

Orientation and Class Placement for the Language Courses

1. Freshman Orientation Sessions

The University will hold a series of orientation sessions and all freshmen MUST attend these sessions.

The sessions cover how the University works. The University also provides important information regarding your life at Ritsumeikan and in Japan.

2. Class Placement for Academic Skills course

① English Placement Test

- The English Placement Test is required for all students in order for the Academic Skills class placement.

【About TOEFL-ITP® Digital Edition (with speaking section)】

The College of International Relations administers the online pre-entry English test (test type: TOEFL-ITP® digital version (with speaking section)). In [Academic Skills], which is offered to first-year students in the Global Studies Major and Joint Degree Program, students are placed in classes according to their level of proficiency. The pre-entrance English online test scores will be used to determine class placement.

All new students are required to take the test during the following test period using their computer at home.

*The test takes about 130 minutes.

Schedule	start time for the test (JST)
Monday, March 9 th - Tuesday, March 24 th *Except Saturdays, Sundays, and Japan national holidays (March 20 th)	(1) 10:00~ (2) 13:00~ (3) 16:00~ 3 times/day
Thursday, March 26 th - Saturday, March 28 th	(1) 10:00~ (2) 13:00~ (3) 16:00~ 3 times/day

Please refer to the following websites for details.

Website of the Language Education Center, Ritsumeikan University (Pre-entrance English Online Test page)

URL: https://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gengo/online/info-internationalrelations_GSmajor.html

【Writing Test】

The Writing Test will be held on April 1st (Wed). Check the schedule sheet for more details.

3. Foreign Languages Courses

① Language Selection Process

- Students will be placed in a Japanese or other foreign languages courses based on the conditions below.

1) Students without any experience studying Japanese

Students who have never studied Japanese do not need to take the “ROJPT Ritsumeikan Online Japanese Placement Test”. They will automatically be placed in Level 1 class of Japanese.

2) Students who can submit a JLPT N1 Certificate or who are native speakers of Japanese

Students with native-level Japanese proficiency can choose one of six languages (See Table 2 below). Students cannot choose a language of which they are native speakers. Taking the “ROJPT Ritsumeikan Online Japanese Placement Test” is not necessary.

3) Students except those of (1) and (2)

These students must take the “ROJPT Ritsumeikan Online Japanese Placement Test” from January 31st to February 9th.

<IMPORTANT>

Your ID is valid from January 30th.

If these students are placed in Level VII, they can choose to take another foreign language instead of Japanese.

However, these students CANNOT take a foreign language of which they are native speakers.

Table 1: Overview of Japanese and Foreign Language Courses by Level and Year

One credit hour for a Japanese language course is defined as one class per week for 14 weeks (one semester)

Class Level	1 st Year		2 nd Year and Beyond
	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester	3 rd Semester and Beyond
VII	3 classes a week	3 classes a week	Students can continue taking Japanese VIII courses, which are worth 4 credits over 2 semesters (2 credits per semester)
6			If students wish, they may advance to the next level of Japanese classes.
5			
4			
3			
2			
1			

*Students who finish Level VII and wish to continue studying will have 2 classes a week

Note:

Level VII classes are open to students with a Japanese ability equivalent to or higher than JLPT N1 (approximately 900 study hours of Japanese) and wish to further improve their Japanese ability. In these classes, students will:

- Develop their grammar skills and learn how to write reports and short essays [文章表現]
- Increase their vocabulary and improve their reading skills through various reading materials [読解]
- Develop their listening comprehension and logical expressiveness through presentations and debate [聴解口頭]

Required No. of Credits for Elementary-Level Foreign Language	1 st Year		2 nd Year
	1 st Semester	2 nd Semester	3 rd Semester and beyond
Choose 1 language from Table 2 below (6 credits)	3 classes a week	3 classes a week	There is no available class. If you wish to continue taking the foreign language courses, please enroll in the 副専攻 program.

Table 2: Other Foreign Language Courses Available for Students with Native-Level Japanese Proficiency

1	Japanese (Post-Advanced)	4	Korean (Elementary)	7	French (Advanced)	10	German (Elementary)
2	Chinese (Elementary)	5	Korean (Advanced)	8	Spanish (Elementary)	11	German (Advanced)
3	Chinese (Advanced)	6	French (Elementary)	9	Spanish (Advanced)		

*You cannot choose to study a language in which you are a native speaker

Note:

Chinese, Korean, French, Spanish, German (Elementary)

Each language will be studied from an elementary level. Please note that all classes are conducted in Japanese.

Chinese, Korean, French, Spanish, German (Advanced)

These classes are available to students who have studied a language before or lived for over one year in a country where the language is spoken. A separate orientation session will be held for students who wish to take advanced classes.

② Purpose of Studying the Japanese Language

Although the Global Studies Major is an English-based major, to ensure that students studying in Japan experience a well-rounded student life and education and have a variety of career options, we recommend that students take Japanese courses proactively with the following goals in mind.

- 1) Acquire basic skills that allow one to engage in daily conversation.
- 2) Develop a base so that one can continue improving into the future.

The minimum required number of credits is explained in the tables above. However, if they wish, students can continue taking Japanese classes beyond the minimum requirements until graduation. In the future, if a student chooses an occupation in Japan or one with a strong connection to Japan, a high level of Japanese ability will be desired. We urge you to take advantage of the Japanese curriculum at Ritsumeikan University.