



至善館
SHIZENKAN

Graduate School of Leadership and Innovation

Shizenkan University

MBA Program

in Design and Leadership for Societal Innovation

2026 Academic Year



Our Aspiration:

Pioneer a new paradigm of business school education, looking ahead to the 22nd century.

The Graduate School of Leadership and Innovation, Shizenkan University (henceforth “Shizenkan”) is a unique leadership education institution, unparalleled in the world. Our goal is to develop the next generation of leaders who have the skills to lead change and innovation as management professionals, are equipped with a deep sense of humanism and social awareness and are willing to take initiatives to contribute to society and the world (we call such individuals as “whole-person management leaders”). By doing so, we aim to contribute to the realization of a peaceful and prosperous society.

We believe the business school education, which was born in the United States in the beginning of the 20th century, requires a paradigm shift to meet the pressing needs of the 21st century, when humanity faces a critical turning point in its history, and expectations for business and its leaders are shifting rapidly. We Shizenkan aim to lead this paradigm shift from Japan and Asia, by sincerely facing the critical challenges that confront us and exploring a new approach of leadership education toward the 22nd century, while capitalizing on the foundation built by traditional business school education.

Our challenges are guided by our founding spirit, mission and purpose:

Founding Spirit

At this critical juncture in the history of humanity, we strive to realize a peaceful and prosperous future with kindred spirits across the world by pioneering whole-person leadership education from Japan and Asia.

Mission

We shall generate innovation and wisdom through programs that encourage both a broad perspective and deep self-reflection, a space (*ba*) that enables mutual inspiration and learning, and an ecosystem that catalyzes collaboration and co-creation.

Purpose

We aim to contribute to the realization of a humane, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable society by nurturing whole-person leaders of vision, willpower, and integrity, who through professionalism and empathy inspire others to live a life of purpose and service.



Our Challenge:

Develop leaders who shape the future at the turning point of human history

Shizenkan's program – MBA in Design and Leadership for Societal Innovation – (henceforth “the program”) is designed upon our view that our current economic system, and the overall human society at large, is facing a critical turning point of its history, and thus, we need leaders who tackle the challenges of shaping the future.

The fundamental assumptions of 20th century business schools have been shaken from their foundations, as business, economy, and society face new challenges. There are serious questions regarding mass production and mass consumption based on ever-growing economy, as well as large, hierarchical organizational structure, filled with middle managers and functional specialists who are equipped with specialized skills and economic incentive-based management skills.

Global society now widely shares concerns for the sustainability of unlimited pursuit of economic growth, as we face extreme weather events erupting around the world, and experts point out we have reached the planetary boundaries. Increasing attention to initiatives such as United Nations' SDGs, ESG investment, and impact investment exemplify such concerns. The shift from linear economy to circular economy is fundamentally altering economic activities towards small-scale, more localized, production and consumption; this shift has deep implications on society that go beyond addressing the climate crisis. In this context, people have started seeking a future in which they can connect with each other in their local communities, live in harmony with nature, and experience a sense of wellbeing.

Further, rapid progress of science and technology in various areas such as generative AI, quantum computing, and life science, and resulting innovations, are also rapidly reshaping the world we live in. The source of value creation has been shifting from occupying resources, markets and knowledge as well as pursuit of economies of scale to creativity and entrepreneurship, which generates a vision of new future and facilitates risk-taking initiatives to realize the vision. Accordingly, the requirements of next generation leaders shifts from administrative skills to operate an organization based on their position power, with carrots and sticks, to leadership abilities to mobilize people and teams based on trust and empathy.

We also face a much larger turning point from a perspective of global human history. State sovereignty, democracy and capitalism have served as fundamental politico-economic systems that underpin the development of human society for centuries. However, they are now facing serious challenges, as globalization comes with increasing economic inequality and collapse of communities, as well as the world faces increasing tension in international relations and geopolitical risks. At the same time, the hegemony of the West, which lasted for 200+ years, is now swinging, due to the significant growth of Asia in the 21st century, particularly in China and in India. Furthermore, the rise of Global South, including African countries, poses questions on the Western-centric paradigm that underpinned 20th century business school education.

At this critical juncture of human history, Shizenkan aims to develop next-generation leaders, who have a passion to shape the future of themselves, the organization they work for, society, as well as the world, through its unique, whole-person management leadership education.



Our Educational Philosophy and Approach:

Support your Leadership Journey

The program at Shizenkan is designed upon our unique philosophy and approach and has the following six features.

1. Nurture and Support the Challengers with Frontier Spirits, who Embark on Their Own Leadership Journey

We define leadership as *driving oneself and taking actions to create a new future that no one has seen yet*. There is no single person who is born as a leader. A person becomes a leader by taking actions, getting fellows and supporters, and generating change and innovation in an organization or society. With this philosophy in mind, our program is designed as a starting point for each students' leadership journey, which continues after graduation, as a challenger with frontier spirits.

To achieve this aim, the program provides opportunities to nurture abilities to envision an unseen future while facing the reality, professional skills to drive change and innovation and leadership capabilities to gain trust and empathy from others. In addition, we provide chances to develop a network of likeminded friends, role models, and supporters who help you navigate the journey.

2. Develop Key Skills as Management Professionals

The Shizenkan program is designed to develop management skills and capabilities that you need to drive change and innovation. The foundation is quantitative analysis, as well as logical and strategic thinking. These have long been on the core curriculum of traditional business schools, since they are an essential skill set for management professionals. You will also work on design thinking; the observation of what the real needs and potential wants and the envisioning of what business and society should be. Further, we nurture abilities to think outside the box to conceive a future state beyond a mere extension of the past or present and deal with the exponential and disruptive innovations in science and technology facing us today. We aim to develop a new breed of management professionals by uniquely combining traditional business school education along with these new methods from design schools and innovation schools.

3. Nurture the Perspective of the Corporate Manager, Entrepreneur, and Social Leader

One problem faced by business schools is the compartmentalization of education. Each course focuses on a narrow segment of management, such as accounting, finance, marketing, and strategy, merely delivering a patchwork of compartmentalized knowledge and frameworks. As a result, traditional business school education lacks integration of such elements from the perspective of management. Shizenkan's curriculum constantly encourages students to capture each aspect of management/organizational activities from the perspective of a corporate manager, entrepreneur, or social leader. Furthermore, we place business policy, a discipline that holistically captures business, organization and management, at the very core of the program. Thus, unlike other educational institutions, our objective is not to produce experts in specific functional areas, such as finance and accounting, but well-rounded managers, entrepreneurs, and social leaders.

4. Establish a Clear Set of Values and Insights into the Future through Liberal Arts Education

Business-related knowledge and skills are essential for the success of management and professionals. However, they only address questions regarding *how* to achieve something, but more fundamental questions such as “for whom?”, “for what?”, and “why?”. Hence, business-related knowledge and skills are about *means* but *ends*. We believe educational approaches that simply teach “how” are fundamentally flawed. To address the questions about *ends*, our curriculum includes liberal arts courses that deal with history, religions, philosophy, sociology, science, and the arts. By doing so we aim to help students inquire their own views about human history, world, society and people and establish their own values that guide their decision and actions as a leader. At the same time, liberal arts provide students the basis for comprehending the current state of the world and gain insights into the future. The Shizenkan program nurtures abilities to gain deep insights into the long-term current of human history as well as the transformation of the world, society, and human existence as a result of globalization and innovation through liberal arts education.

5. Cultivate Leadership by Facing Society and Others and Reflecting Upon Oneself

We think that the first and foremost important element of leadership is contemplation of the meaning and goal of life through self-reflection. This is normally defined as recognition of one's inner voice and values. However, for management professionals, who often wield influence over society, self-reflection should also include examining our relationship with society and other people; to question the meaning of our lives and goals within the context of society. Hence, in our program, self-reflection plays a critical role in cultivating a foundation for students' growth as a whole-person management leader, and we incorporate various educational approaches such as coaching, assessments, psychology-based workshops and experiential learning to facilitate students' self-reflection.

6. Collaborate Globally with People and Institutions Who Share Similar Values

Shizenkan operates in partnership with the IESE Business School in Barcelona, Spain, the School of Inspired Leadership (SOIL) based in Delhi, India, and Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. With these partners, our institution has a faculty exchange program to conduct joint workshops and research projects relating to global business management and the future of leadership education. Shizenkan also collaborates with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Japan and plans to create an interactive network with the Chinese business community in Asia. In addition, we operate a platform to discuss the future of capitalism and the responsibilities and roles of companies with business schools around the world that support Shizenkan's educational philosophy, including schools from South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Belgium, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Canada, Nigeria, and South Africa. Shizenkan students can also participate in these discussions.

7. Explore Leadership and Management, Grounded in Asian and Japanese Values

As the business school education that originates from the United States spread across the globe, many business schools in Europe and Asia accept Anglo-American perspectives as implicit assumptions of their education. Shizenkan distances itself from this trend, as a business school from Japan and Asia. The 21st century is considered as the era of Asia, and the region has unique cultural and philosophical traditions, such as monism and the emphasis on living in symbiosis with nature. At Shizenkan, we incorporate Eastern philosophies as well as Zen and meditation are part of our curriculum, while drawing on American business school education, which is based on Western rationalism. We seek to become a bridge between the East and the West, and a model of management leadership that is best adapted for the future. Jointly with business schools around Asia, we organize study trips in Japan (Kyoto) as well as to Hong Kong/Shenzhen to provide hands-on learning experiences that go beyond the classroom.



Focus of the program

To aid students to concretely imagine one's own future challenges, Shizenkan program sets three domains of Challengers with Frontier Spirits as follows. These three domains correspond to learning tracks incorporated in the program (→ Please also see the Program Structure section).

- **Global Management Transformation**

Embark on a journey to transform an existing business, organization and management, or to create a new business and business practices, foreseeing the changes in global society, markets, and technologies. At the same time, explore the raison d'etre of the business, organization, and management in society.

- **Sustainability and Social Innovation**

Explore an innovative approach to pursue harmony between environment and business and vibrant local communities. Tackle social issues and create a sustainable and inclusive future, leveraging business approaches.

- **Entrepreneurship and Tech Innovation**

Bring out innovation in society with entrepreneurship and disruptive ideas. Leverage technology to shape a better future for humanity.

Shizenkan Overview

Institution:	Graduate School of Leadership and Innovation, Shizenkan University
Major:	Major in Leadership and Innovation
Degree:	Master of Business Administration in Design and Leadership for Societal Innovation
Annual Admittance:	80 students
Class Schedule:	In principle, twice a week, once on a weeknight and during the day on Saturday or Sunday. *Some courses may occur on national holidays
Duration:	Two years (part-time)
Matriculation:	August 19, 2026

Shizenkan is a bilingual graduate school with a campus located in central Tokyo, a 5-minute walk from the Yaesu Exit of Tokyo Station. The school is accredited by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and offers a master's degree in business administration ("MBA in Design and Leadership for Societal Innovation"). Courses run continuously over two years (essentially 20 months, with summer and winter breaks). Classes are generally held twice a week, once on a weeknight and during the day on Saturday or Sunday.

Most courses are offered in both Japanese and English. Up to 80 students will be accepted per year from a pool of promising applicants worldwide. The cohort will be divided approximately in two, half taking classes in Japanese and the other in English, so admissions selection will be carried out based on the language the applicant chooses and both cohorts accept Japanese and international students. After enrollment, in principle, students take the two-year program in the language of their choice. However, please note that some required courses will be jointly conducted in English with both the Japanese and English classes (these courses will be conducted in English, even for students who have enrolled in the Japanese program). These courses are designed to provide students with experiences that transcend

language and culture based on the idea that English, the global standard language of business, is indispensable for future leaders.

We believe that the future of leadership education lies in learning beyond the boundaries of specific sectors. As a graduate school of business administration, we see many of our students coming from the business sector with possible intentions to manage firms and projects or start a business in the future. At the same time, we will accept applicants from the public and civic sectors such as from international organizations, central/local governments as well as NGOs, NPOs, and social enterprises. Shizenkan does so because we believe that the leaders of the next generation must combine a sharp business sense with public mindedness. As the concept of impact business becomes widespread, PPP (public-private partnership) becomes increasingly popular, and the boundary blurs between profit/nonprofit and public/private, Shizenkan offers an opportunity and a place for students to grow holistically, in an environment where people from different sectors come to learn together and inspire each other.

With this belief, we design the 1st year program mostly consisting of compulsory courses, in which all students learn together. At the same time, we offer several electives in the 2nd year that cater to the particular needs of each sector in exercising leadership.

In addition, a key characteristic of the program is to offer students opportunities to develop networks with people who could be role models and/or supporters of students' future leadership challenges through dialogue with leaders who play significant roles in various fields of society. We organize opportunities to encounter key challenges at the forefront of societal changes, leveraging Shizenkan's vast networks within and outside of Japan.

Different from conventional business schools who aim to provide basic knowledge to young people in their 20's, Shizenkan University's program is tailor-made for working professionals in their 30's with rich experience to nurture their growth as business leaders (such as entrepreneurs and policy makers). That is why Shizenkan has designed a sophisticated and integrated curriculum to give a holistic and comprehensive view of business creation and management where students learn basic business literacy and skills in accounting, marketing, and finance as well as more in-depth content. For students who do not have a lot of business knowledge, we would highly recommend supplementary study prior to starting the program. In particular, logical thinking/writing and understanding and interpretation of financial numbers (reading of financial statements, understanding the role of BS/PL/CF), which are the most basic skills required.

At Shizenkan, we operate our classes based on the idea that the "learning space" is created by both faculty and students. Students are expected to be "active contributors of the learning space", who not only deepen their own learning but also contribute to the learning of the entire class by speaking up, asking questions, and engaging in dialogue, rather than being "passive consumers" of the class.



Program Objectives (Diploma Policy)

The goal of the program is to educate well-rounded whole-person management leaders with the self-awareness and responsibility to be business professionals as well as members of society

Upon completion of our unique curriculum, students will receive a “Master of Business Administration in Design and Leadership for Societal Innovation,” a degree that recognizes the abilities required of the next generation of leaders: leading business innovation and organizational transformation, with an overall eye for overseeing a wide range of functional activities, people and organizations from the perspective of managers or entrepreneurs.

The following four competencies are a more concrete definition of the abilities and qualities required of the holistic whole-person management leaders that we define.

1. **Individual Willpower...** The ability to develop a sense of mission through questioning who one is and for what purpose one was given life, to act with vision, and to continue to simultaneously grow as a person.
2. **Management Professional’s Ability to Envision...** The ability to conceive new forms of business, organization, and management from a business leader/entrepreneur perspective, with high-level perspective and long-term vision, while anticipating changes of the times and environmental transformation, without being bound by the past or conventions.
3. **Leader’s Ability to Realize...** The ability to act as a role model toward realizing one’s vision, sincerely engage with people, gain empathy and trust, and lead change and innovation in an organization and society.
4. **Whole-Person Ability to be Grounded...** The ability to make unwavering judgments and take action based on one's established core, possessing firm convictions, ideals, and philosophy backed by views of history, the world, and humanity, combined with awareness and sense of social responsibility.



Curriculum Policy

1. Through liberal arts education, we cultivate worldview, historical perspective, and view of humanity, fostering the “Abilities to be Grounded” that become individual convictions, ideals, and philosophy, while developing insight to understand past signs, current issues, and sense future trends.
2. To cultivate a comprehensive, bird's-eye perspective as a management professional, we intend that students do not learn by fragmenting corporate activities into individual functions, but rather acquire managerial knowledge, skills, and thinking methods while always understanding the necessity of each function within the overall management context. At the same time, to break away from the educational paradigm of business administrator development, we incorporate essences of design schools and innovation schools to enable students to conceive new business, management, and economic-social visions required for the future and acquire flexible thinking ability and sensitivity for creating innovation.
3. The purpose of Shizenkan's educational program is for students to utilize acquired skills and knowledge in practical settings where the "Leader's Ability to Realize" is required above all. As such, it is necessary to gain the empathy and trust from the people around us which in turn the rippling effects spread to other people and organizations. Shizenkan's program actively incorporates assessments to understand one's behavioral characteristics in engaging, collaborating with, and mobilizing people, and by knowing strengths and weaknesses as a leader. Receiving observations and feedback from others is also a part of self-reflection.
4. Leadership cannot be fully demonstrated without aspirations and passion. External motivation alone—such as assignments from others or appraisals from surrounding people—cannot enable one to continue challenging while confronting uncertainty and risk and sometimes enduring adversity. Unfortunately, intrinsic drivers such as aspirations and passion cannot be acquired through knowledge acquisition. They become clearer through repeatedly asking oneself: Who am I? What is my life purpose? What do I want to accomplish in my life? Such self-reflection facilitates the emergence of individual willpower, by liberating one from the constraints of one's organizational affiliation and job responsibilities. Based on this recognition, Shizenkan's program actively incorporates psychological and coaching methods and repeatedly conducts workshops that promote introspection and dialogue with oneself.



Program Structure

Shizenkan's MBA is a 2-years program (effectively 20 months) with the 1st year program mostly compulsory courses that all students enroll in and the 2nd year program where students choose their own track (out of the following three choices) and take elective courses.

- Global Management Transformation
- Sustainability and Social Innovation
- Entrepreneurship and Tech Innovation

Candidates do not need to choose a track at the point of application. After joining Shizenkan, each student will clarify their own problem awareness and career intentions and then choose a track as they proceed to the 2nd year. At this point, start thinking about your areas of interest.

The 1st year program is designed to nurture basic skills and capabilities to take on your leadership journey. The curriculum comprises the three categories of courses. They are mostly compulsory courses that all students take.


- **Liberal Arts Courses** nurture your own views about history, world, and human existence through exploration of topics such as company (as a social institution); capitalism and modern philosophy; diversity of societies through the lens of religions; science, technology and innovation.
- **Business Skill Courses** enhance your professional abilities to envision and verify a vision and business model through topics such as accounting, finance, marketing, system thinking, business strategy, and design thinking.
- **Self-Reflection Courses** help you crystalize a vision of yourself through deep reflection on leadership and its meaning to yourself as well as encounters with various role models in society.

The 2nd year program includes both compulsory courses and elective courses that each student selects based on their track. The compulsory courses include the following two categories:

- **Interpersonal leadership Courses** equip students with abilities to mobilize people and organization towards their own vision.
- **Integrative Courses** provide students opportunities to integrate various elements of management and leadership as well as polish their own perspective and philosophy as a leader.

In addition, we provide elective courses and individual projects that correspond to the three tracks.

- **Elective Courses** deepen your expertise in the area you choose from Global Management Transformation, Sustainability and Social Innovation, or Entrepreneurship and Tech Innovation.
- **Individual Project** offers each student an opportunity to draw a proposal of future challenges upon a theme that corresponds to the track of their choice, working in a small-group seminar.



Degree Requirements and Award of Degree

To successfully complete the program, students must be enrolled in the program for two (2) years and earn the credits from all compulsory courses (43 credits in total), plus at least three (3) credits from elective courses, for a total of 46 credits or more. The degree of *Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Design and Leadership for Societal Innovation* will be awarded to those who have fulfilled the above requirements.

The MBA is an acknowledgment to the model of education that came to symbolize 20th century capitalism, but the full title, “*Design and Leadership for Societal Innovation*” also shows our desire to innovate in response to the challenges of this century and beyond.

Students who have failed to earn more than one quarter of their credits during their first-year courses (excluding optional courses) will be subject to expulsion. However, if the Faculty Committee determines that there is a sufficient reason, the student may be exempted from expulsion.



Network After Graduation

Graduates will join Shizenkan’s alumni network and are eligible to participate in various alumni activities.

Shizenkan is a graduate school established in 2018 and our parent organization, the Institute for Strategic Leadership (ISL), is an educational institution that has been operating since 2001. ISL runs a non-degree management leader development program for people in their 40s that has turned out more than 2,000 business executives, including many who have gone on to manage major firms. ISL is also active in training and support of social entrepreneurs. In addition to their own network of classmates, Shizenkan graduates will therefore have access to the ISL alumni, bringing more opportunities for continued growth and networking across sectors and generations.

Shizenkan also operates several centers where like-minded leaders and practitioners who are tackling specific social issues and themes come together to engage in dialogue and deepen their learning. Currently, the following four centers have been established:

- Impact Economy Center
- Liberal Arts Center
- Circular Futures Design Center
- Center for Negotiation & Leadership

Each center provides semi-open events and gatherings with guest speakers, offering participants valuable networking opportunities with peers, role models, and supporters that can play a role in their

own challenges and growth journeys and serve as collaborative spaces to envision and co-create the future. Through mentorship by experienced professionals and mutual stimulations among participants, these centers foster an ecosystem that translate learning into action. Participation in center events and activities is possible post-graduation.



Admission Policy

In the selection process, an applicant's potential will be assessed using the following three elements.

1. Willingness to Take Initiative and Find your Own Path in Life

Applicants must have experiences of demonstrating leadership, taking an initiative and exerting influence over others to spark change in an organization they are affiliated or manage; one's own recognition of the "self" formed through life experiences; and motivation to become a manager/entrepreneur (*) rather than a mere functional specialist by developing oneself through the Shizenkan program.

* We expect applicants from the public sector to have willingness to confront policy making and its implementation within their organizations.

2. Ability to Absorb Knowledge and Think Critically

Applicants should possess basic academic ability, intellectual capacity, curiosity, and attitude to explore the essence of subject matters, all of which are crucial to digest and absorb the contents of the program. Furthermore, they must demonstrate the ability to explore the underlying factors of the subject phenomenon, analyze their causal structure, form one's hypothesis through logical inferences, and engage in constructive discussions.

3. Sense of Social Awareness and Willingness to Help Others

Applicants should have an interest in world affairs and societal issues and possess problem awareness regarding trends of the times and their future direction. They should have their thoughts about challenges and endeavors of organizations they belong to or manage. Having an attitude to face reality and deeply contemplate human existence and organizational activities, communities, and society created by human endeavors, without falling into idealism or pessimism, and without remaining at superficial understanding. Above all, having motivation to actively share such deep problem awareness accompanied by reality with others rather than keeping it within oneself, and connecting this to mutual learning and human growth through mutual inspiration and friendly competition.



Admissions

(1) Overview

The admissions process is designed to help the candidate and Shizenkan determine if the program is the right place for the candidate and his/her goals. The admissions process of Shizenkan is a two-stage process. After the initial screening of the submitted documents, selected candidates will be invited to a formal interview. The purpose of the interview is to understand more about the candidate, beyond the information the candidate provided in the admission documents. The candidates are selected on the basis of the three (3) elements mentioned above.¹

If the candidate wishes to enroll in a program delivered in his/her non-native language, a language proficiency test in the form of an oral exam will be conducted during the interview.

(2) Formal Interview

Shizenkan conducts formal interviews online (via Zoom). Shizenkan will inform the selected candidate about the date and time of the interview as well as send the selected candidate the Zoom meeting link after the review of the candidate's submitted documents is complete.

Candidate Eligibility

All candidates are required to have a minimum of three (3) years full-time work experience and fulfill one (1) of the following conditions at the time of enrollment, i.e., August 20th, 2026:

- Obtained a university or college degree
- Obtained a bachelor's degree from the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education of Japan
- Completed 16 years of education in a foreign country
- Officially recognized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan
- Considered to have qualifications in education, knowledge, skills and aspiration to be admitted in the program by the Shizenkan Admissions Committee

Application Process

Candidates must submit all required documents via the Shizenkan website. Please follow the steps below to complete the online application.

¹ It is not compulsory to submit your GMAT or GRE results to enroll in the program.

Step 1: Prepare application package and pay the application fee.

- To apply to Shizenkan, please download the application forms from the Shizenkan website in the language (English or Japanese) of the program you wish to apply for. Candidates are required to pay the application fee of 35,000JPY. (*note that the candidate is responsible for any bank transfer costs.) When transferring payment from a financial institution counter or ATM, please receive and keep the transfer receipt. The payment receipt should be submitted with other documents.

Step 2: Submit the application package.

- Please follow the instructions on the Shizenkan website to submit all required documents. As a general rule, only online submissions via the website will be accepted.

Step 3: Document screening and scheduling the interview.

- As the initial assessment of the candidate's qualifications, Shizenkan conducts application documents screening. Invitations for the interview will be sent within one month of receiving the application package.
- The second assessment for those candidates who pass the document screening is the interview. Those candidates who pass the initial screening will be contacted via email by the Admissions Office to arrange the interview date. Please reply with your preferred date and time.

Step 4: Personal interview

- The interview will be conducted online (Zoom) and will be conducted by several faculty and staff members for approximately one hour.
- Please note that if the candidate wishes to take the program in his/her non-native language, a language examination will be conducted during the interview.

Step 5: Admission

- The Admissions Office will inform the candidate of the admissions result after the completion of both the document screening and interview.
- Admitted candidates who wish to enroll in the program will be required to deposit the enrollment fee within two weeks from the receipt of the notification of acceptance (excluding those enrolled through company and organization dispatchment). The Admissions Office will also notify admitted candidates of the due date of the tuition fee. Formal enrollment begins once the Admissions Office confirms the deposit of enrollment and tuition fees.
- In addition, if Shizenkan determines that the candidate has little practical experience and that the management literacy necessary for attending the program is insufficient, enrollment might be permitted on condition of preliminary study of the basic principles (particularly, in the fields of finance and accounting).

Admissions Cycle

There are three application cycles for admissions. Candidates who completed their application before a particular submission deadline will receive their admissions result within one month of each deadline.

Initial review of documents and the subsequent interview will proceed as soon as the candidate completes the application, regardless of the deadlines.

- 1st Deadline: December 12th, 2025
- 2nd Deadline: March 31st, 2026
- 3rd Deadline: May 31st, 2026

Application Forms

Below is the list of documents required for application. In principle, please use a PC or similar device to prepare the application documents. Please prepare the documents in the language of the program you are applying to (As for the Letter of Recommendation [Form C], it may be written in either Japanese or English, depending on the recommender's preference). The Admissions Office starts the process only after receiving all the required documents. Applications will not be accepted if all documents are not submitted by the deadline. Please note that documents submitted will not be returned.

Document	Required by	Notes
1.Application Form “Form A”	Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill out the form with your personal data, work experience and academic record. • Select the language of application: English or Japanese. • If you have a test score related to language proficiency, please enter the score in the "Certificates or test results" column and submit a copy of the test score as well. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Application for English classes: TOEFL or TOEIC ○ Application for Japanese language classes: Japanese Language Proficiency Test
2. A summary of your educational and professional experience	Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit your summary of your educational and professional experience, describing your academic and professional experiences in reverse historical order. Include the names of educational institutions where you have studied, the duration of your studies, and the degrees/certificates you earned. As for your professional experiences, refer to the company/organization you have worked for, your titles/work responsibilities, and your accomplishments. • Use any format and style of your choice but restrict the length up to three A4-sized pages (Please prepare the documents in English)).

3.Certificate of Graduation	Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The certificates should be original or certified copies of the original version. • The issue dates of the certificates should be from within the past year. • They should be written in either English or Japanese. <p>* For other languages, please attach a translation in either English or Japanese, certified by an embassy or other suitable public institution. If it is difficult to prepare the translated documents from an embassy or other official organization, you may translate it yourself.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The certificate is required for each degree you have obtained. If your degree was issued by more than one university (e.g., a double degree) you are required to submit the transcript from each entity. • If you have withdrawn from a university, please submit documents proving you have done so. • If you have graduated from a graduate school, please submit the certificate of completion of the graduate school as well. • If you have not completed a university accredited by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, but have obtained a bachelor's degree from the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education of Japan, please submit a certificate of the degree awarded. • If you have graduated from a university outside Japan, and the certificates do not state the name of the degree obtained, please provide a certificate that does so. • If you have graduated from a university outside Japan, and you are unable to submit a certificate, please submit a copy of the diploma or the certificate of degree.
4.Certified Transcripts of Academic Degrees, Other Studies and Activities	Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transcripts should be original or certified copies of the original version. • The issue dates of the transcripts should be from within the past year. • They should be written in either English or Japanese.

		<p>* For other languages, please attach a translation in either English or Japanese, certified by an embassy or other authorized public institution. If it is difficult to prepare the translated documents from an embassy or other official organization, you may translate it yourself.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applicants who have graduated from more than one college or university should submit transcripts from each entity.
5. Essay “Form B”	Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Write and submit your personal essays on the following three topics. Word limit for topics 1 and 2: Japanese - approx. 1,000 characters, English - approx. 500 words; topic 3: Japanese - approx. 1,200 characters, English - approx. 700 words. <p>(1) Outline your professional experience and future aspirations, how they relate to what you expect to learn and experiences at Shizenkan and how you see your career developing after graduation.</p> <p>(2) Tell us about two of your biggest achievements as a leader which you are proud of.</p> <p>(3) Pick two experiences of failure or setback in your life and explain how you have overcome them and what you have learned from the process. Explain by describing specific examples.</p> <p>* If you used ChatGPT or other generative AI, please describe the purpose and details of its use at the end of the essay.</p>
6. Two Letters of Recommendation “Form C”	Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide two letters of recommendation, from someone who knows your academic abilities, behavior and judgment in professional and/or private situations: your strengths as a leader, and areas for possible improvement well. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It could be your university or graduate school supervisor, your current or previous work supervisor or someone who is closely involved in your work. Outside of work, it should be a person who has known you for a long time, both your public and private affairs, and is familiar with your personality. Friends, family members and relatives are <u>not</u> eligible. ○ If you cannot provide reference letters from two persons meeting Shizenkan requirements, you may enclose a separate letter (free format) explaining the

		<p>reason for that and provide recommendation letters from other referees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> References must be written in a format specified by Shizenkan and please notify your referees to submit it to the Admissions Office directly via email or facsimile or postal services. You can find the detailed information as well as required format for letters of recommendation HERE. The letter of recommendation should include, besides the text of recommendation, some basic profile information of the referee: the affiliated company, position, contact information (phone and email), and the signature (digital signature is acceptable) of the referee. Please notify your referees that the Admissions Office may take the liberty of contacting them directly for clarification and additional questions.
7. Copy of Receipt of the Application Fee “Form D”	Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please submit Form D with a copy of the receipt for transferring the application fee (35,000JPY) attached. If you transfer via internet banking, please attach a screen capture of the payment.
8. Certificate of Company Sponsorship “Form E”	Company Sponsored Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The manager in charge of the sponsorship should fill out Form E.
9.Passport Copy	International Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of relevant pages of your passport, including your name, photo, passport number and date of birth. *Not required for special permanent residents.
10. Residence Card Copy or Certificate of Residence	International Applicants Residing in Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of <u>both sides</u> of your valid Residence Card or Certificate of Residence in Japan, including your nationality, status and period of stay. Alien registration card or special permanent resident certificate is also valid.
11. Application for Credit Recognition “Form F”	Applicants earned credits as a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please fill out and submit Form F.

	non-degree student	
12. Request for Use of Preferred Name “Form G”	Applicants wish to use their preferred name (including maiden name)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please fill out and submit Form G. ● Please attach the required documents according to the content of your application.

Application Fee

The payment of the application fee, 35,000JPY, is required when applying for the program. It is payable via bank transfer to the following bank account. Please note that the candidate is responsible for bank transfer costs.

The application fee is not refundable with the exception of the following cases:

- (1) If the application fee was paid but the application to Shizenkan was not submitted (the application documents were not sent, or the application documents were not received).
- (2) In case of paying the application fee twice by mistake.

In case of (1) or (2) please contact the Admissions Office. If your request for the return of the fee is accepted by the Shizenkan Admissions Office, it will be refunded to your designated account. However, please be aware that the bank transfer fee and other related transaction costs will be deducted from the amount.

[Account for domestic remittance]

Bank name: MUFG Bank, LTD
Branch name: Nihonbashi-Chuo Branch
Account number: 0312630
Account holder: Gakkouhoujin Shizenkan

[Account for international remittance]

Bank name: MUFG Bank, Ltd.
Branch name: Nihonbashi-Chuo Branch
SWIFT code/ BIC code: BOTKJPJT (8 digit*)
Bank address: 1-3-2, Nihonbashihongokucho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0021, JAPAN

Phone number: +81-3-3272-3011

Account number: 333-0312630

Account holder: Shizenkan University

University address: Nihonbashi Takashimaya Mitsui Bldg 17F, 5-1, Nihonbashi 2-Chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-6117, JAPAN

University tel: +81-3-6281-9012

*If the SWIFT code requires 11 digits, please add “X” to the last 3 digits and use “BOTKJPJTXXX”.

*Please remit in Japanese yen.

*When remitting money from overseas, overseas remittance fees and bank charges (fees and charges related to receiving money in Japan) will be incurred. These remittance fees are to be borne by the applicant. In cases where the receiver is specified as being responsible for such fees or no person is specified for being responsible for such fees, these incurred fees will be deducted from the remittance amount resulting in an insufficient payment amount being received and may result in your application not being accepted.

*Please check with your bank in advance for bank charges and the number of days required for remittance. Remittance by check is not acceptable.

Academic Fees

The following table shows the academic fees required for enrollment in the program. (*Note: the application fee is 35,000JPY)

Enrollment fee	200,000JPY
Tuition fee for 1 st year	2,400,000JPY
Tuition fee for 2 nd year	2,400,000JPY
Total	5,000,000JPY

- (1) The enrollment fee is paid only one time in the first year.
- (2) Program tuition can be paid on a yearly basis or as a lump sum. When necessary, the tuition fees for the first and the second semesters may be paid separately with the permission of Shizenkan for students who are not sponsored and are self-funded. Further detailed information regarding the tuition and fee payment will be sent to you upon notification of acceptance.
- (3) The tuition fees do not include costs of textbooks and other optional academic materials.

*Optional Field Studies

In addition to the above, if you participate in field studies (optional) in Japan or overseas, their expenses are paid separately.

Protection of Personal Information

All personal information that Shizenkan obtains from the candidate will be used solely for the purpose of admissions screening and the student registration subsequent to admissions. For more information on Shizenkan's personal information policy (<https://shizenkan.ac.jp/en/privacy-en/>), please kindly refer to Shizenkan's website. By applying, you are considered to have agreed to the policy.



Scholarship Program

Shizenkan provides a Scholarship Program to offer students the opportunity of leadership education in an environment where people of different nationalities, coming from different backgrounds and sectors can learn together and inspire each other. Please visit our website for more details.

(1) Purpose

A Shizenkan University Scholarship is awarded to one whose applications to Shizenkan is accepted and who is expected to become a whole-person management leader that is able to drive change and innovation, based on his/her qualifications, management and business, as well as human and social skills. Furthermore, the scholarship is awarded to those who have financial difficulties in funding to pursue his/her academic goal of becoming a holistic management leader.

(2) Scholarship Program

- **Scholarship Coverage:**
In principle, the amount is limited to 1,000,000JPY (for 2 years). However, applicants who are excellent in academic achievements and/or need financial aid more than the amount described above, may receive no more than 4,800,000JPY. The enrollment fee (200,000JPY) must be paid by every candidate.
- **Payment Method:**
To reduce the tuition fee, one-fourth of the scholarship amount will be disbursed at the beginning of the first and second half of each academic year.
- **Scholarship Payment Period:**
In principle, 2 years from August 2025.

Scholarship recipients and the specific amount of the scholarship award will be decided based on the candidates' financial status and areas such as diverse profile, experience, and qualifications.

(3) Eligibility

The scholarship is awarded to one who meets all requirements specified below. The number of persons to be admitted is limited.

- Students who understand and strongly sympathize with the educational policy of Shizenkan.
- Students who have high motivation to grow as whole-person management leaders and who commit to studying and contributing to the classes and their fellow classmates.
- Students who have difficulties funding their studies.
- Students who are self-funded, either paying the tuition fee by themselves or who are supported by their family. If applicants are company sponsored or have other outside financial support for the whole tuition fee, they are ineligible for the scholarship.

* There is no nationality restriction.



Use of Public Support Systems

(1) Educational Training Benefits System

The program has been designated as a course eligible for the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare's Practical Education and Training Benefits Program. As a result, students who enroll and meet the requirements will be able to apply to receive reimbursement for a certain percentage of their education and training expenses (the maximum benefits of 1,120,000JPY can be granted over 2 years). Please refer to the Guide to Professional Practical Education and Training Benefits. **(2) Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) Loan Type Scholarship**

Shizenkan students can apply for a loan scholarship (which recipients must reimburse after graduation) offered by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO). Students are required to apply for this scholarship through Shizenkan to JASSO after enrollment. For more information on the application requirements etc. on this scholarship, please refer to the JASSO website. The application information for the students who start their study in AY2026 will be released by JASSO around March 2025. For your reference, please see the link below to the application guidelines for students enrolled in AY2025 and the outline of the scholarships.

Application Guidelines for Academic Year 2025 (only in Japanese):
<https://www.jasso.go.jp/shogakukin/moshikomi/zaigaku/tebiki/in.html>

Outline of the scholarships:

Scholarship	Scholarship amount (monthly amount)
First Category <No interest>	Choose from 50,000JPY and 88,000JPY
Second Category <Interest-bearing>	Choose from 50,000JPY, 80,000JPY, 100,000JPY, 130,000JPY, and 150,000JPY.
Special Increased Scholarship Loan Upon Enrollment <Interest-bearing>	Choose from 100,000JPY, 200,000JPY, 300,000JPY, 400,000JPY, or 500,000JPY (Only once at enrollment)



Student Loans

Shizenkan partners with three financial institutions, which offer student loans that cover registration and tuition fees. For details, please visit the Shizenkan website (Please note that information is only available in Japanese).

- [JACCS](#)
- [SMBC Finance Service](#)
- [Orient Corporation](#)

Please directly contact these financial institutions for inquiry or application. Applying for student loans requires an offer letter from Shizenkan. Loan approval is subject to judgment by the financial institution.



Contact us

Admissions Office, Graduate School of Leadership and Innovation, Shizenkan University

Address: Nihonbashi Takashimaya Mitsui Building 17F

2-5-1 Nihonbashi Chuo-ku Tokyo 103-6117 Japan

E-mail: admissions@shizenkan.ac.jp