

Japanese Studies at the University of Cambridge

- 4 year course including a year abroad in Japan
- Intensive language training and a wide range of content courses
- Unique internship opportunities

Japanese is a complex and fascinating language through which you can access and comprehend the rich culture of a country that plays a considerable role in the international community, and that constitutes the world's third largest economy. Japanese Studies at Cambridge brings together a vibrant community of students, graduate students and scholars. Your instructors are internationally distinguished in their fields and care deeply about delivering the best possible education tailored to you as individuals.

By choosing to pursue Japanese Studies with us at Cambridge, you will:

- Master the Japanese language to an advanced level rarely offered in other centres of higher education.
- Develop in-depth understanding of Japan within the wider East Asian region.
- Develop transferable skills that are highly sought-after by employers and lead to a successful career

Most of all, our Japanese Studies programme teaches you to think innovatively and develop the flexibility to relate to diverse cultures, both necessary skills for becoming an invaluable asset in the world.

Subject combinations

It is possible to study Japanese with Chinese at Cambridge, but only with permission of the Faculty Board. Students who take this option will not have a year abroad. Instead, the third year is spent in Cambridge studying basic Chinese. Japanese cannot be combined with languages from the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages. Korean may be available as an option.

Internships

Our students have access to a number of exciting and exclusive internships during both the summer vacations and/or during the Year Abroad. These internships offer you invaluable working experience while practicing your Japanese, as well as the opportunities to connect with companies that have a genuine interest in hiring our graduates.

**UCAS
Code**
TT46 BA/
AMES

**Course
duration**
Four years
(Year 3 spent
abroad)

**Typical A
Level offer:**
A*AA
IB: 40-41
points, with
776 at Higher
Level

Required subjects for entry

No previous knowledge of Japanese is required to study with us. We do not require any formal training in any foreign language, although a GCSE or A-level in a language will give a good indication of your motivation and commitment to this kind of study. There are also no requirements regarding what other subjects to choose. Our BA in Japanese Studies is not suitable for native speakers of Japanese.

Choosing a College

Members of the Japanese Studies academic staff are Fellows and/or Director of Studies at the following Colleges:

Corpus Christi
Downing
Emmanuel
Selwyn
Trinity
Trinity Hall

Prof. Barak Kushner
Dr Brigitte Steger
Dr Laura Moretti
Dr Victoria Young
Prof. Mickey Adolphson
Dr Miki Kawabata

Other colleges will accept applications to study Japanese, in which case your Director of Studies may be a specialist in Chinese or Middle Eastern Studies.

An overview of our course

Our course ('Tripos') is unique for combining intensive and fast-paced study of the Japanese language with the chance to specialise in specific areas of Japan according to your own interests. Lectures and seminars are combined with personalised supervisions to create a catered form of education that empowers each of you as active learners while providing caring support and thoughtful guidance.

First year (Part IA): Gaining solid grounding

The focus in the first year is on language learning. You will devote roughly 75 percent of your time to the study of all aspects of Japanese. By the third term you will have already acquired the skills that will enable you to read real world texts. While developing a solid grounding in the language, you will study Japanese history and culture within the context of the wider East Asian region.

Second year (Part IB): Going deeper and broader

Language classes in the second year take you through intermediate to early-advanced Japanese. Meanwhile you further your studies in a variety of disciplines, including Japanese history, literature, society, politics and pre-modern Japanese. You can also choose from cultural papers in Chinese Studies and a cross-departmental paper on East Asian and Middle-Eastern cinema. With the help of your instructors, you will start identifying the area and topic that you wish to research for your undergraduate dissertation

Third year: Year abroad

We offer many options around which you can organise your Year Abroad. Many of our students have been awarded the competitive Japanese Government 'MEXT' scholarship to study at internationally-renowned universities in Japan. Some colleges have exchanges with specific universities in Tokyo and Kyoto. We have also established a variety of exciting internship placements that can comprise part or all of your year in Japan. During this year you also carry out preliminary work on your dissertation.

Fourth year (Part II): Generating knowledge

Your Japanese is so advanced that you can now read and discuss a variety of sources. Japanese language is still taught with the aim of preparing you for professional Japanese-speaking environments. You can also choose from a range of elective papers through which to gain a deeper understanding of the disciplines that interest you. Your dissertation now comes together in an original piece of writing that opens new horizons in the field of Japanese Studies.

The admission process: a few simple steps

Submit your UCAS application by **15 October**, followed by your supplementary questionnaire

Wait to hear if you have been invited for an interview

Interview in Cambridge
(early **December**)

Wait to hear whether you have a conditional offer (**January**)

Get the necessary grades in your exams

Beyond your time at Cambridge

We keep regular contact with our alumni who have established rewarding careers in a wide range of professions around the world, these include: teaching, translating, interpreting, banking, academia, publicity, journalism, and many, many more.

For more information please visit our faculty website at: www.ames.cam.ac.uk or email us at japanesebaqueries@ames.cam.ac.uk