

*Official text of the University Regulation is Japanese, and English version is provided for reference only. Should there be any discrepancies between Japanese version and English version, Japanese version will prevail.

Rikkyo University Regulations Book

Rikkyo University Edition

Part 5: Academic Affairs

Rikkyo University Degree Regulations

Enacted: April 1, 1961
Revised: April 1, 1976
April 1, 1990
April 1, 1991
October 11, 1991
April 1, 1992
April 1, 1993
April 1, 1994
April 1, 1996
April 1, 1997
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April 1, 2021
April 1, 2022
April 1, 2023
April 1, 2024
April 1, 2026
April 16, 2026
June 25, 2026

(Purpose)

Article 1

1. The purpose of these regulations is to set forth necessary matters with regard to the degrees conferred by Rikkyo University (hereinafter referred to as “the University”) in accordance with Article 104 (Paragraphs 1 through 4) of the School Education Act (Law No.26, 1947), the 1953 Degree Regulations (Ministry of Education, Science and Culture Order No. 9 of 1953), and the Rikkyo University Regulations and Rikkyo University Graduate School Regulations.

(Areas of Specialization)

Article 2

1. The names (degree tags) for areas of specialization for the undergraduate degrees conferred by the University’s colleges and departments shall be as follows.

College	Department	Degree Name	Specialization
College of Arts	Department of Christian Studies	Bachelor of Arts	in Christian Studies
	Department of History		in History
	Department of Education		in Education
	Department of Letters		
	Course in English and American Literature		in English and American Literature
	Course in German Literature		in German Literature
	Course in French Literature		in French Literature
	Course in Japanese Literature		in Japanese Literature
	Course in Philosophy and Creative Writing		in Philosophy and Creative Writing
	Global Liberal Arts Program		—
College of Economics	Department of Economics	Bachelor of Arts	in Economics
	Department of Accounting and Finance		
	Department of Economic Policy Studies		
College of Science	Department of Mathematics	Bachelor of Science	—
	Department of Physics		
	Department of Chemistry		
	Department of Life Science		
College of Sociology	Department of Sociology	Bachelor of Arts	in Sociology
	Department of Contemporary Culture and Society		
	Department of Communication and Media Studies		
College of Law and Politics	Department of Law	Bachelor of Arts	in Law
	Department of Politics		in Politics
	Department of International Business Law		in Law
College of Tourism	Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management	Bachelor of Arts	in Tourism
	Department of Culture and Tourism Studies		
College of Community and Human Services	Department of Social Work	Bachelor of Arts	in Social Work
	Department of Community Development		in Community Development
	Department of Sport and Wellness		in Sport and Wellness

College of Business	Department of Business Department of Global Business	Bachelor of Arts	in Business
College of Contemporary Psychology	Department of Psychology Department of Body Expression and Cinematic Arts	Bachelor of Arts	in Psychology in Body Expression and Cinematic Arts
College of Intercultural Communication	Department of Intercultural Communication	Bachelor of Arts	in Intercultural Communication Studies
College of Sport and Wellness	Department of Sport and Wellness	Bachelor of Arts	in Sport and Wellness
College of Environmental Studies	Department of Environmental Studies	Bachelor of Arts and Sciences	—

2. The names for areas of specialization for the postgraduate (Master's and Doctoral) degrees conferred by the University's Graduate School shall be as follows.

Graduate School	Specialization (Degree Name)	
	Master	Doctor
Graduate School of Arts	Arts (Master of Arts in Japanese Literature, Master of Arts in English and American Literature, Master of Arts in German Literature, Master of Arts in French Literature, Master of Arts in History, and Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies) Education (Master of Arts in Education) Comparative Civilizations (Master of Arts in Comparative Civilizations)	Philosophy (Doctor of Philosophy in Japanese Literature, Doctor of Philosophy in English and American Literature, Doctor of Philosophy in German Literature, Doctor of Philosophy in French Literature, Doctor of Philosophy in History, and Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies) Education (Doctor of Philosophy in Education) Comparative Civilizations (Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Civilizations)
Graduate School of Economics	Economics (Master of Arts in Economics) Accounting (Master of Arts in Accounting)	Economics (Doctor of Philosophy in Economics) Accounting (Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting)
Graduate School of Science	Science (Master of Science in Physics, Master of Science in Chemistry, Master of Science in Mathematics, and Master of Science in Life Science)	Science (Doctor of Philosophy in Physics, Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry, Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics, and Doctor of Philosophy in Life Science)
Graduate School of Sociology	Sociology (Master of Arts in Sociology)	Sociology (Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology)
Graduate School of Law and Politics	Law (Master of Arts in Law) Politics (Master of Arts in Politics)	Law (Doctor of Philosophy in Law) Politics (Doctor of Philosophy in Politics)

Graduate School	Specialization (Degree Name)	
	Master	Doctor
Graduate School of Tourism	Tourism (Master of Arts in Tourism)	Tourism (Doctor of Philosophy in Tourism)
Graduate School of Community and Human Services	Community and Human (Master of Arts in Community and Human Services)	Community and Human Services (Doctor of Philosophy in Community and Human Services)
	(Deleted)	(Deleted)
Graduate School of Business Administration	Business Administration (Master of Business Administration)	Business Administration (Doctor of Business Administration)
Graduate School of Social Design Studies	Business Administration in Social Design Studies (Master of Business Administration in Social Design Studies)	Business Administration in Social Design Studies (Doctor of Business Administration in Social Design Studies)
	Social Development and Administration (Master of Social Development and Administration)	
Graduate School of Intercultural Communication	Intercultural Communication Studies (Master of Arts in Intercultural Communication Studies)	Intercultural Communication Studies (Doctor of Philosophy in Intercultural Communication Studies)
Graduate School of Business	Business (Master of Arts in Business)	Business (Doctor of Philosophy in Business)
	International Business (Master of International Business)	
	Public Management and Administration (Master of Public Management and Administration)	
Graduate School of Contemporary Psychology	Psychology (Master of Arts in Psychology)	Psychology (Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology)
	Clinical Psychology (Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology)	Clinical Psychology (Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology)
	Body Expression and Cinematic Arts (Master of Arts in Body Expression and Cinematic Arts)	Body Expression and Cinematic Arts (Doctor of Philosophy in Body Expression and Cinematic Arts)
Graduate School of Christian Studies	Theology (Master of Theology)	Theology (Doctor of Theology)
	Arts (Master of Arts)	
	Applied Theology	

Graduate School	Specialization (Degree Name)	
	Master	Doctor
	(Master of Applied Theology)	
Graduate School of Artificial Intelligence and Science	Artificial Intelligence (Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence)	Artificial Intelligence (Doctor of Science in Artificial Intelligence)
Graduate School of Sport and Wellness	Sport and Wellness (Master of Arts in Sport and Wellness)	Sport and Wellness (Doctor of Philosophy in Sport and Wellness)

3. --deleted

(Degree Conferment Requirements)

Article 3

1. The prescribed undergraduate degrees set forth in the preceding article shall be conferred upon persons who have graduated from the University, in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 (Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3) of the University Regulations.
2. The prescribed master's degrees set forth in the preceding article shall be conferred upon persons who have completed a master's program (or master's program as the initial phase of a two-phase doctoral program) at the University Graduate School, in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 (Paragraphs 1 and 2) of the University Graduate School Regulations.
3. The prescribed doctoral degrees set forth in the preceding article shall be conferred upon persons who have completed a doctoral program (the second phase of a two-phase doctoral program) at the University Graduate School, in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 (Paragraphs 1 through 4) of the University Graduate School Regulations.
4. The prescribed doctoral degrees set forth in the preceding article may be conferred upon persons who have not completed a doctoral program (the second phase of a two-phase doctoral program) at the University Graduate School, in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 (Paragraph 5) of the University Graduate School Regulations.
5. --deleted

(Submission of Degree Theses)

Article 4

1. Degree application theses (hereinafter referred to "thesis" or "theses") shall be submitted to the University President (hereinafter referred to as "the President") in accordance with the provisions set forth by each graduate school.
2. When a person enrolled in a doctoral program at the University Graduate School applies for the conferment of a doctoral degree, they shall submit a thesis to the President along with a degree application form, a list or transcript of research results, a summary or abstract detailing the main portent of the thesis, a resume, and thesis review handling fees as stipulated separately.
3. When a person who has not completed a doctoral program at the University Graduate School applies for the conferment of a doctoral degree, they shall submit a thesis (specifying the name of the area of specialization for their desired degree) to the President along with a degree application form, a list or transcript of research results, a summary or abstract detailing the main portent of the thesis, a resume, and thesis review handling fees as stipulated separately.
4. When a person who has been enrolled on a doctoral program at the University Graduate School for a period of three (3) years or more—and has then withdrawn from the University Graduate School—applies for the conferment of a doctoral degree, they shall do so in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph.

5. When an application for the conferment of a degree fulfills the requirements of any one of the preceding four paragraphs, the President shall accept said application. As a general rule, once such an application has been accepted, it cannot be withdrawn.
6. Theses and thesis review handling fees submitted in accordance with Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not be returned.
7. The provisions of these Regulations and Paragraph 1 of this article shall apply with regard to the “research outcomes in relation to a specific task/topic” provided for under Article 5 (Paragraph 2) of the University Graduate School Regulations.

(Theses)

Article 5

1. Each main thesis submitted in accordance with the provisions of the preceding article should have one main volume. As a general rule, in the case of a master’s thesis, one copy should be submitted. In the case of a doctoral thesis, one PDF format copy and three book-bound copies should be submitted; provided, however, that students may also attach other theses for reference purposes.
2. When it is necessary in order to conduct a thesis review, the review committee may order the submission of other materials, including reference theses, thesis translations, models and samples, etc.

(Referral of Theses for Review)

Article 6

1. When a thesis has been accepted in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 (Paragraph 5) of these Regulations, the President shall refer said thesis to the Graduate School Faculty Meeting for the relevant school for the degree being applied for, for review purposes.

(Review Committees)

Article 7

1. Upon referral of a thesis for review purposes in accordance with the provisions of the preceding article, the relevant Graduate School Faculty Meeting shall establish a review committee comprising of three or more persons, including a member (or members) of teaching staff specializing in the relevant area of specialization for the degree being applied for.
2. Each review committee shall comprise of one chief reviewer and two or more deputy reviewers.
3. When a review committee deems it necessary to do so in order to conduct a thesis review, said review committee may, after discussion at a meeting of the relevant Graduate School Faculty Meeting, add additional specialist teaching staff (with specialisms relating to the thesis in question) to its members as deputy reviewers.
4. The chief reviewer for each review committee shall be selected from amongst teaching staff belonging to the relevant degree program for the degree being applied for; provided, however, that separate provisions shall be stipulated in the case of degree programs for which recruitment has been halted.

(Thesis Reviews and Examinations)

Article 8

1. Review committees shall conduct thesis reviews and final examinations.
2. Final examinations shall comprise of examinations on the thesis and its related subject modules, as well as two types of foreign language (oral and written) examinations. However, for those who are applying for a degree in accordance with the provisions of Article 3(Paragraph 4) of Rikkyo University Degree Regulations may be exempted from one

or two types of foreign language examinations if the Graduate School Faculty Meeting deems that there are special reasons to be considered.

3. In the event that, as a result of a thesis review, the review committee finds the content of the thesis to be remarkably poor, the review committee shall not conduct final examinations.
4. In the case of reviews in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 (Paragraph 4) of these Regulations, aside from the requirements set forth under Paragraph 2 of this Article, the review committee must certify that the person in question possesses the same academic knowledge and ability as a person who has been awarded a degree after completing a doctoral program (the second phase of a two-phase doctoral program) in relation to specialist academic study.

(Exemption from Examinations)

Article 9

1. Persons applying for a degree in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 (Paragraphs 1, 2 and 4) of these Regulations are exempt from the foreign language examinations provided for under Paragraph 2 of the preceding article.

(Review Periods)

Article 10

1. Each review committee must complete all thesis reviews and final examinations by the prescribed deadline. In the case of a master's degree, the review committee must complete thesis reviews and final examinations by the end of that semester. In the case of a doctoral degree under the Article 4 (paragraph 2), the review committee must complete thesis reviews and final examinations by the end of the year during which the degree application was accepted, and a doctoral degree under the Article 4 (paragraph 3 or 4), must complete within a year after the degree application was accepted; provided, however, that where special reasons exist with regard to a doctoral degree the review committee may, after discussion at a meeting of the relevant Graduate School Faculty Meeting, extend the review and examination period up to a maximum of one year.

(Review Committee Reports)

Article 11

1. Upon the completion of the thesis review and final examinations pertaining to a particular degree application, the review committee's chief reviewer must promptly submit to the relevant Graduate School Faculty Meeting a written report including a summary of the content of the thesis, a summary of the thesis review and final examination results, and his or her official opinion as to whether or not a degree should be conferred; provided, however, that where necessary the chief reviewer may request for one of the deputy reviewers to draft the document in his or her place.
2. Where the review committee has not conducted final examinations in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 (Paragraph 3) of these regulations, the review committee must report this fact to the relevant Graduate School Faculty Meeting in writing.

(Graduate School Faculty Meeting Deliberations)

Article 12

1. Based on reports submitted in accordance with the previous article, Graduate School Faculty Meeting shall deliberate and, in the case of degree applications pursuant to Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 3 of these regulations determine based on the provisions of the University Graduate School Regulations whether or not a degree is to be conferred; or, in the case of degree applications pursuant to Paragraphs 4 of Article 3 of these regulations, determine

whether or not the relevant applicant has passed or failed with regard to their thesis and final examinations, and whether or not a doctoral degree is to be conferred.

2. Decisions based on deliberations provided for under the preceding paragraph require at least two-thirds (2/3) of the meeting members to be in attendance, and at least three-quarters (3/4) of the meeting members in attendance must be in agreement; provided, however, that meeting members who are unable to attend due to official business or business trips shall not be included in the count.

(Graduate School Faculty Meeting Chairpersons' Reports)

Article 13

1. When a Graduate School Faculty Meeting has reached a decision in accordance with the preceding article, the chairperson of said meeting must submit to the President, together with the thesis itself, a written report including a summary of the content of the thesis, a summary of the thesis review and final examination results, and his or her official opinion as to whether or not a degree should be conferred.

Article 13-2 – Deleted

(Determination of Degree Conferment)

Article 14

1. Based on the report provided for under the preceding article, the President shall assemble the University Graduate School Faculty Meeting and, after deliberation by the Meeting, determine whether or not a degree is to be conferred.
2. Decisions made by the University Graduate School Faculty Meeting as a result of the deliberations provided for under the preceding paragraph are subject to the provisions of Article 12 (Paragraph 2) of these Regulations.

(Conferment of Degrees)

Article 15

1. The President shall confer the prescribed degrees upon persons determined to be deserving of the conferment of such degrees based on the determinations (decisions) provided for under the preceding article; and shall notify persons for whom it has been found that conferment of a degree is not possible.

(Announcement of Degree Thesis Summaries/Abstracts, etc.)

Article 16

1. When a doctoral degree has been conferred, the University must publicly announce a summary or abstract of the content of the relevant degree thesis and a summary of the review findings within a period of three (3) months commencing from the date of the conferment of the degree, in accordance with the Rikkyo University Academic Repository.

(Announcement of Degree Theses)

Article 17

1. Persons who have been awarded a doctoral degree must publicly announce or present their degree thesis within a period of one (1) year commencing from the date of the conferment of the degree, in accordance with the Rikkyo University Academic Repository; provided, however, that this provision does not apply when the person in question has already announced or presented their thesis.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding paragraph, in cases where there are unavoidable reasons to do so, and with the approval of the University, persons who have been awarded a doctoral degree may publicly announce or present a summarized version of

the content of their degree thesis as a substitute for their full thesis. In such cases, the University shall supply the full, unabridged version of the thesis for viewing when requested.

3. When announcing the content of a degree thesis in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph, students must clearly indicate the fact that said thesis has been subjected to a review by Rikkyo University.

(Usage of Degree Names)

Article 18

1. When using the name of their degree, persons who have been awarded a degree by the University shall do so as follows, appending the name of the University to the front of the degree: Rikkyo University Bachelor of (...); Rikkyo University Master of (...); Rikkyo University Doctor of (...); or as follows, appending the name of the University after the degree: Bachelor of (...), Rikkyo University; Master of (...), Rikkyo University; Doctor of (...), Rikkyo University.

(Revocation of Conferred Degrees)

Article 19

1. When a person who has been awarded with a degree by the University has committed some act that dishonors the good name of the University, or when it has been found that said person obtained their degree through some fraudulent means, the President must, after discussion by the University Graduate School Faculty Meeting, revoke said person's degree, order the return of the degree title, and publicly announce the fact of such revocation.
2. Decisions made under the preceding paragraph are subject to the provisions of Article 12 (Paragraph 2) of these Regulations.

(Registration)

Article 20

1. When the University has conferred a doctoral degree, the President must record details of the degree in the University's degree register; and must, within a period of three (3) months, submit a doctoral degree conferment report and using the format shown in Attachment 1, via E-mail, to the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

(Format for Diplomas)

Article 21

1. Diplomas shall follow the format shown in Attachment 2.

(Amendments and Repeal)

Article 22

1. Amendments and repeal of these regulations shall be made upon resolution of the Deans' Council and the Graduate School Faculty Meeting.

Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 1961.

Supplemental Provision

1. These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 1976.
2. With regard to students enrolled in the University in or prior to April 1975; the old Degree Regulations shall apply.

Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 1990.

Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 1991.

Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of October 11, 1991, and shall apply as of July 1, 1991.

Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 1992.

Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 1993.

Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 1994.

Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 1996.

Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 1997.

Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 1998.

Supplemental Provision

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Supplemental Provision

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Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 2004.

Supplemental Provision

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Supplemental Provision

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These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 2023.

Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 2024.

Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of April 1, 2026.

Supplemental Provision

These regulations shall be enacted as of June 25, 2026.