenured post in a research</li></ol>

	institution such as a university
Compensation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Work: 5 days a week (with an obligation to be exclusively dedicated to your work) Your working hours will be considered 7.5 hours a day regardless of the actual working hours, according to the discretionary labor system for professional work.</li> <li>2) Salary: JPY3.96 million annual salary (Inclusive of tax)</li> <li>3) Commuting expenses / dependent allowance / housing allowance: not available</li> <li>4) Private School Mutual Aid / employment insurance: Included</li> <li>5) It is possible to teach up to a total of 4 classes (90 minutes per class) on average throughout an academic year at Ritsumeikan University or elsewhere, if this is approved at the steering committee of each research organization you are affiliated to, and as long as it does not affect your research activities.</li> <li>6) Other employment conditions are set out in the Ritsumeikan University work regulations and employment contract.</li> </ol>
Duties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) You must apply for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research known as KAKENHI during the period of your employment.</li> <li>2) You must submit a report at the end of each academic year during the period of your employment.</li> <li>3) You must abide by Ritsumeikan University research ethics guidelines.</li> </ol>
Expectations towards successful applicants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) You should strive to create your own career path under the guidance of AJI.</li> <li>2) You should actively use the framework for improving the career prospects of young researchers provided by AJI, such as the 'AJI Frontier Seminar', 'AJI Research Development Program', and 'AJI Advanced Support for Academic Writing in English'.</li> </ol>
Expected roles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) You should strive to build networks with faculty and enrolled students, and present your research findings in open lectures and other events held by Ritsumeikan University.</li> <li>2) You should carry out your duties as instructed by the Director of AJI.</li> <li>3) Supervisors in the fields of expertise should strive to monitor and develop career paths of senior researchers that will be employed under this program.</li> </ol>

\*1 Those under 35 years old on the 1st April 2024 may hold the title of post-doctoral fellow.

\*2 Applications are also accepted from those who have been employed as senior researchers by another program's funding after the 2022 academic year. Their employment contract shall be renewed up to 4 times if they are continuously employed under the same type of employment and position.

If the applicant is already employed in some capacity at Ritsumeikan University at the time of application, or there are other unclear issues regarding eligibility, please be sure to make enquiries at the office (shown below) beforehand.

### 3. Screening Procedures

- 1) Applicants will be screened in 2 stages, based on documents (1st stage) and interview (2nd stage).
- 2) Successful applicants will be selected based on the relevant evaluation criteria by the screening committee set up by AJI.
- 3) Successful applicants will be approved following decisions made based on the screening results by the steering

committees of AJI and Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization.

4) The screening results will be reported to the Committee on Research Administration.

#### 4. Screening Criteria

Successful applicants will be decided based on the criteria indicated below by considering the application documents, the interview, and the evaluation of supervisors in their fields of expertise.

Target	Criteria	Points
Applicant	1) [Research Achievements] Research achievements are outstanding.	20
	2) [Research proposal and ability to carry out research/teaching] The research proposal is both specific and outstanding (in terms of originality, creativity, expansion of research, etc.). The proposal also shows that the applicant has the ability to carry out the research proposal in collaboration with internal researchers, and that enough preparations have been made for the research.	20
	3) [Potential] The applicant has sufficient potential to become an outstanding researcher and educator that will contribute to future academic innovations. Also, teaching experience as a TA, RA or part-time lecturer will be taken into account.	10
Advisor in the field of expertise (for reference)	[Evaluation and Comments] 1) The applicant's research progress and research findings so far, evaluation as a researcher, standing of the applicant in his/her field of expertise both in Japan and abroad, and future research/career plans 2) Preparation of the environment for accepting a senior researcher, and plans for supervising the applicant's research, developing his/her research skills, and creating his/her academic networks * Please indicate any specific projects that plan to be participated by a senior researcher.	

\* In cases where applicants are evaluated based on the relevant evaluation criteria and receive the same points, preference will be given to female applicants, according to Ritsumeikan University policies to create a diverse research environment and promote gender equality.

#### 5. Notification of the Screening Results

Applicants are scheduled to receive the screening results by email in early February 2024. Also, successful applicants will be announced on the university website.

#### 6. Management of Application Documentation and Personal Information

- 1) Application documents will only be used for the screening procedures and will not be returned.
- 2) Personal information obtained from any application documents will not be used for any other purposes than the screening procedures.

#### 7. Application Procedures

- Apply using the designated forms.

Prepared by	Documents
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Applicant	1) Application Form
	2) Curriculum Vitae and Achievements
Advisor in the field of expertise	3) Evaluation and Comments

- Submit the forms by email to the RARA Office.

Application period: Wednesday 1st November 2023 - Monday 18th December 2023 at noon

Submission and enquiries:

Campus	Office/Contact person
Suzaku	5 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Nakagawa Kaikan Office of Ritsumeikan Advanced Research Academy (RARA Office) Nakagawa (Ms.), Ueda(Ms.) e-mail: <a href="mailto:aji-res@st.ritsumei.ac.jp">aji-res@st.ritsumei.ac.jp</a>

## 8. Guidance for application

The Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Institute will hold a Zoom online guidance and a ZOOM online Q&A session on applications for this program. At the guidance, the Organization will explain the aims and content of the program, application requirements, schedules and other points.

Zoom online guidance: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 1:00-2:00 pm

Zoom online Q&A session: Friday, December 8, 10:30-11:30 am or 4:00-5:00 pm

Please register from the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/7UjUfJkwRY>