

## **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-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 <sup>th</sup> - Tuesday, March 24 <sup>th</sup> *Except Saturdays, Sundays, and Japan national holidays (March 20 <sup>th</sup> )	(1) 10:00~ (2) 13:00~ (3) 16:00~ 3 times/day
Thursday, March 26 <sup>th</sup> - Saturday, March 28 <sup>th</sup>	(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](https://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/gengo/online/info-internationalrelations_GSmajor.html)

#### **【Writing Test】**

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

### **3. Japanese Language (as a foreign language) Requirement**

- Students will be placed in one of the Japanese language course tracks based on their Japanese abilities.

#### **1) Students who have never studied Japanese before**

Students who have never studied Japanese do not need to take the ROJPT (Ritsumeikan Online Japanese Placement Test).

#### **2) Students who have a JLPT N1 Certificate or who are native Japanese speakers**

Students with native-level Japanese proficiency will be exempted from the requirement of taking Japanese language classes and will not need to take the ROJPT.

Non-native Japanese speakers having a JLPT N1 Certificate can take Japanese classes at Level VII.

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

These students must take the "ROJPT Ritsumeikan Online Japanese Placement Test" **from January 31<sup>st</sup> to February 9<sup>th</sup>**. Students who are placed in Level VII (post-advanced level) can choose NOT to take Japanese language classes.

**Table 1: Overview of Japanese 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 <sup>st</sup> Year		2 <sup>nd</sup> Year and Beyond
	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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			

### ① About Japanese Language Courses

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]

### ② Purpose of Studying the Japanese Language

To realize the vision of this joint degree program, this program offers Japanese language courses on which students will obtain at least intermediate-level Japanese. 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.