

2027 UNHCR-Refugee Higher Education Program (RHEP)

Ryukoku University (Ryukoku)

Requirements for Refugees Applying for RHEP at the Ryukoku University Graduate School of Economics and the Graduate School of International Studies (RYUKOKU)

(For candidates with sufficient language skills for **pursuing a graduate degree in English**)

1. UNHCR Refugee Higher Education Program: RHEP

UNHCR Refugee Higher Education Program (RHEP) is a program implemented by partner universities and coordinated by UNHCR Representation in Japan and RHEP Alliance (hereinafter referred to as “the RHEP Secretariat”).

2. Outline and Eligibility

As part of the refugee higher education initiative implemented in collaboration with RYUKOKU, up to one (1) candidate will be selected and recommended for admission to RYUKOKU.

* The selected candidate shall be either one undergraduate student or one graduate student.

1) Graduate School and Department:

-Graduate School of Economics : English-based Degree Program (Master of Economics) *Subjects offered in English

-Graduate School of International Studies, Department of Global Studies (Master of Global Studies or Doctor of Global Studies)* Subjects offered in English

Number of Refugee Candidates to be Recommended: One (for degree completion in English or Japanese)

2) Eligibility Criteria: the candidate must -

a) be a refugee or a person in need of international protection, with a residency permit granted by the Japanese authorities (excluding Japanese citizens);

b) meet the academic qualifications required for admission to RYUKOKU, as outlined below:

For Master's Programs:

- have completed sixteen (16) years of formal education, which generally includes at least twelve (12) years of prescribed formal education completed outside Japan (or is expected to complete such education by March of the year of admission) or be recognized by RYUKOKU as possessing academic qualifications equivalent to or higher than the above.

For Doctoral Programs:

- have completed, or is expected to complete, the prescribed formal education outside Japan (generally twelve (12) years or more), and have obtained, or be expected to obtain, a master's degree from a recognized higher education institution (or be recognized by RYUKOKU as possessing academic qualifications equivalent to or higher than the above).
- have either successfully completed (or is scheduled to complete by March of the admission year), a twelve-year course of formal education in Japan or another country, or is deemed by RYUKOKU to have an education level equivalent to that of the average person who has completed such formal education;
- have no other means of support for university studies;
- demonstrate a clear understanding of the objectives of the program and a strong commitment to pursuing their academic studies. In principle, they should be deemed capable of completing the

required coursework with satisfactory academic performance and of graduating within the standard period of study of the program to which they are admitted;

- have **English language skills** sufficient for pursuing a graduate degree from any of Ryukoku University's schools that offer a curriculum in English; and
- meet other criteria for applicants as stipulated by Ryukoku University.

*Please see the application guideline of Ryukoku University for details.

3) Scholarship:

The University will cover all academic fees required for enrollment, including the admission fee, tuition, and practicum/laboratory fees. All miscellaneous fees, such as student association fees, will be fully waived.

In addition, a monthly living allowance scholarship, the amount of which is determined by the university, will be provided from the time of enrollment until completion of the program, up to the standard duration of the degree program.

Students may also apply for scholarships offered by external foundations or other organizations; however, financial support from such sources is not guaranteed.

4) Schedule:

Process for selection of candidates to be recommended for admission by UNHCR and RHEP Alliance:

● Application Period for RHEP	From 3 July (Fri) to 3 August (Mon) 2026
● Written Exam	RHEP assesses candidates' English written proficiency with English test scores.
● Interview	22 Aug (Sat) and 29 Aug (Sat) 2026
● Selection of candidates for recommendation to RYUKOKU	The beginning of September 2026

RYUKOKU Process for Selection of Candidates for Admission :

For more information, please see the Ryukoku University Application Guidelines

	Graduate School of Economics : English-based Degree Program	Graduate School of International Studies, Department of Global Studies
● Application Document Submission Dates*	25 September (Fri) ~ 2 October (Fri), 2026	24 September (Thu) ~ 30 September (Wed), 2026
● Entrance Examination Dates	7 November (Sat), 2026	—
● Results Announcement Date**	14 November (Sat), 2026	

*After review, the RHEP Secretariat will forward the required application form to RYUKOKU within the agreed time-frame

**The program selects candidates for recommendation to RYUKOKU, but the final decision as to which candidates are successful is made solely at RYUKOKU's discretion.

3. How to Apply

1) Required Documents

A. RHEP Application Form	The link to the application will be available on the webpage of the Refugee Higher Education Program (RHEP) (https://rhepalliance.org/en_application) from 3 July (Fri) 2026 . Forms may vary each year , so those who have previously applied to RHEP will need to send a new application with updated information using the forms specifically designed for the year of application.
B. Passport Photo	Please affix a passport photo to the first page of the RHEP Application Form.
C. Certificate of Graduation (or Expected Graduation, Certificate of Completion (or Expected Completion), and Academic Transcript.	Applicants must submit a Certificate of Graduation (or Expected Graduation) or a Certificate of Completion (or Expected Completion) issued by the educational institution of their highest academic qualification, along with an official Academic Transcript. In addition, Applicants to the Graduate School of Intercultural Studies whose highest academic qualification is a master's program or a doctoral program are required to submit a Certificate of Graduation and an Academic Transcript from their undergraduate program as well. Please ensure that the Official Transcript includes the information listed below. If you are unable to submit an Official Transcript, a statement of facts describing the Applicant's educational background should be submitted, including the items listed below (around 1 A4-sized page): • Academic results from the last three years of enrollment, including acquired credits, results, and a brief description of the course contents. • Attendance record (with any reasons for long term class absences indicated). • Notable extracurricular activities. • Academic and/or student activity awards and other recognitions. Type of academic institution (Public, private, NGO run institution, etc.), location of the institution, and official language used during the course. Depending on the university of the Applicant's choice, an official school report may be requested if one has graduated from a Japanese school. Please prepare in advance.
D. Proof of English Language Proficiency (Mandatory)	Official Proof of Language Proficiency. *Please see the Ryukoku University Application Guidelines for details. -Graduate School of Economics https://www.econ.ryukoku.ac.jp/daigakuin/en/eprogram/ -Graduate School of International Studies, Department of Global Studies https://www.ryukoku.ac.jp/admission/nyushi/daigakuin/
E. Performance Report of Non-formal Education (Vocational Training, etc.) where Applicable	An official transcript of results from non-formal educational/vocational institutions where such studies/training have been undertaken. Please ensure that the official transcript includes the information below : • Performance results from the last three years of enrollment, including acquired credits, results, and a brief description of the course contents. If the course is shorter than three years, the report must cover the entire period from admission to completion. • No submission is required when such a report is difficult to obtain. • Attendance Record (in with reasons for any long term absences from classes indicated) • Extracurricular activities and other volunteer activities linked with the objectives of the enrolled educational/vocational program. • Performance and/or student activity awards and other recognitions. There are no specified formats for this requirement.

F. One Letter of Recommendation	The letter should be about 1 to 2 pages (A4 size). The referee shall enclose the letter in an envelope with his/her signature on the seal of the envelope. On the surface of the envelope, the referee shall write the name of the Applicant and "Recommendation Letter for the RHEP Application" and hand it to the Refugee Applicant. The referee must not be a relative of the Applicant.
G.Proof of Legal Status	(Note: Please DO NOT send originals. Send only copies.) Applicants must submit BOTH documents a) and b), as well as ONE of the documents listed below from c) to e). a) Documents certifying one's residency status (copy of Residence Card); and b) Resident Registration Form (<i>juminhyo</i>) which indicates the whole family unit; and c) Certificate of Refugee Status; or d) The Certificate of Settlement Record by the Refugee Assistance Headquarters (for Indo-Chinese refugees); or e) Proof of Refugee Status a) Other documents certifying refugee status (for asylum seekers who were granted special permission to stay on the bases of humanitarian considerations, a letter from one's lawyer, NGO or other third party who supported the Applicant or their family member with the refugee status (e.g. one's parent) during the time of the refugee application, outlining the application history and describing the reasoning for the result of the family's refugee application). b) For those (explicitly or implicitly) provided international protection and who had never applied for asylum in Japan: an official certificate from a government agency, identity documents, or documents certifying the need for international protection issued by NGO, lawyer or other third party who supported the Applicant and their family members at the time of arrival to Japan or at the time of processing residency in Japan, describing the reasoning for the family's need for international protection. Additional certification/documentation may be requested in cases where the submitted documents do not fulfil the requirements. c) Certificate of Complementary Protection
H. Proof of Family's Financial Situation	Applicants must submit documents indicating all the income of family members who contribute to the household finances, including his/her father, mother, and him/herself (e.g. tax-income certificate, statement of earnings, etc.). This should be based on earnings from the year before the application. Applicants should indicate the amount of financial support they receive from persons under a duty to support such as relatives (allowance etc.), and if relevant, the amount of scholarship, fellowship, private support, livelihood protection and/or social security payments being received.

- Please send the required documents to the following address by simplified registered mail (*kanni-kakitome*). On the front of the envelope, please write "RHEP Application Enclosed" in red.
- Application packages should be postmarked on or before 3 August (Mon). Application packages that are postmarked later than the 3 August (Mon) will, in principle, not be accepted. Interested candidates are advised to send the package well in advance to avoid late applications.
- Note that application packages will not be returned.
- Please refrain from sending numerous applications.

2) **Application Deadline: 3 August (Mon) 2026 (postmarked)**

3) Please submit applications by simplified registered mail (*kanni-kakitome*) to:

c/o RHEP Alliance

Secretariat of UNHCR Refugee Higher Education Program

Bancho-Heim #431, 1-2 Nibancho, Chiyoda-ku,

Tokyo 102-0084

4. Selection of Candidates to be Recommended to RYUKOKU

The process for the selection of candidates to be recommended will include screening of application materials, examination, and interview.

1) Application Screening:

Applications will be accepted between: **3 July (Fri) and 3 August (Mon) 2026**

Please note that applications that arrive after the due date will in principle not be accepted.

A notification letter, indicating whether or not they have been short listed, will be sent by RHEP Secretariat by the middle of August via mail.

2) Examination:

RHEP assesses candidates' English written proficiency with English test scores.

3) Interview:

Date: **22 August (Sat) and 29 August (Sat) 2026**

Location: Online (For details, see the admission ticket for examination that will be distributed to applicants who have passed the document screening.)

The interview date stated above is yet to be confirmed. For the exact date, please refer to the convocation letter and the admission ticket for examination.

The final results are scheduled to be available at the beginning of September via mail.

- Inquiries as to the result will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- The final decision as to the candidate who is to be recommended to Ryukoku will be made by the selection committee, consisting of UNHCR and Japan for UNHCR staff, individuals with educational backgrounds/NGO staff, and affiliates from language schools. (TBC)
- Based on the discretion of the Selection Committee, regardless of the number of Applicants, not all places may be filled.

5. Recommendation to RYUKOKU and selection by RYUKOKU

Information regarding the selection process by RYUKOKU will be provided to the selected candidate of RHEP at a later date. The final decision as to which candidate is successful is solely at RYUKOKU's discretion.

Accepted students will be asked to fulfill their commitment and responsibilities set by UNHCR as RHEP scholarship students. The students will be required:

- ① to submit progress reports to RHEP Secretariat twice a year;
- ② to regularly participate in follow-up meetings and interviews after graduating from the university; and

- ③ to undertake at least one RHEP project (e.g. participate in a seminar as a speaker) during the time of their studies.

*Details of the abovementioned-reports/assignments will be provided by RHEP Secretariat after students are accepted by the university.

6. Notice and Disclaimer

For the purposes of equity, UNHCR/ Japan for UNHCR and the Selection Committee will not respond to inquiries about the application screening process, the content of the examination, and matters relating directly to the result.

Furthermore, as the RHEP selection is undertaken by UNHCR and Japan for UNHCR, please do not contact RYUKOKU regarding the program and selection process. Please make sure to contact professors at the university of your choice in advance, to confirm that you will be able to study the research theme of your choice.

Candidates who have applied for a university located far from your residence may need to move at their own cost from your current place of residence at the time of application. In addition, depending on the academic year and desired school or Graduate School, the location of one's campus may change. The Applicant should consult carefully with their family (especially if they are a minor) and/or employer when choosing a university and academic program before applying to this program.

UNHCR and Japan for UNHCR will protect personal information in conformity with the relevant confidentiality policies. UNHCR and Japan for UNHCR will only refer to the applicants' personal information when it is necessary for carrying out operations, including reviewing the program and its outcomes, and gathering statistical data for conducting publicity activities. Applicants' personal information will only be shared with partner universities as and when it is necessary, in order for candidates' recommendation to the relevant university.

*From 2025, the program is coordinated by UNHCR Representation in Japan and RHEP Alliance.