

Master of Arts in Japanese Studies

日本研究文學碩士

**2021-2022
Admission**
(Study Mode: Part-time)

The Programme aims to provide a rigorous education in Japanese studies from interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary perspectives for students who have not majored in Japanese studies or Japanese language programmes, and for students who have majored in Japanese studies and who would like to build upon their knowledge with advanced study in specialized topics. The Programme offers language-related courses for students who have already achieved high levels of Japanese language proficiency (N1 on the Japanese Language Proficiency Test).

At the conclusion of this taught postgraduate program, students will be able to:

1. identify and critically analyze major social science theories and approaches in the study of Japanese society and culture
2. identify and articulate key social and cultural issues affecting modern Japan
3. recognize and apply appropriate approaches in understanding a variety of social and cultural issues in Japan, think critically and constructively about Japan, and be able to apply critical thinking to analyze other societies and take positive actions in everyday situations



Course Descriptions

LIST OF CORE COURSES

JASP5517

Japanese Communication through Language and Culture

This course explores Japanese communication patterns and the relationship between Japanese language, society, and culture. The course considers how the use of language reflects social contexts and human relationships. It also explores the factors that shape the success or failure of communicating in Japan, and how Japanese communication patterns compare with those of other cultures.

JASP5519

Tradition and Modernity in Contemporary Japan

This course aims at analyzing the relationship between traditional culture and modern society in Japan. It explores key cultural and social concepts in historical contexts, and considers how ideas and institutions have changed over time.

JASP5601

Theory and Methods in Japanese Studies

This course provides an overview of the major theories and approaches that have been used to examine Japan. It provides insight into the key issues shaping Japan in recent decades.

LIST OF ELECTIVE COURSES

JASP5501

Teaching Japanese as a Second Language (Japanese Proficiency N1 required)

This course introduces and discusses various concepts in teaching Japanese as a second language which include course design, the procedures of handling classroom activities, the proper usage of teaching materials and teaching tools and methods of assessing of students.

JASP5515

Japanese Linguistics (Japanese Proficiency N2 required)

The aim of this course is to enable students to understand linguistic aspects of Japanese. The course content includes pronunciation, writing system, vocabulary, and grammar. This course is suitable for everyone who wishes to organize and enrich their knowledge about the Japanese language for academic and pedagogical purposes, such as proficient Japanese speakers and prospective or ongoing Japanese teachers.

JASP5522

Chinese-Japanese Interpretation and Translation (Japanese Proficiency N1 required)

This course aims to enable students with a good knowledge of Chinese to develop their skills and techniques in interpreting Chinese into Japanese. Different text types will be used in the class, and techniques of interpretation will be provided in stages. Special attention will be given to the fundamental differences between Chinese and Japanese, especially grammatical, syntactical and cultural differences.

JASP5611

Japan's Modern Transformations, 1600-1945

This course examines key issues in Japanese history and provides training in textual and comparative analysis. Students are trained in how to use primary and secondary sources to study Japanese history. Western and Japanese scholarship on Japanese history will be introduced. Besides lectures and discussions, topical essays and group projects may be required.

JASP5612

Critical Analysis of Popular Culture

This course discusses major theories, approaches and writings on Japanese popular culture. Japanese popular culture will be examined through the lens of globalization, fandom, media studies, cultural industry, and cultural diplomacy. Both theoretical and empirical research methods and representative works will be introduced. A fieldwork-based group project may be required.

JASP5613

Thematic Study of Japanese Films

This course provides theoretical training and historical background on Japanese films. Approaches and ideas from film studies, media studies, cultural studies and gender studies will be introduced. Selected themes about Japanese films will be discussed in class and students are required to write essays or conduct a group project.



MA in Japanese Studies

JASP5615

Anthropology of Japan

This course examines how anthropologists and other social scientists have studied and written about Japan in recent decades. Lectures will introduce different approaches to Japan, and the assigned readings will provide examples of these approaches. Graduates of the Japanese Studies undergraduate major programme who have taken JASP4110 Anthropological Studies of Japanese Culture are not permitted to take this course.

JASP5618

Contemporary Japan-China Relations

This course examines the regional and global implications of Sino-Japanese relations. Students will explore Sino-Japanese relations from political, economic, security and cultural perspectives from 1850 onwards. Using the prisms of history and international relations theories, students will gain a deeper understanding of developments, challenges and opportunities that exist between Japan and China.

JASP5620

Japanese Cultural Identity

This course explores how the Yamato nation and the Japanese language were formed based on hypotheses in related fields. How Japanese society arose through the localization of foreign cultures will be dealt with from a cultural historical point of view. Attempts will be made to identify nation-wide characteristics, if any, and investigate how they were cultivated over the past centuries. Special attention will be paid to the similarities that can be found between the two major social reforms in modern Japanese history i.e. the Meiji Restoration and postwar reform. The course also discusses how these reforms influence modern Japan society.

JASP5621

Japanese Management: Work, Culture, and Capitalism

Japanese business practices have emerged from Japan's particular path to modernization and its capitalist conditions. The course will analyze the issues of industrialization, globalization and neoliberalism as well as a broad range of topics, including those related to labor, industrial organization, the theory of the firm, management, gender, and economic reforms in Japanese society. This course introduces the complex development of Japanese capitalism from the early 19th century to the present and examines ongoing transformations within Japanese capitalism.

JASP5060

Special Topics in Japanese Studies

This course will focus on specific topics in Japanese studies that are not covered in the regular course offering. Topics covered reflect students' academic needs/interests and faculty expertise. Currently one or two special topics courses are offered every semester. Examples of topics offered include: Japan & World War II in Asia; The Samurai in Japanese Culture; Understanding Japan & the World through Cinema; Gender, Sexuality, and Family in Japan; Pan-Asianism in Modern Japan; and Ainu, Foodways, and Modernity.

JASP5530

Special Topics in Japanese Language

This course will focus on specific topics in Japanese language that are not covered in the regular course offering. These topics covered reflect academic needs/interests and faculty expertise, and are intended to further consolidate students' ability to analyze and discuss academic materials using the Japanese language and to explore academic topics related to the Japanese language. Some courses require that students have obtained N1 or N2 prior to enrollment. Students enrolled in this course must have sufficient proficiency in the Japanese language to ensure they can collect and analyze data and present and discuss issues in class. Currently offered courses include "Understanding Japanese Culture through Japanese Information" and "Japanese Dialectology" - both require Japanese Proficiency N1 upon enrollment.

JASP5700

Independent Research Project

This course enables MA students to independently investigate a research topic with the assistance of a supervising professor. The research question, research methods, length of the paper and frequency of meetings will be decided at the start of the course through discussion and agreement between the student and the supervisor.



➤ *Students are required to complete 24 units of courses with at least 3 units selected from the core course list. All are 3-unit courses. Not all courses are offered in each academic year.*

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

"Established in 2012, the MA Programme in Japanese Studies at The Chinese University of Hong Kong is the only one of its kind in Hong Kong. With its emphasis on pursuing knowledge through questioning and systematic inquiry, learning through interaction with teachers and classmates, and courses delivered by first-class professors who are experts in their fields, the MA in Japanese Studies Programme has been building on its strengths. We are proud of providing an important space for critical discussion of Japan in regional and global perspective among experts and learners. Our Programme is designed to create leaders dedicated to moving between cultures and building relationships in a complex world. We invite you to join our Japanese studies community!"



- Professor Lynne Nakano

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION

All applicants shall have:

- ❖ graduated from a recognized university and obtained a bachelor's degree, normally with honours not lower than Second Class; or
- ❖ graduated from an honours programme of a recognized university with a bachelor's degree, normally achieving an average grade of not lower than "B"; or
- ❖ completed a course of study in a tertiary educational institution and obtained professional or similar qualifications equivalent to an honours degree.

Knowledge of Japanese language is not required.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to:

- ❖ complete 24 units of courses with at least 3 units selected from the core course list (actual course offerings vary from year to year).
- ❖ achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

If a student fails a course, s/he must enroll in an additional 3-unit course and receive a passing grade in order to complete the degree. A supplementary course fee is applied.

DURATION (PART-TIME)

- ❖ Normative Study Period: 2 years
- ❖ Maximum Study Period: 4 years

TUITION

HK\$115,000 for the whole programme within normative study period (4 installments).

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

To fulfill the University's minimum English language requirements for admission to postgraduate programmes, applicants should have:

- ❖ obtained a degree from a university in Hong Kong or taken a degree programme of which the medium of instruction was English; or
- ❖ achieved scores in the following English Language tests as indicated:
 - TOEFL: 550 (Paper-based)/79 (Internet-based);
 - IELTS (Academic): 6.5;
 - GMAT: Band 21 (Verbal); or
- ❖ obtained a pass grade in English in one of the following examinations:
 - Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (AS Level);
 - Hong Kong Higher Level Examination;
 - CUHK Matriculation Examination;
 - General Certificate of Education Examination (GCE) Advanced Level (A-Level)/Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS-Level); or
- ❖ achieved Level 4 or above in the English Language subject of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination; or
- ❖ obtained a recognized professional qualification, provided that the examination was conducted in English.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

1st round: 1 December 2020

2nd round: 11 February 2021

3rd round: 31 March 2021

Applications will be processed on a rolling basis until all places have been filled. Therefore, early applications are encouraged.

Applications submitted after 31 March 2021 may be considered, subject to availability of places.

CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND (CEF)

This course has been included in the list of reimbursable courses under the Continuing Education Fund.

This course is recognized under the Qualifications Framework (QF Level 6).

CEF Course Title: Master of Arts in Japanese Studies

CEF Course Code: 38M122804

For eligibility and reimbursement procedure of CEF, please refer to www.wfsfaa.gov.hk/cef.

INQUIRIES

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ONLINE APPLICATION



MORE INFORMATION



香港中文大學
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日本研究學部

Division of Japanese Studies

