



**至善館**  
SHIZENKAN

**Graduate School of Leadership and Innovation  
Shizenkan University**

**2025 Academic Year  
Non-Degree Program Application Guidelines**

**< Subject >  
Creating Impact Business and Ecosystems**



## **Purpose**

Shizenkan University offers non-degree courses that allow those who are not enrolled in the Shizenkan MBA Program to take, on a course-by-course basis, some of the courses offered in the Shizenkan MBA Program and receive credit for them. For each course, applicants are screened and a small number of students are accepted; those who successfully complete the course will receive credit.

These guidelines describe the application process for the "Creating Impact Business and Ecosystems" course, which is offered in English. For information on other courses offered as a part of a non-degree program please refer to p. 7.

## **Outline of the Course**

(Excerpt from Syllabus. For details, please refer to the subject syllabus at the end of this document.)

### Creating Impact Business and Ecosystems

As the limits of capitalism are discussed for reasons such as climate change, interest in the impact economy is growing worldwide, along with impact investing, impact business, and impact evaluation and accounting.

In this class, we will examine various successful examples of impact businesses that create the "three impacts" of social impact, economic impact, and stakeholder impact, and understand their common values and formation process. At the same time, students will deepen their understanding of the various ecosystems that support impact business, such as impact investing, impact accounting, and impact evaluation.

## **Method and Dates of Classes**

Session 1 and 5 will be held in person at the Shizenkan campus. Session 2, 3, and 4 will be held online using Zoom. The dates and times of the classes are as follows (Japan Standard Time).

Session 1: Friday, September 20, 2024, 18:30-21:45

Session 2: Friday, September 27, 18:30-21:45

Session 3: Friday, October 4, 18:30-21:45

Session 4: Friday, October 11, 18:30-21:45

## **Admission Process**

### (1) Overview

The admissions process is a two-stage process with document screening and an interview. In the interview, we will examine your motivation and readiness for taking the course, including what you indicate in the application documents. As this course is offered in English, the admissions process is conducted in English. It is not compulsory to submit your GMAT or GRE results to enroll in the program.

### (2) Interview

The interviews will be conducted online using the Zoom platform. At the time of application, please select the date and time of the interview from the list of options. Zoom link and other details will be provided at the time of the initial notification of selection results.

## **Applicant Eligibility**

As an applicant, you are required to have a minimum of three years full-time work experience and to fulfill one of the following conditions at the time of application:

- (1) Obtain a university or college degree
- (2) Obtain a bachelor's degree from the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education of Japan
- (3) Complete 16 years of education in a foreign country
- (4) Being designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan
- (5) Are considered to have qualifications in education, knowledge, skills and aspiration to be admitted in the program by the Shizenkan Admissions Committee

## **Application Process**

The application process consists of the following steps.

### **Step 1: Submitting the application form**

Please submit your application via the application form below. Select your interview time/date as instructed in the form. Note that you are required to fill in the "Your personal statement" section of the application form in English.

<https://forms.gle/7qXTFdJBTRRVkdn9>

## **Step 2: Document screening and confirming interview schedule**

- Based on the submitted documents, we will conduct the document screening. Those who pass the document screening will be invited for an interview. The interview schedule and Zoom URL will be sent to the e-mail address provided in the application form.

## **Step 3: Personal interview**

- The interview will be conducted online (via Zoom). It will take approximately 30 minutes.
- The interview will be in English.

## **Step 4: Admission**

- The Admissions Office will inform you of the admissions result after the document screening and interview.
- Successful applicants are required to pay the registration fee and tuition fees by bank transfer. Upon completion of the enrolment fee and tuition fee transfer, the student will be officially accepted as a non-degree student.

## **Application Deadline**

- Thursday, August 28th, 2024 by 12:00pm

## **Interview Schedule (tentative)**

Based on the preferences entered in the application form, the applicant will be scheduled for 30 minutes on one of the following dates.

Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024, 18:30-22:00

Wednesday, September 4th, 2024, 18:30-22:00

Thursday, September 5th, 2024, 18:30-22:00

## **Schedule for Notification of Admissions Result (tentative)**

Shizenkan will send the results to the e-mail address provided in the application form.

Monday, September 9th, 2024

## **Enrollment and Registration Procedures**

Please follow the instructions provided with the notification of acceptance.

The deadline for completing the procedures is Tuesday, September 17th, 2024.

## **Application Forms**

Please fill out the following information when submitting your application. Your application will be officially accepted when all items are completed. If all items are not submitted by the deadline, your application will not be accepted.

1. Full name
2. Gender
3. Nationality
4. Date of birth
5. Address
6. Telephone number
7. E-mail address
8. Current employer
9. Education history
10. Your personal statement: Interests and motivation towards the topic; commitment to coursework.  
(Please write in English)
11. Interview schedule preference
12. Copy of passport (for non-Japanese nationals)
13. Copy of residence card (for non-Japanese nationals)

### **Application Fee**

No application fee is required for the academic year 2024.

### **Academic Fees**

The following table shows the academic fees required for enrollment in the program.

Non-Degree Program registration fee	JPY30,000
Tuition fee	JPY100,000
Total	JPY130,000

- (1) The tuition fees include costs for case materials used in the course; however, they do not include costs of textbooks and other optional academic materials.
- (2) If you have already paid the registration fee for a course taken in the current or previous academic year, you are exempted from paying the registration fee for subsequent courses.

### **Protection of Personal Information**

All personal information that Shizenkan obtains from the applicant will be used solely for the purpose of admissions screening and the student registration subsequent to admissions. For more information on our personal information policy, please kindly refer to our website. By applying, you are considered to have agreed to the policy.

## Notes

- (1) Credit will be awarded to those who meet the credit requirements for the courses taken and a certificate of credit will be issued upon request.
- (2) Neither a commuter certificate (for commuter passes) nor a student discount certificate will be issued to non-degree course students.
- (3) Being a student in a non-degree program does not qualify you for student residency status.
- (4) Please note that if for any reason the course is not offered, permission to enroll may be revoked.
- (5) If a non-degree program student enrolls in a master's programme at Shizenkan within five years of earning credits, it is possible for up to four credits to be accepted as earned credit under certain conditions (subject to change without notice). In this case, the amount of tuition fee paid for the non-degree study to earn the credits will be deducted from the tuition fee for the master's program.

## Other Non-degree Courses Offerings

In addition to this course, Shizenkan plans to also accept non-degree course students for other courses. The following list indicates eligible courses for the period from September 2024 to March 2025. We will announce the start of the application as shown in the table. Please note that some courses are offered in two languages (English and Japanese).

Course Name	Language	Course Period	Announcement Timing
インパクトビジネスとエコシステムの実践*	Japanese	Sept-Oct. 2024	July 2024
Entrepreneurship and Business Start-up	English	Nov.-Dec.	Sept.
Challenge of Driving Social Innovation** 社会イノベーション創出の挑戦	English	Nov.-Dec.	Sept.
	Japanese	Nov.-Dec.	Sept.
Global Management: Strategy,	English	Jan.-Mar.	Nov.

Organization and Leadership		2025	
Leadership and Negotiation リーダーシップと交渉学	English	Jan.-Mar. 2025	Nov.
	Japanese	Jan.-Mar.	Nov.

\* The content of this course is same as this course, “Creating Impact Business and Ecosystems” but delivered in Japanese.

\*\* The “Creating and Managing Social Innovation” course will also discuss creation of social impact, a topic that we discuss in this course, “Creating Impact Business and Ecosystems.” However the two courses have different focus. This course will examine the essence of how companies can design businesses that combine social and economic impact On the other hand, the “Creating and Managing Social Innovation” course will study the essence of social innovation and system change created by non-profit organizations (NPOs) and government agencies. It also includes perspectives on how companies can collaborate with such organizations to scale social innovation. By attending both courses, students will gain a holistic view of what is needed to design social innovation in a practical way.



Course Title:	Creating Impact Business and Ecosystems
Year / Semester:	2nd year / 1st semester
Credit:	1 credits (elective course)
Faculty:	Prof. Masataka Uo, Adjunct Associate Prof. Nanako Kudo, Adjunct Associate Prof. Yoshitaka Tabuchi
Duration:	Friday, September 20th, 2024 – Friday, October 18th, 2024
Class Format:	On campus (in person) and online

## OBJECTIVE:

As the limits of capitalism are discussed for reasons such as climate change, interest in the impact economy is growing worldwide, along with impact investing, impact business, and impact evaluation and accounting.

In this class, we will examine various successful examples of impact businesses that create the "three impacts" of social impact, economic impact, and stakeholder impact, and understand their common values and formation process. At the same time, students will deepen their understanding of the various ecosystems that support impact business, such as impact investing, impact accounting, and impact evaluation.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Learn about the nature of the impact economy and various examples of impact businesses and ecosystems to enhance your own ability to create impact
2. Deepen understanding of solving social issues in various contexts in Japan and Asia through dialogues with guest speakers who are top-leaders in this field.
3. Conceptualize one's own impact business and strengthen one's image for its realization through peer review.

## POSITIONING:

This course will provide participants with the opportunity to learn strategies for creating social impact through business. In addition to Shizenkan graduate students, participants will also include practitioners from Japan and other countries as well as graduate students from Asia, providing an opportunity for multidisciplinary and multifaceted learning.

## LEARNING APPROACH:

1. Interactive discussion through lectures, cases and guest speakers dialogues.
2. Present your impact business concept as a final assignment

## REFERENCE BOOK:

Sir Ronald Cohen "On Impact" Free Audio <https://www.onimpactnow.org/about>



PDF

[https://aspirecircle.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ON\\_IMPACT\\_A-guide-to-The-Impact-R-evolution\\_2018.pdf](https://aspirecircle.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ON_IMPACT_A-guide-to-The-Impact-R-evolution_2018.pdf)

#### EVALUATION:

Students are expected to attend class and contribute to discussions. In addition to the attendance requirement (at least 4 sessions or more), submission of “feedback sheets (at least 3 times or more)” and "Final brief essay" are mandatory requirement to receive credit. Failure to do so will result in the loss of credit. Grading will be based on the following:

- Active participation and contribution to discussion in each class session (30%)
- Each class’s pre-assignments and feedback sheets (30%)
- Final essay (40%)

#### PLAGIARISM:

In preparation for pre-assignments and final report, please respect Shizenkan policy on plagiarism. Any student who is caught cheating, such as cut-copy-pasting without properly referencing sources, having one’s report written by someone else, or engaging in any other form of plagiarism, shall receive a failing (F) grade. A student who is caught cheating for a second time, regardless of the content, shall be expelled.

#### Late report submissions:

Please note that reports submitted after the deadline will be subject to point deduction and may not be evaluated in some cases.

#### SESSION OVERVIEW:

Session 1 : Value and Trends in Impact Business and Ecosystem [3 hours]

Session 2 : Impact Investment and business [3 hours]

Session 3 : Achieving Triple Impact [3 hours]

Session 4 : Ecosystem Supporting Impact Business [3 hours]

Session 5 : Impact Business Co-Creation Workshop [3 hours]

**Contact us**



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