

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

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

### ANU

- 1. Is there an age requirement for enrolling into this dual degree program?** You potentially may not be eligible to enrol if you will be under 18 years old as of 1 April of the year you intend to commence the program. If this applies to you, please contact ANU directly for further information about this requirement.
- 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) in Japan.
- 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 4](#) - \$14,500 in 2021] 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 [Miscellaneous Membership Fees for students enrolled in 2020 – JPY23,000] to RU <http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/gla/admissions/>.  
International students commence the program at Ritsumeikan University.
- 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?** You can 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, all students 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?** Eligible applicants who are domestic school leavers should apply through ANU, and other domestic applicants will apply through UAC. Here are links which will give you more detail about how to apply:

<https://www.anu.edu.au/study/apply/domestic-applications-anu-undergraduate>.

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>.

Note: If you are an international applicant, you will need to start the dual program from Ritsumeikan University and apply through RU directly. Please visit the [website](#) or email RU at [hello@st.ritsumei.ac.jp](mailto:hello@st.ritsumei.ac.jp) for further information.

- 2. What are the entry requirements for this program?** 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.

## PROGRAM

- 1. What courses can I choose from and are there any compulsory or elective courses that I can take?** There are some compulsory courses which you will need to take and some elective courses to choose from. For more information, visit <https://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/program/BAPAF>.
- 2. Are Japanese language courses compulsory?** No, you are not required to take Japanese language courses, but if you have never studied Japanese before, it will be useful to have some language skills before you go to Japan, so we highly recommend to take some Japanese language courses at ANU.
- 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 Language Proficiency Assessment (<https://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/students/cap-language-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 to another degree?** You can transfer to 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?** No. If you have been accepted into the program at ANU, you are not required to submit a separate application to RU although you will need to fill a series of forms including RU documents.
- 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/](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 be 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 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.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/job/parttime-works/>.
- 8. Will I need to organise my flight to Japan?** Yes.
- 9. Will I need health insurance in Japan?** Yes, you are responsible for your 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.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/life/insurance/>.
- 10. What kind of accommodation will there be in Japan and how do I apply for this?** If you want to stay in an on-campus RU student dormitory, 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 dormitory may look like please see the link below: <http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/lifecareer/dorm/oic2/>.

Students may also choose to source their accommodation.

11. **What is the cost of accommodation at RU?** This depends on what type of accommodation you choose but an indicative student dormitory accommodation fee is JPY69,200 /AUD\$930 per month. For more information, visit: <http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/lifecareer/dorm/oic2/>.
12. **What is the cost of living in Japan?** Living expenses will vary significantly depending on each student's lifestyle. Estimated expenses for the average student can be found in RU website: <http://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/lifecareer/cost-of-living/>.
13. **What happens if travel is disrupted due to COVID?** If international travel is not possible, in the first instance we will work to restructure the program to delay travel while still meeting program requirements. If travel is still not possible, students will receive changes to their program orders, to enable them to continue with the ANU side of their dual degree.

## 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 2021, the maximum amount is:

- \$7,037 (if you will not be studying in Asia); or
- \$8,444 if you will be studying in Asia; and
- an additional \$1,123 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 detailed maximum for their program destination.

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.

The total amount of OS-HELP assistance 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.

**Eligibility:** OS-HELP eligibility requirements are determined under the Higher Education Support Act (2003). In addition, the University can determine its own internal additional criteria in accordance with the guidelines. To be selected to receive an OS-HELP loan, you need to meet all the eligibility criteria determined by the Australian Government and the University.

#### Australian Government requirements

- To be eligible for OS-HELP assistance for overseas study in relation to a six-month period, you must:
- Be an Australian citizen, a permanent humanitarian visa holder, or a New Zealand Special Category Visa holder who meets the long-term residency requirements,
- Be enrolled as a Commonwealth supported student at ANU and have completed at least 48 units towards the Commonwealth supported degree before receiving the loan,

- Have at least 6 units remaining on your ANU degree upon returning from overseas experience,
- Be studying full-time overseas and have the overseas study count towards the current Australian course requirements,
- Have not received more than one previous OS-HELP loan at any institution,
- Not have received an OS-HELP loan for the same six-month period,
- Be able to provide an Australian Tax File Number (TFN) or a Certificate of Application for a TFN,
- Be selected by ANU to receive an OS-HELP loan.

To be eligible for a supplementary Asian language study loan, you must:

- Be selected for OS-HELP assistance for overseas study in Asia for the same six-month period,
- Have applied to and be selected to receive a supplementary amount for Asian language study,
- Be undertaking Asian language study to prepare for your overseas study in Asia,
- Complete the Asian language study before the commencement of the overseas study,
- Not be undertaking Asian language study as part of a course leading to a higher education award for which you are in a Commonwealth supported place or receiving FEE-HELP.

#### ANU requirements

You must submit your complete applications as detailed in the 'How to apply' section below by the deadlines.

You must apply:

- No earlier than four months before the overseas program commences; and
- No later than:
  - Four weeks after the program commencement for Exchange or Year in Asia.
  - Four weeks prior to the commencement date of the overseas program for short programs, clinical placements, internships, and other international opportunities.

The entire process can take up to six weeks, so please ensure you apply before you travel, as the loan must be approved and paid before your return to Australia.

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

- 2. 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.
- 3. 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: <https://www.anu.edu.au/study/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 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>.