

Academic Year 2026 Laptop Computer Purchase Guide for New Students

College of Global Liberal Arts

Welcome to Ritsumeikan University! All faculty and staff are delighted to have you join our community. We sincerely hope that your learning experience at Ritsumeikan University will be both rewarding and fulfilling.

During your studies, you will frequently need to use a computer for classes and assignments, and some courses may be delivered in an online format.

To assist you in selecting an appropriate device, we have summarized the recommended specifications below. While tablet-style laptops are widely available, we strongly recommend a traditional laptop computer with an integrated keyboard and display.

[Laptop Computer Spec Check Points]

Check Points	Recommendations
<Weight> Select a portable, light, and slim model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without an optical drive: 1.3 kg or less With an optical drive: 2.0 kg or less An “optical drive” refers to CD/DVD/BD drives. For portability, we recommend models without an optical drive. External optical drives can be purchased separately if needed.
<OS> Computers in multimedia classrooms and open labs at Osaka Ibaraki Campus (OIC) use Windows OS .	For Windows laptops, Windows 11 is recommended. Please note: ARM-based Windows devices may have compatibility issues with certain software, which could hinder use on campus.
<CPU> The operational speed of devices depends on the CPU's functionality. It also depends on the type of storage, such as HDD or SSD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended: Intel Core Ultra 5 or Core i5, or equivalent performance AMD Ryzen 5 5000 series or higher is also recommended Performance increases in the order: Ultra 3 < Ultra 5 < Ultra 7 < Ultra 9 . The conventional Core i series is also sufficient.
<Memory> Ample onboard memory will make it easier to run multiple software simultaneously.	Recommended: At least 16 GB of RAM Although some laptops allow memory expansion, others do not. Therefore, we strongly recommend choosing a model with at least 16 GB pre-installed .
<Storage> Your data will be saved in storage, and the device accesses it frequently when it is in use.	Recommended: SSD with at least 256 GB SSD offers faster processing and lower risk of failure compared to HDD (which is not recommended). Additionally, students can use up to 1 TB of Microsoft OneDrive cloud storage during enrollment.
<Wireless LAN, Wi-Fi> Wi-Fi is available in all areas and classrooms at OIC.	Recommended: A network adapter supporting Wi-Fi 6/6E (IEEE802.11ax) .
<External Outputs> External outputs are necessary to connect the device to external monitors when, for instance, giving presentations in class, etc.	Required: HDMI output (or USB Type-C with video output capability) If your device only has USB Type-C, an HDMI conversion adapter will be useful.
<Web Camera, Microphone, Headphone> These devices may be necessary for some classes.	Some classes require a web camera and microphone. Bluetooth-enabled devices can use wireless headphones, so a wired headphone jack is not strictly necessary.

Free Software Installation

During classes, you will use various software applications such as word processors, spreadsheets, and presentation tools. Ritsumeikan University provides **Microsoft 365 Apps** for free installation. Available applications include **Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, and Outlook**. Installation manuals are available on the RITSUMEIKAN IT Support Site.

Please note:

- Microsoft 365 Apps can only be used during your enrollment at Ritsumeikan University.
- Install the software **after admission**.
- Installation is limited to the personal computer you use.

<https://it.support.ritsumei.ac.jp/hc/ja/articles/900006824883>

Practice Touch Typing

Throughout your university life, you will frequently use a computer for writing reports and conducting research.

Learning **touch typing**—typing without looking at the keyboard—will help you work more efficiently.

There are many free websites for practicing touch typing. We strongly recommend practicing before your first semester begins.

On-Campus Wi-Fi

At Osaka Ibaraki Campus (OIC), Wi-Fi is available in most areas. To connect, you will need your **RAINBOW User ID** and password, which will be issued upon admission.

Once you receive your credentials, try connecting your laptop to the campus Wi-Fi. Connection guides are available on the RITSUMEIKAN IT Support Site.

If you experience difficulties, please:

- Refer to the IT Support Site again, or
- Visit the **RAINBOW Service Desk** on the 2nd floor of Building C.

<https://it.support.ritsumei.ac.jp/hc/ja/articles/4402955394841>

VPN Connection to Access RAINBOW Outside of Campus

VPN stands for **Virtual Private Network**. It allows you to access the university's internal network from home or other off-campus locations, enabling you to use services that are otherwise restricted to on-campus access.

For details, visit the RITSUMEIKAN IT Support Site or consult the **RAINBOW Service Desk** on the 2nd floor of Building C.

<https://it.support.ritsumei.ac.jp/hc/ja/articles/900006789143>