

For international students expecting to graduate/complete their studies in September 2023

How to apply for a letter of recommendation necessary to change to a “Designated Activities” status of residence

Ritsumeikan University International Center

International students with a “Student” status of residence will lose this status of residence upon graduating or completing their studies, even if there is still time left until the expiration of the period of stay, which means that it is not legally permitted to continue job hunting activities without changing their status of residence. After graduating, international students must either promptly return to their home country or acquire a new status of residence if they will remain in Japan.

For students who have been searching for a job but have not yet been successful and who wish to continue job hunting activities after graduating/completing their studies, it is possible to change to a “Designated Activities” status of residence (valid for 6 months) if certain requirements are met. When applying to change to a “Designated Activities” status of residence at the Immigration Bureau, a letter of recommendation issued by the university is required.

Ritsumeikan University holds two application periods per year – one in spring semester and one in fall semester – for the issuance of letters of recommendation. International students from whom the International Center receives an application for a letter of recommendation will undergo a strict evaluation of their studies, lifestyle condition, job hunting activities up to the time of application, and likelihood of obtaining a job in the future. A letter of recommendation will be issued to students for whom it is deemed appropriate. (Letters of recommendation will not be issued outside of the designated timeline for each application period and to students who have already graduated.)

The application guidelines for students who are expecting to graduate or complete their studies in September 2023 to apply for a letter of recommendation in order to apply for a “Designated Activities” status of residence, are listed below.

1. Applying

Applicants must fulfill all of the below conditions and can be expected to be able to fulfill all the necessary obligations if a letter of recommendation is issued. Applications from students who do not fulfill all of the application criteria will not be accepted.

- ① Must have received permission to (OR expect to) graduate/complete studies at the time of application.
- ② Must have registered for the Career Office’s job-hunting system (*shinro kibou toroku*).
*PhD students who are seeking research positions are not required to register for the Career Office’s job-hunting system.
- ③ Must have completed the following three conditions AND be able to submit records of interactions with companies as proof (e-mails or contact/notifications on webpages).
 - Must have officially applied to 5 or more companies (for students graduating in September) or 10 or more companies (for students graduating in March) with the submission of an entry sheet
 - Must have passed the first interview stage of at least one company, AND
 - Must be at the selection stage (Waiting for results of the application screening or the results of the first interview) with at least one company at the time of application (pre-entry applications and attendance at information sessions only cannot be included).
 *Graduate students who are seeking research positions will not be required to submit proof

of the above three, BUT must be in the selection stage (have an interview scheduled, etc.) at the time of application.

- ④ Must not be subject to disciplinary action under the Ritsumeikan University Student Disciplinary Regulations at the time of application.
- ⑤ Must have sufficient funds to cover living expenses while staying in Japan (minimum 600,000 yen).
- ⑥ Must hold a valid residence card at the time of application.
- ⑦ Must have attended the 'letter of recommendation from Ritsumeikan University needed to change to a "Designated Activities" status of residence application' Information Session OR have read through the information session materials.
- ⑧ Must have had an Individual Career Counseling session with the Career Center by the time of application.
*graduate students looking for research positions are not required to do so.

2. Application Deadline

Wednesday, August 23, 5:00 pm

3. How to Apply and Required Documents

Please send the following documents to the International Center (ru-inter@st.ritsumei.ac.jp)
E-mail subject must be [Campus name] student ID number 'Application for "Designated Activities"' and all files must be submitted as PDFs. If you do not submit all the necessary documents by the deadline, you cannot proceed to the interview.

<Required Documents>

- ① Application Form for the Issuance of a Letter of Recommendation (Designated Form 1)※
- ② Job-Hunting Status Notification Sheet (Designated Form 2)※
- ③ Proof that satisfies "Eligibility" item ③ above.
*Screenshots of job-hunting support websites, e-mail exchanges with hiring recruitment staff, etc.
- ④ Photocopy of bankbook or a money transfer certificate ("Eligibility" item ⑤, documents that prove your financial ability to support yourself for half a year)
*A minimum of 600,000 yen is required
*The photocopy of your bankbook must display information updated within one week of the day you submit your application.
- ⑤ Copy of your residence card (both sides)

[※Download Page for Required Documents ①・② (International Center FAQ page)]

<https://global.support.ritsumei.ac.jp/hc/en-us/articles/4403634978451-I-want-to-continue-job-hunting-in-Japan-after-graduation-Is-it-possible-to-stay-in-Japan-with-a-Student-status-of-residence-2022-7-15Updated>

4. Screening Process

- Decisions for the issuance of letters of recommendation will be made based on document review and an interview.
- Concerning the results of the document screening, we will contact those that will be given an interview by Friday, September 1 with the date and time of the Interviews are planned for Monday, September 4 – Friday, September 8, 2023. The International Center will designate an interview time, so please keep your schedule open during the above period.
- The interview is conducted in either Japanese or English. Please designate your preferred language in the language selection section of Designated Form 1.

5. Obligations for Students who Receive a Letter of Recommendation

- ① Must use the Career Office or the post-graduate support service offered by the Career Office at least once per month.
- ② Must report to the Career Office on the campus to which you belonged (when you were a student) at least once per month.
- ③ If leaving Japan temporarily, must submit a Notification of Temporarily Leaving Japan (for students with “Designated Activities” status of residence) to the International Center via e-mail.
- ④ Must complete the application procedures to change status of residence at the Immigration Bureau on their own within 14 days of receiving notification of issuance of the letter of recommendation.

6. Important Points

- If you do not comply with 5. Obligations for Students who Receive a Letter of Recommendation, and we are not able to make any contact with you for 3 months or more, the university will report your status as “whereabouts unknown” to the Immigration Bureau. Depending on the situation, your “Designated Activities” status of residence may be revoked.
- Letters of recommendation will be issued once only. The university will not provide support for a status of residence after the expiration of the period of stay, so students who cannot find a job within the designated period (6 months) must leave Japan immediately.
- If recipients of a letter of recommendation become subject to disciplinary action under the Ritsumeikan University Student Disciplinary Regulations, issuance of said letter of recommendation will be revoked.
- Applicants may be asked to submit additional documents for screening purposes.
- Even if there is still time left on your period of stay, the “Student” status of residence is no longer valid after you graduate or complete your studies. If you continue job hunting after graduation under the mistaken assumption that your “Student” status is still valid, there is a possibility that even if you do successfully find a job, you will not receive permission to change to a status of residence necessary to be able to work. Please do not judge the situation yourself, and if you are unclear about the job-hunting process and your status of residence, please consult with the Immigration Bureau or the International Center at the campus to which you are affiliated.

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