



立教大学
RIKKYO UNIVERSITY

Rikkyo Second Stage College

INFORMATION

Purpose of Establishment of Rikkyo Second Stage College

Rikkyo Second Stage College (RSSC) was established by Rikkyo University in April 2008 as an educational venue for seniors age 50 or above. It is based on the cultivation of the humanities and aims at relearning, reapproaching challenges, and cross-generational joint education. Based on Rikkyo University's founding principles embodied in liberal arts, the college makes full use of highly regarded university-wide liberal arts subjects for undergraduate students and the pioneering experience developed in the graduate school for working adults to support students in designing their own way of life as “free citizens” in the second stage of their lives. This is the concept of creating a new campus that strives for unique lifelong learning. Students gather here as friends to challenge themselves to new studies, build a network between people, and create a fulfilling life by recognizing each other's diversity and participating in a society of coexistence.

RSSC celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2023. Many past graduates have enjoyed a rich second-stage life by participating in social contribution activities with fellow alumni, as well as in study groups and book clubs. Together with its students, the college will continue the good traditions and culture that it has built so far, endeavoring for greater ingenuity and innovation to adapt to a new way of life, including going online.

① A Campus Full of Tradition and Vitality

Blessed with convenience and comfort, Rikkyo University's Ikebukuro Campus is located in the heart of Tokyo, yet its atmosphere is beautiful, academic, and serene. Seniors can have a fresh university life on this campus with young students striding through. Exclusive Student lounge is available for RSSC students, as are educational facilities such as one of the foremost libraries in Japan and computer classrooms, as well as facilities including cafeterias and an indoor heated swimming pool.

② An Appealing Range of Courses and Cross-Generational Joint Education

The college offers appealing courses that seniors want to study. Students can relearn the cultivation and basic skills that support free citizens, and classes are offered that focus on previously overlooked events, as well as subject groups that meet the unique interests of seniors. There are also opportunities for cross-generational joint education with the younger generation, such as taking university-wide liberal arts subjects with undergraduate students and participating in undergraduate classes as commentators.

③ All Students Participate in Seminars

The college values the perspective that faculty members and students collaborate to create classes and seminars together. For this reason, all students belong to a seminar and complete a completion thesis under the guidance of the instructor in charge. These seminars emphasizing the autonomy of participants provide a valuable forum for students to use lively discussions to deepen friendships and talk about new ways of living that respect diversity in the community.

④ A Variety of Field Studies

Students learn how to connect people with others and nature, and create new communities against the backdrop of real local areas. There are classes in which students actively go outdoors to learn about the importance of nature and the preciousness of living things, and there are classes in which students visit sites where actual social activities are conducted. During summer break, joint training is conducted for all seminar members to experience group activities beyond the limits of their own seminar.

⑤ A One-Year Term of Study, with the Possibility of Moving On to the 2nd year Course)

The term of study for the regular course is one year. Each subject is completed in six months during the spring or fall semester, and intensive summer courses are also held. Upon completion of the prescribed credits through a systematic program of required courses, electives, and seminars, a certificate of completion is awarded by the college, together with a certificate of completion provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in accordance with Article 105 of the School Education Act. The 2nd year course is available for students who want to continue their studies for another year (50 students to be admitted).

⑥ Extracurricular Activities and Continuation after Completion

Rikkyo Second Stage College also offers extracurricular learning opportunities (lectures, hands-on events, etc.). There are also opportunities for students to be actively involved in committee activities (graduation thesis presentations, online activities, public relations, etc.). While participating in these extracurricular activities, RSSC students form a network that will continue in a lively way after completion as the alumni association and as study group activities of the Social Contribution Activity Support Center.

The curriculum is organized from the perspective of “free citizens” who think for themselves to form the core of a variety of methods of social participation. It is composed of three elective course clusters—the “Aging Society Education Course Cluster,” the “Community Design and Business Course Cluster,” and the “Second Stage Design Course Cluster”—as well as the required subjects “The Academic World A” and a seminar/completion thesis.

In addition, under certain conditions, students can take university-wide liberal arts subjects offered to all undergraduate students of Rikkyo University.

Each subject has a fixed number of credits, and to complete the regular course, students are required to enroll for one year and complete six credits in two required subjects (“The Academic World A” and a seminar/graduation thesis in an omnibus lecture), as well as at least 12 credits in six electives, totaling at least 18 credits.

In order to avoid overburdening students with their studies, the maximum number of courses that can be taken in the respective spring (including intensive summer courses) and fall semesters, including required courses, is ten (20 credits).

In the 2nd year course that students can enter after completing the regular course, they can complete two compulsory subjects (“The Academic World B” and a seminar/graduation thesis) for ten credits and two electives for four or more credits, for a total of at least 14 credits.

Some courses will also be held online with the aim of cultivating “free citizens” who can handle a society with accelerating online communication.

For electives, students can freely choose from the following three subject groups.

Group 1

Aging Society Education Course Cluster

In the second stage of life, it is essential to be exposed to the liberal arts Rikkyo University traditionally emphasizes. It frees people from preconceived notions and values and allows them to look at themselves, society, and the world from a different perspective from before. By learning from the intellectual heritage of all periods and places and acquiring the cultivation to enrich future time as a “free citizen”, students form a self-suitable for life’s second stage.

Group 2

Community Design and Business Course Cluster

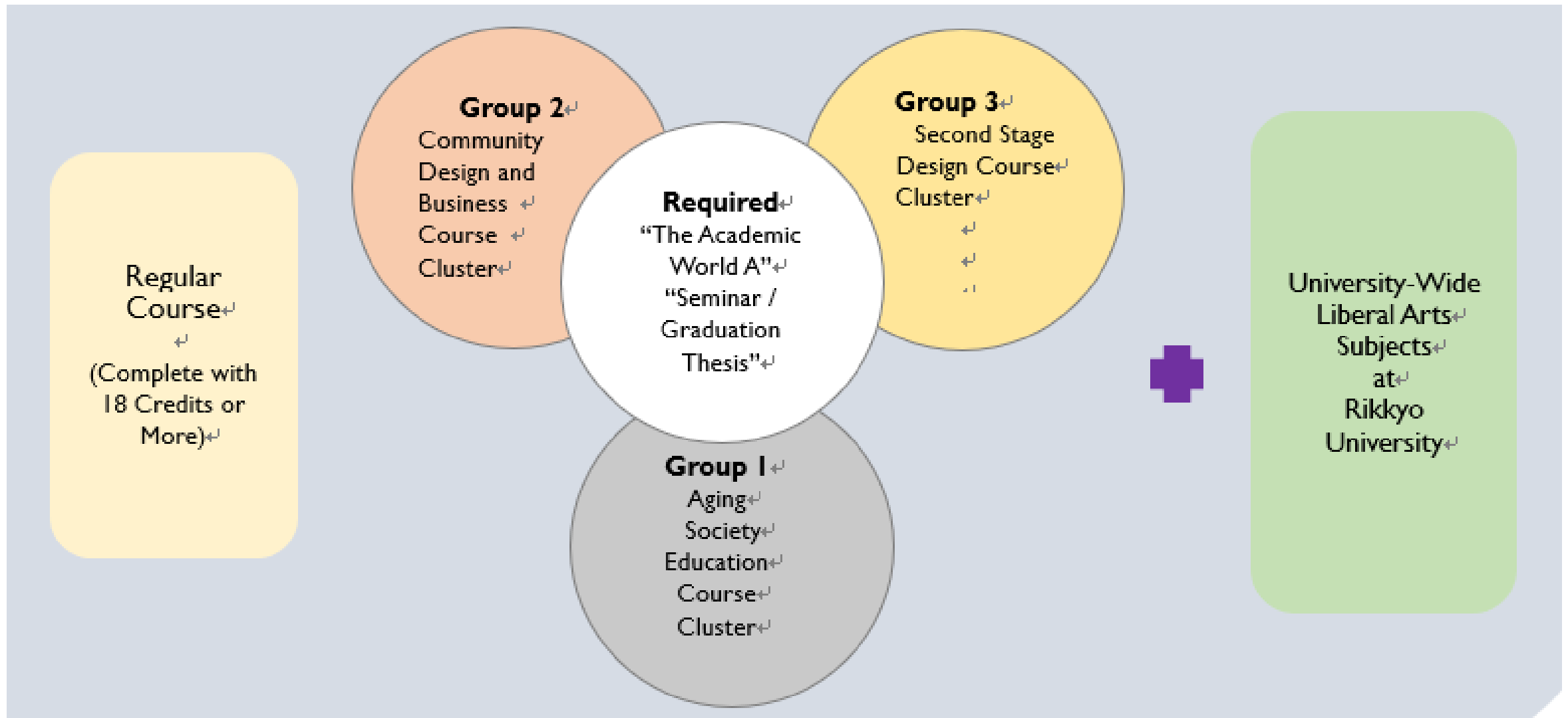
Utilizing the various human resources and networks cultivated by Rikkyo University, this cluster offers practical lectures on NPO/NGO activities, social and community businesses, and volunteer activities, which are considered to be responsible for new commonalities in the 21st century. The senior generation is supported in creating meaning in life and embarking on social contributions in cooperation with the Social Contribution Activity Support Center attached to Rikkyo Second Stage College.

Group 3

Second Stage Design Course Cluster

The second stage is nothing less than a second life, and a life plan that looks ahead to the future will help support seniors living vibrantly. In order to open new possibilities for a healthy, rich, and intellectually curious second stage, this cluster offers tips on how to think about life and put those ideas into practice, including regarding the position and role of seniors in an aging society, the symbiosis between seniors and society, and views of life and death.

Conceptual Diagram of the Curriculum Structure



The following two subjects are required.

Omnibus Lecture “The Academic World A”

Mainly faculty members in charge of seminars take turns talking about their specializations in relation to the significance of their activities. There are sure to be tips on how to design a second stage of life bolstered by intelligence and education. Special guest lectures are also included. The lectures are also occasions for thought-provoking intellectual exchange for planning the completion thesis, and they provide a valuable opportunity for all fellow students to experience the same subject together, beyond the boundaries of each seminar.

Seminar/Completion Thesis

The activities of the seminar are a collaborative effort to unleash the intellectual potential of each student, including their life experiences until now. Students belong to one of the seminars and aim to complete their completion theses. In doing so, they conduct research on topics of their own interest with an eye to life in the second-stage, presenting their findings and discussing them in a way that can convince people with different opinions. In March, at the end of the academic year, a joint completion thesis presentation is held by all the seminars combined.

*Students cannot choose the instructors in charge of the seminars.

The lecture period is divided into three semesters: the spring semester, intensive summer courses, and the fall semester.

The lecture period is divided into three semesters: the spring semester, intensive summer courses, and the fall semester. The seminar and completion thesis are conducted throughout the spring and fall semesters, with classes designated at the time of enrollment. Intensive summer courses are electives held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on three consecutive days between August and mid-September. From late August to early September, special joint event is conducted for all seminars. Special lectures, nature observation sessions, and other events provide opportunities to build relationships and networks beyond the boundaries of each seminar. In addition, various hands-on learning events are held after the period of classes for the fall semester.

Under certain conditions, students of Rikkyo Second Stage College are allowed to take lecture courses from among the university-wide liberal arts subjects for undergraduate students of Rikkyo University. There are many diverse subjects available, and studying with young students from a different generation is an opportunity for cross-generational joint education to understand the generation responsible for the future.

Rikkyo Second Stage University itself, where a wide range of people from 50 to 80 years old study together, is a place for cross-generational joint education. As for cross-generational joint education with undergraduate students, in addition to taking courses in university-wide liberal arts subjects, there are also opportunities to listen to presentations by students in the College of Intercultural Communication and to make comments from a cross-generational perspective, as well as to participate in roleplays as supervisors, colleagues, and business partners so that study-abroad students in the Graduate School of Business can learn to converse in practical business Japanese. Students understand the ideas and actions of different generations, familiarize themselves with that energy, and play a part in international exchange.

Students are also active in extracurricular activities

Extracurricular activities also give students an opportunity to enlighten and get acquainted with one another. Students independently run groups such as a meeting for seminar leaders, a newsletter-editing committee, and an online activity committee. At the same time, they organize various social events and work on their own initiative. In addition, during spring break, there are several hands-on events managed by faculty members, including tours of facilities around Rikkyo University, nature observations, and special lectures related to classes.

The Social Contribution Activity Support Center and Its Registered Study Groups

The Social Contribution Activity Support Center was established for students and alumni to promote social interaction and useful contributions to society based on relearning, reapproaching challenges, and cross-generational joint education. Here, groups organized as forums for research, seminars, and practice are registered; run independently by members of each registered study group; and their activities supported by the faculty members and consultants in charge of the center. There were 12 registered study groups in the 2023 academic year, with a total of about 400 participants.

Graduates of Rikkyo Second Stage College (RSSC) join various activities as free citizens. There are myriad activities, such as for continuing book clubs and study groups with fellow students, moving from the regular course to a specialized course at RSSC, using the auditing-student system, entering graduate school, trying to find a new job or start a business, volunteering in the local community, or participating in NPO activities. In particular, there is a growing interest in making active social contributions.

Alumni also organize reunions. In addition to general events and gatherings of students from the same class year, members have lively interactions with each other through all kinds of study groups and circles, reporting their doings on the Alumni Association's website. Learning at RSSC is not temporary. Graduates maintain the various bonds they had when they were enrolled and build new networks with each other. One great distinction is that they personally create and utilize opportunities for study and social activities.

Since the 2020 academic year, Rikkyo Second Stage College (RSSC) has included online classes in some subjects. Students can now take RSSC classes, ask questions of instructors, discuss with other students, and more from their home computers. The college has also set up an online lounge for students to gather and talk freely on the internet outside of class.

While COVID-19 placed significant constraints on people's behavior in the real world, it accelerated online communication, as evidenced by the progress of telework. This kind of online communication has become commonplace and inseparable from our lives in the post-pandemic world. The technology that enables online communication has become a powerful way to connect people across physical spaces. However, it is not all positive. We are witnessing the tragedy of online abuse that hunts people down and even takes their lives.

Insensible use of technology can be harmful to human society.

RSSC views online communication skills and cultivation as part of a new era of liberal arts and will work with students to think about how this should be done while putting online communication into practice. The knowledge and experience gained through this learning will be a valuable asset as students design their own way of life as “free citizens”.

Students must have a computer or other internet-enabled device available in order to take online classes or use the online lounge. Some people who are considering studying at RSSC may be unfamiliar with computers, but RSSC wants to provide support that leaves no one behind.



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