

Chronology of Ritsumeikan

- 1869 Prince Saionji Kinmochi founds the private academy, Ritsumeikan
- 1900 Nakagawa Kojuro, former secretary of Prince Saionji, establishes the Kyoto Hosei School, the predecessor of the current College of Law
- 1903 Under the Professional School Degree, the school name changes to "Kyoto Profession School of Law"
- 1904 Name changes to "Kyoto College of Law and Politics"
- 1905 The school adopts the name "Ritsumeikan," with permission of Prince Saionji
- 1913 The name of the school is changed to "Ritsumeikan University"
- 1922 Ritsumeikan University is reestablished under the University Decree
- 1927 College of Letter is established
- 1945 President Suekawa Hiroshi introduces a series of democratic reforms, including the Plenary Council and the Presidential Election System
- 1948 Ritsumeikan University is reorganized under the School Education Law to include Colleges of Law, Economics, and Letters as well as the Institute of the Humanities, Human and Social Sciences
- 1949 College of Science and Engineering is established
- 1950 Graduate Schools of Law, Economics and Letters are established
- 1952 Ritsumeikan Junior and Senior High School is established
- 1955 Institute of Science and Engineering is established
- 1962 College of Business Administration is established
- 1965 College of Social Sciences is established
Kinugasa Campus is established in Kyoto's Kita Ward
- 1966 Graduate School of Business Administration is established
- 1972 Graduate School of Sociology is established
- 1988 College of International Relations and the Institute of International and Area Studies is established
- 1989 Institute of International Language and Cultural Studies is established
- 1990 Institute of Educational Science is established
- 1991 Ritsumeikan-UBC House for the Joint Ritsumeikan-UBC Program is established on the campus of the University of British Columbia, Canada
- 1992 Graduate School of International Relations and the Kyoto Museum for World Peace is established
- 1994 Biwako-Kusatsu Campus (BKC) is established in Kusatsu City, Shiga Prefecture; College of Science and Engineering is relocated to BKC
College of Policy Science and the Research Organization of Science and Engineering are established
- 1995 Ritsumeikan Uji Senior High School is established
- 1996 The Comprehensive Research Organization of Science and Engineering is established
Ritsumeikan Keisho Senior High School is established
Unified Day and Evening Instruction Program begin
- 1997 Graduate School of Policy Science is established
- 1998 Colleges of Economics and Business Administration is relocated to BKC;
Integrated Institute of Arts and Science is established

- 2000 Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) is established in Beppu City, Oita Prefecture; Inter-Faculty Institute for International Students is established; Ritsumeikan Keisho Junior High School is established
- 2001 Graduate School of Science and Human Services is established
- 2003 Graduate Schools of Language Education, Information Science, Core Ethics and Frontier Sciences are established
- 2004 Ritsumeikan University School of Law is established at Kinugasa Campus; College of Information Science and Technology is established
- 2005 Graduate School of Technology Management is established
- 2006 Graduate School of Management is established;
Ritsumeikan Primary School is established;
Ritsumeikan Moriyama Senior High School is established;
Suzaku Campus is established in Kyoto City
Ritsumeikan University School of Law is relocated to Suzaku Campus
- 2007 College of Image Arts and Sciences established; Ritsumeikan Moriyama Junior High School is established in Moriyama City, Shiga Prefecture; Graduate School of Public Policy is established at Suzaku Campus; In College of Social Sciences, Department of Social Sciences and Department of Human Welfare are combined to form Department of Social Sciences;
Tokyo Campus is established
- 2008 College of Life Sciences and Pharmaceutical Sciences are established
- 2010 College of Sport and Health Science is established;
Graduate School of Sport and Health Science is established
- 2011 Graduate School of Image Arts and Sciences is established;
Global Studies Major is established in College of International Relations
- 2012 Graduate School of Information Science and Engineering is established;
Graduate School of Life Sciences is established; In College of Science and Engineering, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Department of Photonics are combined to form Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering; Department of VLSI System Design changes its name to Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering; Department of Mechanical Engineering and Department of Micro System Technology are combined to form Department of Mechanical Engineering;
In College of Letters, 14 majors and programs are combined while eight programs and 18 majors are established
- 2013 Community and Regional Policy Studies Major is established in College of Policy Science
Ritsumeikan University co-established International School of Information Science & Engineering with Dalian University of Technology
- 2014 Graduate School of Pharmacy is established
Major in Informatics of Behavior and Culture is established in Graduate School of Letters (Two majors with 15 fields in total)
Ritsumeikan Junior and Senior High School is relocated to Nagaokakyo City in Kyoto Prefecture
- 2015 Osaka Ibaraki Campus (OIC) is established in Ibaraki City, Osaka Prefecture