

**Second-phase Program for Asia-Japan Research Development
AY2024 Application Guidelines**

1. Purpose and Characteristics of the Program for Asia-Japan Research Development

The Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization has been making every effort to advance research on Asia and Japan at Ritsumeikan University, thereby contributing to multicultural symbiosis in Asia, making Asia-Japan studies at the University better-known globally, and raising the University’s profile as a global research university in Japan and overseas. These goals have been set based on the University’s mission as a university in the Asia Pacific region stated in the Ritsumeikan Charter and on the R2030 Academy Vision, dubbed “Challenge your mind, Change our future.”

As part of such efforts, the Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization launched the Program for Asia-Japan Research Development in 2016. Under the program, the Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization has domestically and internationally disseminated achievements made through a total of 15 research projects undertaken in the three areas of Symbiosis, Co-creation and Reconciliation.

In order “to realize a next-generation research university that generates new social symbiotic values and emergent human resources” proposed in the R2030 Academy Vision, we are now open for applications for original research projects in the three areas of “Symbiosis,” “Co-creation,” and “Co-commitment” in order to further develop Asia-Japan studies at Ritsumeikan University, promote research with a unique concept and strategy, and further increase our contribution to the world.

2. Subject of Academic Research

In the Program for Asia-Japan Research Development, research projects that aim for “The Resolution of Various Issues in Asia” will be adopted based on the three research areas of “Symbiosis,” “Co-creation,” and “Co-commitment.” The following are examples of some research topics that are presumed to be explored through research projects, but the research topics to be encouraged shall not be limited to these.

<p>Symbiosis</p> <p>Profound understanding and knowledge creation regarding Asia as well as joint research on Asian societies and cultures</p>	<p>[Past research topics]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rethinking gender in Islam as the inter-Asian phenomenon - Creation and development of Asian arts studies - Interaction with other literary persons in Japan, China, and Korea at <i>Meiji to Taisho</i> Era - Reconstructing world history with Asian perspectives - Building childcare and work support for women based on scientific evidence from the perspective of families in East Asia - Empirical studies on gender issues in Asia <p>[Examples of possible research topics]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transformation of Asian ideas and philosophy in the global era - Civic ethics and political thoughts of Asia - Religion, philosophy and thoughts in Southeast Asia - Mutual understanding between modern and classic Asian literature - Traditional Asian performing arts and signification of new “festivals” and “rituals” - Transformation of Islam and Islamic society in Asia - Islam, Asian Buddhism, and their Arts - Japan in Asia, Asia in Japan - Diversification of families in Asia and Japan - Digital humanities in Asia - History and present of the cultural exchange among Japan, China and South Korea, etc.
	<p>[Past research topics]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making new socio-economic dynamic models to realize environmentally friendly welfare states in Asian countries - Establishment of Asia-based research center for mitigation of landslide and flood

<p style="text-align: center;">Co-creation</p> <p>Co-creation between Asian countries and Japan as well as joint research and value creation in various fields of scientific technologies</p>	<p>disasters by Japan-Vietnam Joint Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research and development on the digital museum of Asian historical cultural heritage based on big data acquired by scanning real objects - Increase of healthy life expectancy by studies on Indonesian and Japanese medicinal plants - Redefinition of Asian urban theory through practices of policy science - Research and human resource development in environment & energy field for sustainable development and cycle-oriented society promotion in Asia - Digital archiving of Indonesian cultural heritage and development of 4D high-definition visualization contents - Prevention of diabetes mellitus by traditional Asian drugs and foods - Environmental technologies supporting Vietnam's agriculture, livestock, and fishing industries - Green recovery and the realization of the cyclical decarbonization society in East Asia - Fragmentation of the world economy and the significance of regional cooperation in East Asia <p>[Examples of possible research topics]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental protection and governance in Asia - The essence of Chinese business and Japanese-style business - Present situation over water resources in Asia - Asian industries, manufacturing capability and educational policies - Soft power in the Asian century and Japan's contribution - Current stage of world economy and sustainable development of Asia and Japan - Tourism in Asia - Food rations and agriculture in Asia - Natural disaster-prevention measures and technological cooperation in Asia - Architecture and landscape in Asia - Asia-Japan medical cooperation in the post-COVID-19 era - Joint research on traffic issues in Asian megalopolises - Asia-Japan co-creative response to climate changes - Asia-Japan collaboration to make use of natural energies, etc.
<p style="text-align: center;">Co-commitment</p> <p>Resolution of conflicts and peace-creation as well as constructing better international relations through co-commitment between Asian countries and Japan</p>	<p>[Past research topics (in the area of "Reconciliation?")]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research on the Japanese colonial period by constructing the system of transnational archives - Human security in Southeast Asia in the ASEAN community era - A comprehensive study on North Korea: from the perspective of prolongation and internationalization - Locally-led disaster management and humanitarian assistance in Asia - Nuclear crisis and security in Asia - Re-examining state transformations in historical Syria: towards a new paradigm of Area Studies - Creating a tolerant society in an era of international population movement <p>[Examples of possible research topics]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethnic conflicts in Asia and a new system of coexistence - Roadmap from conflict to peacebuilding in West Asia - Historical perception in East Asia - Research on diplomatic policies of the U.S. on Asia and Asian vision of international peace - Analysis on modern Asian politics and Japan's involvement - Cooperation among Asian countries in the post-COVID-19 era and challenges for Japan - International cooperation in Asia for human security - New challenges for Japan and Asian countries in cooperation of legislative development - Post-petroleum international relations of Arab world and Asia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disputes and peacebuilding in South Asia - “Immigrants” in Japan and the issue of multicultural symbiosis - Visions for Asian politics in 21st century and Japan’s role, etc.
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3. Program Details

This program consists of three research areas (Symbiosis, Co-creation, and Co-commitment), and a maximum of three projects will be adopted each academic year. The participation of other universities and companies in the projects, especially the cooperation of overseas universities, and the invention of these types of plans is particularly sought after. One or more graduate students must participate in each project and the participation of female researchers is strongly encouraged.

A project is composed of a project leader, project members, early-career researchers (*), and graduate students. Their eligibility and roles are as follows.

*Early-career researchers in the Program for Asia-Japan Research Development refer to those employed on a fixed-term basis as research professors (assistant professors), senior researchers or researchers. Requirements, such as age and the number of years after degree acquisition, are not established for their employment.

Project leader	<u>The project leader is a qualified full-time Professor or Associate Professor at Ritsumeikan University and bears responsibility to complete the project during their career at Ritsumeikan University.</u> Changing the project leader is not permitted in principle. They are responsible for overseeing the project and hold all responsibilities including the implementation of research strategies, concept development, and overall promotion of the project as a whole. In addition, they play a leading role in carrying out the research plan by supervising the researchers belonging to Ritsumeikan University and/or external research institutes of government, industry, and academia, as well as compiling research achievements, and publishing/presenting those achievements. They exchange views with the project members and graduate students, give advice and directions regarding research, assess research, and manage all other matters related to research.
Project member	<u>Full-time faculty member (専任教員), Specially-appointed Professor (特任教授), Fixed-term faculty member (任期制教員), Eminent Research Professor (特別招聘研究教員), Visiting Research Professor (招聘研究教員), Visiting Professor (客員教員等), etc. at Ritsumeikan University and researchers belonging to external research institutes of government, industry, and academia,</u> who participate in carrying out research plans, compiling research achievements, and publishing/presenting research achievements in cooperation with the project leader.
Early-career researcher	Early-career researchers to be employed for the program on a fixed-term basis as Research Professors (Assistant Professors), Senior Researchers, or Researchers <u>Employment of at least one early-career researcher is a requisite for each project.</u>
Graduate student	Graduate students who are enrolled in the master’s/doctoral courses at Ritsumeikan University and who participate in the project. However, only those who are enrolled in the doctoral course can be employed as a Research Assistant utilizing the personnel cost budget of the research project.

4. Outline

Research project	The project leader will organize and propose a research project under one of the research areas of Symbiosis, Co-creation, or Co-commitment.
Number of projects to be	Maximum of three projects from research areas of Symbiosis, Co-creation, and Co-

adopted	commitment
Research period	3 years
Restrictions on the use of research expenses	Maximum of 6,000,000 yen per year will be provided to each project.
	<p>[Applicable research expenses]</p> <p>(i) Personnel costs for researchers employed on a fixed-term basis E.g.) Salaries for early-career researchers (research professors (assistant professors), senior researchers, and researchers), and salaries for assistant researchers and research assistants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working conditions shall be determined on the basis of terms specified in regulations concerning salary for each job rank. (Early-career researchers will be covered by social insurance (offered by the Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan) upon their employment. Personnel costs will be appropriated to cover their social insurance premiums.) - Personnel costs shall amount to about 80% of total research expenses. <p>(ii) Expenses directly related to and required for executing a project E.g.) Commodity expenses, travel expenses (limited to those for project members), honoraria for part-time student employees (undergraduate and graduate students), etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These expenses should amount to about 20% of total research expenses. <p>Note 1) Salaries for assistant researchers and research assistants (RAs), both of whom work by the hour, will be included in personnel costs. In the meantime, honoraria for part-time student employees and part-time non-teaching staff, who also work by the hour, will be included in expenses directly related to and required for executing a project described in (ii) above.</p> <p>Note 2) The budget amounts stated above are rough estimates. The amounts will be discussed and determined by the Screening Committee.</p> <p>Note 3) The basic amount of monthly salary for researchers will be 400,000 yen for Research Professors (Assistant Professors), 330,000 yen for Senior Researchers, and 270,000 yen for Researchers.</p> <p>Note 4) When combining personnel costs for Research Assistant Professors, Senior Researchers, and Researchers with other budgets, approval by the Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization is required prior to appointment and employment procedures.</p>

5. Application and screening schedule

Application opens	Tuesday, July 18, 2023
Application deadline	Noon on Monday, September 25, 2023
1st screening (document screening)	Between Wednesday, September 27 and Monday, October 16, 2023
2nd screening (interview)	Late-October, 2023 *Based on the results of the 1st screening (document screening), only when there

	is a close call that makes it difficult to determine adoption or rejection, the relevant application will be subject to a second round of screening.
Screening Committee	Early-November, 2023
Notification of selected projects	Late-November, 2023
Research starts	April 1, 2024

*The screening schedules above are tentative.

6. Screening procedure

(1) Screening Committee

The Screening Committee of the Program for Asia-Japan Research Development, which is established under the Steering Committee of the Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization, conducts screening in accordance with specific screening criteria. The 1st screening is a document screening and the 2nd is an interview screening. The Screening Committee is composed of on- and off-campus experts who are designated by the chairperson of the committee.

(2) Screening process

The following screening will be conducted for selecting projects.

(i) Submission of application form

(ii) Document screening (1st screening)

Projects that will proceed to the 2nd screening (interview) are selected.

(iii) Interview (2nd screening)

Interviews with project leaders and project members are conducted regarding project planning, features, research expense budget plan, etc.

(iv) Project adoption

Following the 2nd screening (interview), the projects to be adopted are selected.

(3) Screening criteria (common for the 1st and 2nd screenings)

(i) The contents of the project plan are consistent with the aim of the Program for Asia-Japan Research Development.

(ii) The project has originality, innovativeness, and a tendency to generate positive ripple effects.

(iii) The proposed contents can earn recognition from international journals and academic societies for their research achievements.

(iv) The development plan and research methods are appropriate and the contents are feasible.

(v) The contents of the project are expected to be developed into a medium- or large-scale Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research or other extramural funds after the project period is over.

(vi) The attainment target of the project is clearly specified.

(vii) The project plan incorporates the development of early-career researchers and graduate students (both master's and doctoral students).

(viii) The project has been or plans to be participated by those belonging to other universities and companies, particularly those at overseas universities.

(ix) The project plan improves the current gender equality situation.

(Consider a balance so that neither gender accounts for less than 25% of the total membership in a project.)

(x) The project plan contributes to the achievement of one or more (up to three) of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

(xi) The project plan contributes to the enhancement of the international presence of the Asia-Japan Research Institute

as well as Ritsumeikan University through its activities.

7. Notes

- (1) An annual research plan must be submitted each academic year in addition to a progress report every semester. Progress of the project is verified and feedback is given by the Steering Committee for the Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization through interviews, etc.
- (2) The project leader must attend the Steering Committee for the Asia-Japan Research Institute as a member of the institute.
- (3) Extramural research grants (Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research S, A, B, etc.) must be applied for to continuously develop the project.
- (4) Two academic papers (review articles are also acceptable) and one book review must be contributed to academic journals published in English by the Asia-Japan Research Institute.
- (5) After the completion of the project, one research report written in English covering the entire research period must be submitted. If the report is not submitted, the project leader will be disqualified from applying as a project leader to this program in the future.
- (6) Efforts should be made to proactively and strategically disseminate project achievements outside of the University. With regards to media exposure such as newspapers and television, the Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization must be notified in advance.

8. Requests for projects

- (1) Cooperate with activities organized by the Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization or Asia-Japan Research Institute. (Participate in/organize symposiums, seminars, etc.)
- (2) Select and employ Senior Researchers and Researchers based on their personality and capabilities, and also make efforts to develop their future career paths (not only in academia but also in industry) for when the research period is over.

9. Restrictions regarding multiple applications

- (1) Applications for the AY2024 Program for Asia-Japan Research Development
 - A researcher who applies as a “project leader” in a project for the AY2024 Program for Asia-Japan Research Development may participate in another project for this program as a “project member.” If both projects become candidates for adoption, their research content and scale will be considered before determining how to appropriately coordinate the research.
 - Applications as “project leader” for multiple projects for the AY2024 Program for Asia-Japan Research Development shall not be permitted. However, participation in this program as a “project member” is possible.
 - “Project leaders” who were selected for the Second-phase Program for Asia-Japan Research Development in previous years and have remaining research period in AY2024 or later may not apply to be a “project leader” for the AY2024 Program for Asia-Japan Research Development.
- (2) Applications from project leaders of other research program's in Advanced Research Programs
 - A Project Leader or Group Leader for the “Forth-Phase R-GIRO Research Program” may not apply to be a “Project Leader” of the AY2024 Program for Asia-Japan Research Development.

10. Application procedure

Applications must be made by submitting via e-mail the prescribed application forms to the relevant Research Office.

[Application Period] Between Tuesday, July 18 and Monday, September 25, 2023: Must arrive by noon

11. Guidance for application

The Ritsumeikan Asia-Japan Research Organization will hold a Zoom online guidance on applications for the Second-phase Program for Asia-Japan Research Development. At the guidance, the Organization will explain the aims and content of the program, application requirements, schedules and other points.

Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 1:00-1:30 pm

Please register from the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/CcqLWpTXZ7>

12. For submissions and inquiries

Campus	Office and persons in charge
Suzaku	Ritsumeikan Advanced Research Academy (RARA) Office Nakagawa (Ms.), Ueda (Ms.) 5th floor, Nakagawa Hall, Suzaku Campus 1 Nishinokyo-Suzaku-cho, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto 604-8520 JAPAN Extension: 510-2417 mailto: aji-res@st.ritsumei.ac.jp
Kinugasa	Research Office at Kinugasa Campus Tsuji (Mr.), Naruse (Ms.) 2nd floor, Shugakukan Hall, Kinugasa Campus 56-1 Toji-in Kitamachi, Kita-ku, Kyoto 603-8577 JAPAN Extension: 511-2402 mailto: h-tsuji@st.ritsumei.ac.jp ; 020721ab@st.ritsumei.ac.jp
Biwako-Kusatsu (BKC)	Research Office at Biwako-Kusatsu Campus Osaki (Mr.), Ishikawa (Mr.), Tsukada (Ms.) 3rd floor, Research Center for Disaster Mitigation System Ritsumeikan University Biwako-Kusatsu Campus (BKC) 1-1-1 Noji-higashi, Kusatsu, Shiga 525-8577 JAPAN Extension: 515-6537 mailto: b-accept@st.ritsumei.ac.jp
Osaka Ibaraki (OIC)	Research Office at Osaka Ibaraki Campus Okamoto (Mr.), Katayama (MS.), Hotta (Ms.) 8th floor, Building AC Ritsumeikan University Osaka Ibaraki Campus (OIC) 2-150 Iwakura-cho, Ibaraki, Osaka 567-8570 JAPAN Extension: 513-2946 mailto: oicro@st.ritsumei.ac.jp

Refer to details regarding research projects adopted in the past years available on the Asia-Japan Research Institute website.

*Research area “Reconciliation” was replaced with “Co-commitment” in AY2022.

<http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/research/aji/research/>