

Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Affairs/ Bachelor of Global Liberal Arts

FAQ's for students commencing their dual degree program at The Australian National University

ANU

- 1. Is there an age requirement for enrolling into this dual degree program?** Yes, due to Japanese university and government requirements you must be 18 years old prior to 1 April of the year you intend to commence the program.
- 2. What will be my length of stay at ANU and in Japan?** If you study full time, then you will spend Years 1 & 4 at ANU and Years 2 & 3 at the Osaka Ibaraki Campus of Ritsumeikan University (RU).
- 3. How is the program structured?** Whilst at ANU, you will study courses from the Bachelor of Asia Pacific Affairs, and whilst at RU you will study courses from the Bachelor of Global Liberal Arts. Both institutions will cross-credit courses, so that in four years of full-time study you can graduate with a Bachelor degree from each institution.
- 4. How will I pay my tuition fees?** If you are a domestic student, then you will pay your tuition fees to ANU as a normal domestic student [[HECS band 1](#) - \$6,444 in 2018] for all four years of your degree. You will not pay any tuition fees to Ritsumeikan University. You will, however, need to pay administrative fees to RU <http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/gla/admissions/>
If you are an international student and you decide to commence the dual degree program at ANU, then you will pay the standard international student tuition fees [Annual indicative fee for international students \$41,280] to ANU for all four years of your degree. It is recommended that international students commence the program at RU.
- 5. How many places will be available for this degree each year?** Each year there will be a maximum of 10 places available for students to commence in this program at ANU. There are up to 90 places available for students to commence at RU.
- 6. Can I study this degree part time?** It is possible for you to do this degree part time whilst you are in Australia but we strongly recommend that you study full time. Whilst you are at Ritsumeikan University, however, you are required to study full time as part of the visa regulations.
- 7. What is the application process for accommodation at ANU?** You will need to apply for accommodation through an online application. For more information on how to apply, visit: <http://www.anu.edu.au/study/accommodation/advice-procedures/how-to-apply-for-student-accommodation>

ADMISSION

- 1. What is the ANU application process?** As a domestic student, you will need to apply through UAC. Here is a link which will give you more detail about how to apply <https://www.uac.edu.au/future-applicants>. The UAC course code for the Bachelor of Asia Pacific Affairs is 132006 and the listing can be viewed here <https://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/anu/132006.shtml>
If you are an international student and you decide to commence the dual degree program at ANU, then you will need to follow the steps at the following link <http://www.anu.edu.au/study/apply/anu-undergraduate-international-applications>
- 2. What are the entry requirements for this program?** If you are applying through UAC, you will need to have an ATAR of 82 or equivalent. Please note there is a maximum of 10 places available in this program to commence at ANU each year.

3. **Can I apply for this program and commence in Semester 2?** No, this program is only offered for a semester 1 intake each academic year.
4. **Can I defer/ take a gap year and commence the program the following year?** Yes, but you will need to defer for a year as there is only a single intake each year in Semester 1.
5. **Can you explain the Admission, Scholarship and Accommodation (ASA) project in more detail?** The ASA Project will take effect from 2020 and will be a different type of admission process. For more information, please refer to: <https://services.anu.edu.au/planning-governance/project-management/admissions-scholarship-and-accommodation-asa>

PROGRAM

1. **What courses can I choose from and are there any compulsory or elective courses that I can take?** There are a number of compulsory courses which you will need to take and a number of elective courses to choose from. For more information, visit: <https://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/2019/program/BAPAF>
2. **Are Japanese language courses compulsory?** No, you are not required to take Japanese language courses if you do not want to.
3. **Will I be able to take some Japanese language courses?** Yes, you will be able to take a maximum of 24 units [4 courses] of Japanese language courses.
4. **Will I be able to do more advanced language courses if I have already studied it in High school?** Yes, you will be able to take a placement test and be placed in an advanced Japanese course.
5. **Will courses be taught in Japanese?** No, apart from the Japanese language courses, all courses will be taught in English, including all courses taken at Ritsumeikan University.
6. **Can I transfer into this degree from another degree?** Yes, but be aware that you may not get credit for all courses undertaken in your previous degree and that if you do receive credit, it may impact the structure/timelines of the Bachelor of Asia Pacific Affairs.
7. **What happens if I need to exit the program early?** Can I transfer into another degree? It is possible for you to transfer into another degree if you need to. For more information on the process behind this, please visit: <http://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/program-management/transferring-between-degrees>
8. **What if I want to return to Australia before I complete my two years in Japan?** A student wishing to return to ANU before completing their study in Japan could either defer study and return to Japan at a later stage or withdraw from the dual degree. If you choose to withdraw from the dual degree you can apply to transfer into a different degree upon returning to ANU. For more information on the process behind this, please visit: <http://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/program-management/transferring-between-degrees>

Ritsumeikan University [RU], Japan

- 1. Do I need to complete a separate application for RU?** If you have been accepted into the program at ANU, then we will guide you through the application process with RU.
- 2. When will the semester start at Ritsumeikan?** The semesters are from April-July and September- January at Ritsumeikan University. For more information, visit this link: http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/e-ug/student_life/
- 3. Will there be any pre-departure briefings before we go?** Yes, there will be a pre-departure briefing organised before you leave to go to Japan. This will give you an idea of what to prepare for (visa, travel insurance etc.)
- 4. Will there be any ANU support services while I'm in Japan?** Yes, there will an ANU Program Convenor and Administrator on campus to help you with course selection and any coursework issues you might have. You will also continue to have access to all ANU services and we encourage you to stay connected.
- 5. What courses can I take at RU?** The Bachelor of Global Liberal Arts at RU includes Cosmopolitan studies (cultural and area studies), Civilization studies (history and social theory), Innovation studies (management theory, science and technology studies) and Japanese studies (Japanese history, society and culture, with a languages option) <http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/gla/education/curriculum/>
- 6. How do I organise my visa?** You will need to apply for a visa through the Japanese embassy. Information on this will be provided at the pre-departure briefing for the program. You will be responsible for your own visa application. Please note that neither ANU nor RU can guarantee the issuance of a visa.
- 7. Can I get a part time job while I am in Japan?** There are strict rules around working in Japan. We strongly encourage that you make sure that you have sufficient funds to support yourself without a job while you are in Japan. For more information on working visas, visit: <https://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/inj/inj03e.html>
- 8. Will I need to organise my own flight to Japan?** Yes
- 9. Will I need health insurance in Japan?** Yes, you are responsible for your own health insurance coverage whilst in Japan. You will be required to enrol in Japan's National Health Insurance upon arrival. For more information visit: <https://www.internationalstudentinsurance.com/blog/2014/04/insurance-international-students-japan.html>
- 10. What kind of accommodation will there be in Japan and how do I apply for this?**
Ritsumeikan University will have advice on accommodation options. If you want to stay in an RU student dormitory, then you will need to apply for this. However, a place is guaranteed as long as all relevant housing application deadlines are met. ANU will provide more details as part of the pre-departure information. As a guide to what the accommodation may look like please see the link below to RU student accommodation at another campus <http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/lifecareer/dorm/kinugasa/>
- 11. What is the cost of accommodation at RU?** This depends on what type of accommodation you choose but an indicative annual student dormitory accommodation fee is JPY720,000/ AUD \$9,000
[The Australian Government estimates the combined living and accommodation costs for an international student in Canberra is \$20K annually (vs \$24K in Japan)]
- 12. What is the cost of living in Japan?** Living expenses will vary significantly depending on each students individual lifestyle, but an estimated annual expense for the average student would be JYP1,200,000/ AUD \$15,000
[The Australian Government estimates the combined living and accommodation costs for an international student in Canberra is \$20K annually (vs \$24K in Japan)]

FUNDING OPTIONS

What scholarship/funding support options are there for this program?

1. **OS-HELP LOAN [Overseas Study Loan]** Students need to be eligible to apply.

Link: <http://www.anu.edu.au/students/scholarships-fees/fees-payments/os-help>

The amount you may apply to borrow is indexed annually by the Australian Government on 1 January. In 2018, the maximum amount is:

- \$6,665 (if you will not be studying in Asia); or
 - \$7,998 if you will be studying in Asia; and
 - an additional \$1,065 if you will be undertaking Asian language study in preparation for study in Asia
- As part of your OS-HELP application, you can nominate the amount you wish to borrow, but it cannot exceed the above.
 - Maximums increase each year
 - You can apply for up to the maximum for the year in which you are applying, NOT the year in which you will travel
 - You must use the forms for the year you are applying in, as they vary each year
 - The total amount of OS-HELP loan approved for each applicant is dependent on the total OS-HELP funding made available to the University. In the event of limited availability of funds, the selection basis for the provision of OS-HELP loans will be based on merit

2. **ENGAGE ASIA TRAVEL GUARENTEE** All students participating in approved overseas study programs as part of their College of Asia and the Pacific degree program are guaranteed funding support through the EngageAsia Travel Guarantee. Funding support may consist of a combination of scholarship(s), travel grants, and/or government funding. Students participating in the RU Dual Degree program may have access to range of scholarships, grants, and funding support from ANU and/or RU. Students will be guaranteed a minimum of \$2000 in funding support, but may receive more depending on other funding mechanisms. More information and advice will be given to students in the program as they prepare for their first year at RU.

3. **CENTRELINK ALLOWANCE** Students who receive a Centrelink allowance (eg Youth Allowance) are usually eligible to continue receiving this allowance when studying overseas. In all cases, please refer to Centrelink for the most current information and advice.

4. **SCHOLARSHIPS** You may find that you are eligible to apply for scholarships such as the [George Alexander Foundation Scholarship](#)

We encourage you to look around at what scholarships may be available. The ANU Scholarships website would be a good starting point <http://www.anu.edu.au/students/scholarships-fees/scholarships>

OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. What are the job opportunities after I graduate?** This dual-degree program will equip students with critical thinking skills, regional expertise and cross-cultural competence. The degree will draw on the collective strengths of both institutions to prepare students for a wide range of careers across public and private sectors in the region and across the world in:
 - Government agencies
 - Consultancy firms
 - Business and trade organisations
 - Development and aid organisations
 - Media agencies
 - Universities
 - Research organisations
- 2. What Postgraduate study opportunities will there be?** This degree will equip you well to commence postgraduate studies in the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs or elsewhere. Programs that may be of interest are Masters in Diplomacy, International Relations, Strategic Studies or Political Science. Visit our website to discover what's available:
<http://bellschool.anu.edu.au/study/postgraduate-coursework>