

University wide liberal arts subjects/Comprehensive Courses [Summer session/2 credits]

## 2025 Rikuzentakata Project Application Guideline

**Collaborate Program with Stanford U × U of Hong Kong × National U of Singapore etc.**

Understand the progress of reconstruction and current situation of the area impacted by the Great East Japan Earthquake and through dialogues with local citizens and overseas university students

**Rikuzentakata Project recruitment information website (RIKKYO SPIRIT)**

<https://spirit.rikkyo.ac.jp/ghrd/rikutaka/SitePages/index.aspx> (V-campus ID required, Click here to apply)

### I. Program Outline

Rikuzentakata city is in the coastal area in Iwate prefecture located in the northern part of Honshu, main island of Japan. In the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, the city was struck by a series of strong earthquakes, followed by tsunamis that reached the height of a five-story building. The disaster had brought over 1,700 lives including missing persons, among 24,246 citizens at that time. The city has worked through the recovery process step by step formulating disaster prevention and preparedness-oriented city plan, and striving to realize a town where the word “normalization” is no longer needed, in other words, a town where everyone can live with hope and peace of mind. After 10 years since the earthquake, the land has been raised approximately 10 meters, and residential land was developed for housing reconstruction. In 2021, the new city hall building was completed on the elevated land, and a new picture of the town is being created. On the other hand, there are many future challenges for new town development and revitalization.

It is important to know how people in Rikuzentakata are dealing with the disaster as the years go by.

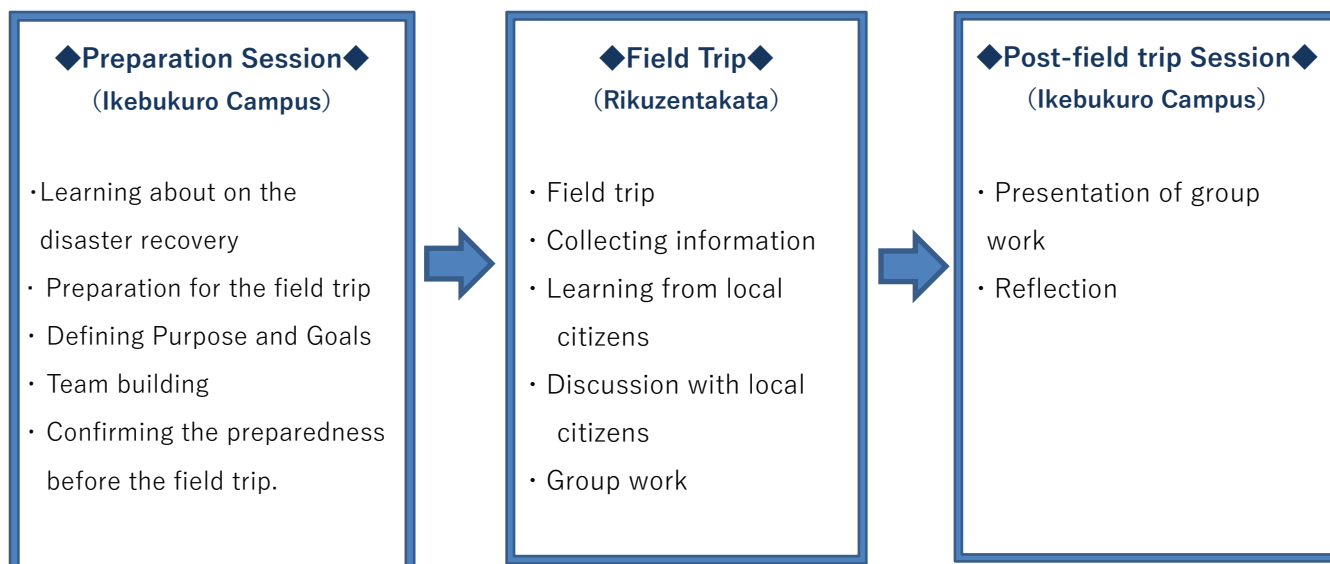
Rikkyo University has built a constant communicating forum with Rikuzentakata city before the disaster, and has been managing project-based learning programs with the city since 2013. Through this program, the university hopes to encourage more students to gain an accurate and deep understanding towards the current situation in the devastated area and to share the challenges faced by the town together with the citizens. Besides, with the opportunity of collaborating with students from overseas universities, students will be able to express their learning experiences internationally, as well as to consider different issues in much more various aspects and visions.

Stanford University (2015-), The University of Hong Kong (2018-), and the National University of Singapore (2019-) and other American universities have had students participating in this program.

#### 【Aims of The Program】

- Understand the current situation of the city and the process of recovery in the affected area.
- To share the challenges facing the Rikuzentakata city and its citizens
- Address the issues in wide visions and multiple aspects through discussion with students from overseas universities.

## 【Structure of The Program】



## II. FY2025 Program Outline

### ◆Course Classification／Credits

- University wide liberal arts subjects / Comprehensive Courses / Cross-Disciplinary Studies / "Rikuzentakata Project"
- Summer session, 2 credits

### ◆Participating Universities (TBD)

Rikkyo University, Stanford University and other American universities, The University of Hong Kong, and National University of Singapore

### ◆Instructors

Akiko TAKAI

Visiting Associate Professor, Center for Global Human Resource Development, Rikkyo University

Executive Director cum Secretary General, Save the Children Japan

Yuki UEDA

Program Director, VIA (Volunteers in Asia) based in San Francisco, USA.

### ◆Language used

English

### ◆Program Theme

Rikuzentakata × Your hometown × SDGs

Goal 11 : Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Visit the city of Rikuzentakata, which was affected by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, its journey of recovery, and its vision of creating a sustainable community. From the perspective of the SDGs 11 "to create a city where people can continue to live", how can we make our community sustainable?

### ◆Schedule

- ▷Preparation session: July 12 (Sat) 14:30-17:30 @Ikebukuro Campus (Rikkyo students only)
- ▷Pre-departure session: August 23 (Sat) @Ikebukuro Campus (with Overseas Students)
- ▷Fieldwork: August 24-28 (Sun - Thu)@Rikuzentakata City
- ▷Post training/wrap-up session: August 29 (Fri)@Ikebukuro Campus

\* Please keep your schedule open all day for each of the August dates.

\* Participants are required to attend the entire schedule.

### ◆Program Fee

Approx. 20,000 – 30,000 JPY (the amount expected to be collected from participants)

\*Fixed amount and payment method will be announced after participants are determined.

〈Perspectives on Program Fees〉

- Participants are to bear Round trip travelling between Tokyo and Rikuzentakata, accommodation, meals for the field trip. The university will collect the program fee in advance. Students need to pay for some meals when eating separately during the program or in group activities.

- Necessary Expenses: Approx. 50,000 - 60,000 JPY

This program is eligible for “[Rikkyo University Rikuzentakata Satellite Allowance](#)” and the program fee will be collected from each participant after offsetting the amount of the allowance from the necessary expenses.

[Rikkyo University Rikuzentakata Satellite Allowance]

- Amount paid in previous year: 38,000 JPY (For first-time users of the same allowance)
- The amount will be subject to change due to review on a case-by-case basis and may vary. Details of application are introduced after the acceptance of offer.

※In case of no-show due to personal reasons, cancellation fee will be charged depending on the timing.

<Regarding Program Operating Expenses>

This program is supported by designated donations from Obic Business Consultants Co. Ltd. and Otsuka Corporation.

### ◆Preventing of the spread of infections

- Participants are required to act in manner to prevent the spread infectious diseases.

## III. FY2025 Application Guidelines

### ◆Eligibility for Application (Registration)

All undergraduate students (1st to 4th year, all college and departments)

### ◆Requirements

- Must be enrolled in the Spring Semester AY2025 (students on leave of absence during the semester are not eligible to participate). Students who are not eligible to take spring semester subjects due to reasons such as studying abroad while enrolled, are not allowed to apply for this course.

- All participants must participate in the preparation session, field work, and wrap-up session.
- Required to have the capacity and will to communicate in English in the program (there are no standards set for English qualification test scores; however, all programs will be conducted in English, so you are required to be able to hold discussions in English.)

#### ◆Number of Offers

Est. 10 Rikkyo students (and Est. 10 overseas students, Total Est. 20)

## IV. FY2025 Application Process

### ◆How to Apply

Apply by answering the questions on the application form at the URL below.

<https://forms.gle/5YgvUC9XfEXwG5eb7> (V-Campus ID/PW required)

※The form requires the input of the following information, so please prepare your thoughts in advance before filling out the form.

「What you think about Rikuzentakata City and the Great East Japan Earthquake」 (approx.200 words in English) , 「Volunteer experience (name of organization, date, location and what you learned.)」 (approx. 200 words in English) , 「Overseas stay/activity experience and international exchange experience (country/region names, dates, duration, details of the experience, and what you learned and felt. Online experiences may be included. Long-term stays or academic programs are not required.)」 (approx. 200 words in English) , 「Reasons for participation and program expectations」 (approx. 300 words in English),  
Personal statement

### ◆Required Documents (Data) for Application

Prepare the following items in advance and upload them according to the instructions on the application form. Submissions will be shared with program administrators along with responses to the form.

#### 1. Short video taken under the following content/conditions

- Self-introduction, reasons for wishing to participate, personal statement
- In English
- Self-introduction, reasons for wishing to participate, personal statement
- Approx. 2 minutes
- Self-introduction, reasons for wishing to participate, personal statement
- Begin by stating your college, department, grade, and name.

※Video should be shot in sequence and not edited.

※MP4 format recommended (MOV, AVI are acceptable), size up to 500 MB

#### 2. Copy of Grades reference screen in PDF data

- Should be referenced after April 22, 10:00am
- Required all pages (to the end)

(PDF formatting is possible from the printable page of the grade reference system)

#### 3. Copy of the official score or certificates of English language proficiency exams.

(TOEIC IP is acceptable. If a certificate cannot be prepared, a screen copy of the website showing the name of the qualification, name, year and month of the examination, and score is also acceptable. Submit PDF or photo image data)

## ◆Application Period

**After Information Session – May 28(Wed) 17:00 JST** ※ Strict deadline

## ◆Selection Process

Selection① Selection based on the contents of the application form and the submitted documents.

Selection② Online interview will be conducted for those who passed the selection process in ① to determine the successful candidates.

※Notification of the results of Selection ① and the date and time of the interview will be sent to successful applicants by June 3. Notification of the results will be sent to your Rikkyo domain address.

## ◆Selection Criteria

The decision on acceptance will be made based on a comprehensive evaluation, including both document screening and interviews. In addition to the applicant's suitability and abilities (such as motivation, English proficiency, and understanding of and suitability for the program), the overall composition and balance of the team will also be taken into consideration.

## ◆Online Interview Schedule

June 4 (Wed)~7(Sat). Times are listed on the application form.

## ◆Announcement of Selection Results

To be notified by June 10 (Notification of the results will be sent to your Rikkyo domain address.)

## V. Course Registrations and Grade Evaluation

### 1. Credits

【Course Category】 University-wide liberal arts subjects / Comprehensive Courses / Cross-Disciplinary Studies

【Course Title】 Rikuzentakata Project

【Eligible Academic Years】 All undergraduate students, 1st to 4th year

※Students in their 8th semester of enrollment or later may not register and participate in the program

※Cross-Disciplinary Studies under the University-Wide Liberal Arts Comprehensive Subjects are, in principle, available from the fall semester of the first year onward; however, this course is open to the first-year students

【Number of Credit】 2 credits

【Offered Semester】 Summer session AY2025

### 2. Credit registration and calculation for maximum number of registered courses

- Students who have been selected will be registered by the university. As such, there is no need to go through the registration process yourself, however, be sure to check that the course registration status screen that will be updated after course registration

- This course is a “Summer Session”, and the credits taken for it will be counted towards the maximum number of registered credits per year (12 credits) for university-wide liberal arts subjects  
 e.g.) Even if you have already reached the maximum number of registered courses (6 credits) for comprehensive courses in the spring semester, if you have not reached the maximum number of credits (12 credits) for comprehensive courses for the year, and if you have not reached the maximum number of registered courses for the spring semester as determined by your college, you will be able to register for this course after being accepted.
- ※ If you have any questions about course registration, please check with the Academic Affairs Office in advance before applying.

### 3. Grade Evaluation

- Students will receive either a “pass” or “fail” as an evaluation for this course.  
 For details on the grading method and percentage, please refer to the [syllabus](#).
- Grades will be assigned only to those who participate in all components: the preparation session, field work, wrap-up session, and who complete all required submissions.  
 Even if you are unable to participate in the training due to school-acquired infectious disease or other reasons, grading will be conducted strictly in accordance with the established grading and evaluation criteria. Student who does not participate in the entire on-site training (field trip) will not be eligible for evaluation and will fail the course.
- Due to the schedule of the program, grades are expected to be released later than usual, around late September (after the course registration period for the Fall Semester).

### 4. Points to Note

- Before applying, applicants must be sure to completely verify all relevant information in the 2025 R-Guide (including details on descriptions of Comprehensive courses and "[Taking courses in the Rikuzentakata Project](#)") and [syllabus](#) etc.
- Registration will not be cancelled after the selection acceptance is confirmed.
- Please note that the makeup exam period may overlap with the participation period of this program, which could make it impossible to take the makeup exams. However, participation in this course cannot be used as a reason to alter the official makeup exam schedule. Be sure to check Registration guide (R guide) and consult the Academic Affairs Office if necessary.
- Course registration will not be accepted if the course date and time overlap with another course of the Spring semester fixed term courses (intensive courses, etc.) or Summer Session for which you have already registered.

### **〈Contact〉**

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 Rikkyo University  
 email: [cghrd-rtpj@rikkyo.ac.jp](mailto:cghrd-rtpj@rikkyo.ac.jp)

[Check 2024 Rikuzentakata report \(in Japanese\) !](#)

