

# Japan

SOAS is home to the largest collection of Japan specialists outside of Japan. Our rich and diversified expertise about Japan allows you to gain focused knowledge, both in its classical traditions as well as its contemporary developments.

Learning the language is essential for study at any level and all students will have the opportunity to develop and maintain a high level of competence in their study of the language. You can choose between more or less intensive study of Japanese language.

## BA Japanese

The BA Japanese degree are four years in total (including a year abroad, at one of our prestigious partner universities in Japan) and offers tuition that combines intensive study of the written and spoken language along with lecture modules that focus on the diversity of Japan's rich and sophisticated culture through modules on history, literature, society, TV and film. Our high number of specialists in the study of Japan makes this one of the largest Japanese studies programmes in the world.

## BA Japanese Studies

The BA Japanese Studies single-subject degrees are three year degrees and do not include a period of study abroad. Joint degree combinations are also three years, apart from those with Chinese or Korean, which are all four years and include a year abroad in China or Korea. Students focus on the study of Japan through a wide range of modules available across SOAS, not just in the East Asia Department. Students are required to take only a minimum amount of language modules. The degrees can accommodate both students with no preexisting language skills and those who already possess an intermediate or higher proficiency.

## Structure and assessment

Students take taught modules to the value of 120 credits per year – unless stated otherwise

## Minimum entry requirements

A-Levels: AAB-ABB (from three A-levels excluding General Studies)

IB: 35 points with 6/6/5 at Higher level

See p160 for more on entry requirements, application assessment, Widening Participation and joint degrees.

## Duration

Three years, or four years if the degree includes a Year Abroad.

## Skills gained

Our Japanese degrees prepare you for a wide range of careers in a variety of sectors including marketing and publishing, non-governmental agencies, international political organisations, diplomacy, business and public service. A language study programme does not just teach you a body of facts, but also a range of skills that employers look for, for example:

- the practical skills of careful listening and acquiring languages
- the intellectual skills of examining and evaluating cultures and theories
- various transferable skills such as research, analytical, communication, teamwork, problem solving, time management and organisation skills

## What do Japan Studies graduates do?

Academic  
Architect  
Director of Development and Alumni Relations  
Director of Digital Agency Public Relations  
Financial Analyst  
Freelance Japanese Translator  
Head of Production  
HM Ambassador to Japan  
Interactive Designer  
Media and Communications  
Project Leader, Strategic Planning  
Regional Expert  
Senior Research Executive  
Solicitor  
US Marketing Executive

## Employers include

Bloomberg L.P  
British Council Seoul  
British Council Tokyo  
British High Commission  
Deloitte Management Consulting Ltd.  
Edelman Korea  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
Korea Broadcasting Corporation  
Korea Trade Organisation  
KOTRA (Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency)  
KPMG  
Mitsubishi UFJ Securities International  
NHK-Japan Broadcasting Corporation  
Oxford University  
The British Embassy  
The British Museum  
Wall Street Associates



Choosing to study in the UK and SOAS was an ideal choice for me as I am specifically interested in learning about East Asian cultures, which is an area that SOAS specialises in. I have always been interested in international news so this programme has been perfect for me.

I find SOAS to be like an embassy of culture and language, and it's amazing how friendly and welcoming everyone is here. I have been impressed with how politically active the community here is too, it's a place that really pushes boundaries and challenges stereotypes. The other thing about SOAS that I have noticed is that you have to work really hard here. A lot of people think that because SOAS is a smaller place that you might get an easy ride, but that's definitely not the case!

After I graduate I want to go back to Asia and find work in Japan.

**Christopher Chung**  
BA Japanese and International Relations



#### Taught Programmes

- BA Japanese
- BA Japanese and...
- BA Japanese Studies
- BA Japanese Studies and...



#### More Information

[www.soas.ac.uk/japankorea](http://www.soas.ac.uk/japankorea)



## BA Japanese

### UCAS code: T210

BA Japanese is a four-year degree (with Year 3 spent at a university in Japan) and combines intensive language study with considerable exposure to Japan's rich and sophisticated culture.

The single-subject degree provides students with the highest level of competence in all aspects of the written and spoken language and familiarity with Japanese culture, both classical and modern. Pre-modern and modern literature, history, linguistics, TV and film studies are taught within the Japanese section, while other Japan-related modules may be taken as additional options.

In the final year, single-subject students write an Independent Study Project based on in-depth research in one of many possible fields using Japanese language sources.

### Structure

#### (Typical course content)

#### Core modules

##### Year 1

Depending on proficiency, either:

- J100: Elementary Japanese (60 credits) or
- J100: Accelerated Elementary Japanese (45 credits)
- Japanese Cultural History to 1600 (15 credits)
- Japanese Cultural History 1600 to 1945 (15 credits)

EITHER

(J100: Elementary Japanese students) – open option from this or another department (30 credits), excluding language modules.

OR

(J100: Accelerated Elementary Japanese students):

- Survey of Pre-Modern Japanese Literature in Translation (15 credits), plus:
- Open option from this or another department (30 credits)

##### Year 2

- J200: Intermediate Japanese (60 credits)
- Nation and Identity in Contemporary Japan (15 credits)
- Gender and Society in Contemporary Japan (15 credits)
- Open option from this or another department (30 credits)



Year 2 Open Options include:

- Cool Japan: Manga, Anime, Sushi
- Fieldwork Methods in Language and Culture
- History and Memory in East Asian Cultures
- Identity and Social Relations in Japanese
- J201: Japanese Readings
- Japanese Cinema: A Critical Survey
- Japanese New Wave Cinema: Youth, Sex and Protest
- Music and Japanese Identities
- Survey of Modern Japanese Literature in Translation

##### Year 3

- Compulsory Year Abroad

##### Year 4

- J400: Advanced Japanese (30 credits)
- Modernity and Identity in Modern Japanese History 1868-1912 (15 credits)
- Nation and Empire in Modern Japanese History 1868-1945 (15 credits)
- Self, City and Sexuality in Modern Japanese Literature 1868-1945 (15 credits)
- Writing From the Margins: Minority Voices in Modern Japanese Literature, 1945 to the present (15 credits)
- Reading Pre-Modern Japanese Texts 1 (15 credits)
- Reading Pre-Modern Japanese Texts 2 (15 credits)

Year 4 Open options:

- Japanese Language Ideologies (15 credits)
- Japanese Traditional Drama (15 credits)
- Modern Japanese Literature (15 credits)

## BA Japanese and...

*May be combined with*

African Studies	
Arabic	
Chinese Studies (4 years)	TT21
Economics	LT12
English	QT32
Development Studies	TT22
History (4 years)	TV21
History of Art/Archaeology	VT32
International Relations	LTF2
Korean	
Korean Studies	TT24
Law	
Linguistics	QT12
Middle Eastern Studies	
Music	TW23
Persian	
Politics	LT22
Social Anthropology	LT62
Religions	TV26
South Asian Studies (3 years)	
South Asian Studies (Year Abroad)	
South East Asian Studies	
Tibetan	
Turkish	
World Philosophies (4 years)	T202

BA Japanese and... is a four-year degree (with Year 3 spent at a university in Japan) which allows students to combine intensive study of the Japanese language with another disciplinary subject.

### Structure

(Typical course content)

#### Core modules

##### Year 1

Depending on proficiency, either:

- J100: Elementary Japanese (60 credits) or
- J100: Accelerated Elementary Japanese (45 credits)

J100: Accelerated Elementary students must also choose one of the following modules:

- Japanese Cultural History to 1600 (15 credits)
- Japanese Cultural History 1600 to 1945 (15 credits)
- Nation and Identity in Contemporary Japan (15 credits)
- Gender and Society in Contemporary Japan (15 credits)

The remaining credits will be taken in the other subject.

##### Year 2

- J200: Intermediate Japanese (60 credits)

The remaining credits will be taken in the other subject.

##### Year 3

- Compulsory Year Abroad

##### Year 4

One module from the following list of language use modules. Students may take two modules if the syllabus for the other subject permits.

- Independent Study Project in Japanese Language and Culture (30 credits)
- J400: Advanced Japanese (30 credits)
- Modernity and Identity in Modern Japanese History 1868-1912 (15 credits)
- Nation and Empire in Modern Japanese History 1868-1945 (15 credits)
- Self, City and Sexuality in Modern Japanese Literature 1868-1945 (15 credits)
- Writing From the Margins: Minority Voices in Modern Japanese Literature, 1945 to the Present (15 credits)
- Reading Pre-Modern Japanese Texts 1 (15 credits)
- Reading Pre-Modern Japanese Texts 2 (15 credits)

## BA Japanese Studies

UCAS code: T200

This is a three-year degree (four years in combination with Chinese or Korean) and does not include a year of study in Japan. It requires less intensive study of the Japanese language than the BA Japanese – a smaller number of language classes can be taken at various levels of proficiency, from complete beginner to advanced.

The degree provides wide-ranging coverage of disciplines taught by specialists in the Japan section (pre-modern and modern literature, theoretical and applied linguistics, history, film and media studies and popular culture) and allows access to the disciplinary expertise of other Japan-related specialists (art, religions, anthropology, politics, economics, etc.) across the School. This enables students to structure their programme of study with great flexibility and to develop and pursue their own individual interests.

### Structure

(Typical course content)

#### Core modules

##### Year 1

- Japanese Cultural History to 1600 (15 credits)
- Japanese Cultural History 1600 to 1945 (15 credits)

- Japanese language module at the appropriate level from List A (30 credits)
- Optional module from List B (30 credits)
- Open module or one from List B (30 credits)

### Year 2

- Nation and Identity in Contemporary Japan (15 credits)
- Gender and Society in Contemporary Japan (15 credits)
- Two optional modules, one from List A and one from List B (60 credits)
- One open option or from List B (30 credits)

### Year 3

- Independent Project in Japanese Studies (30 credits)
- Two optional modules (one each from List A and List B, or both from List B) (60 credits)
- One open module (30 credits)

- Choose one module from List A (30 credits)
- Two modules are taken from the other subject (60 credits)

### Year 2

- Nation and Identity in Contemporary Japan (15 credits)
- Gender and Society in Contemporary Japan (15 credits)
- One optional module, either from List A or List B (30 credits)
- Two modules are taken from the other subject (60 credits)

### Year 3

- Two optional modules (one each from List A and List B, or both from List B) (60 credits)
- (The Independent Project in Japanese Studies (30 credits) is recommended.)
- Two other modules are taken from the other subject (60 credits)

## BA Japanese Studies and...

*May be combined with*

[African Studies](#)

[Arabic](#)

[Chinese \(4 years\)](#) **TT12**

[Development Studies](#)

[Economics](#) **TL21**

[History](#) **TV2C**

[History of Art/Archaeology](#) **TV23**

[International Relations](#) **LTG2**

[Korean \(4 years\)](#) **TT42**

[Korean Studies](#) **T2T4**

[Linguistics](#) **TQ21**

[Middle Eastern Studies](#)

[Law](#)

[Music](#) **TW2H**

[Persian](#)

[Politics](#) **TL22**

[Social Anthropology](#) **TL26**

[Religions](#) **TV2P**

[South Asian Studies \(3 years\)](#)

[South Asian Studies \(Year Abroad\)](#)

[South East Asian Studies](#)

[Tibetan](#)

[Turkish](#)

[World Philosophies](#) **T201**

### Structure

(Typical course content)

#### Core modules

##### Year 1

- Japanese Cultural History to 1600 (15 credits)
- Japanese Cultural History 1600 to 1945 (15 credits)

### List A - please check website for pre-requisites and availability.

- Japanese 1A (15 credits)
- Japanese 1B (15 credits)
- Japanese 2 (30 credits)
- Japanese 3 (30 credits)
- Japanese 4 (30 credits)
- Japanese 5 (30 credits)
- J400: Advanced Japanese (30 credits)
- Modernity and Identity in Modern Japanese History 1868-1912 (15 credits)
- Nation and Empire in Modern Japanese History 1868-1945 (15 credits)
- Reading Pre-modern Japanese Texts 1 (15 credits)
- Reading Pre-modern Japanese Texts 2 (15 credits)
- Self, City and Sexuality in Modern Japanese Literature 1868-1945 (15 credits)
- Writing from the Margins: Minority Voices in Modern Japanese Literature, 1945 to the Present (15 credits)
- Independent Project in Japanese Studies (30 credits)

### List B – please check website for pre-requisites and availability.

- Ch 103: History and Culture of China (30 credits)
- Cultural History of Tibet (15 credits)
- H120 Introduction to the History of East Asia (30 credits)
- Imagining Tibet (15 credits)
- Modern Korea 1: History (15 credits)
- Modern Korea 2: Culture and Society (15 credits)
- R110 Introduction to Buddhism (15 credits)
- R170 Introduction to the Religions of East and Central (15 credits)
- Survey of Modern Japanese Literature in Translation (15 credits)
- Survey of Pre-Modern Japanese Literature in Translation (15 credits)

- Cool Japan: Manga, Anime, Sushi (15 credits)
- Fieldwork Methods in Language and Culture (15 credits)
- Identity and Social Relations in Japanese (15 credits)
- Japanese Cinema: a Critical Survey (15 credits)
- Japanese New Wave Cinema: Youth, Sex and Protest (15 credits)
- J201: Japanese Readings (15 credits)
- Music and Japanese Identities (15 credits)
- Ethnography of Japan (15 credits)
- Extended Essay (Japanese Language and Culture) 1 (15 credits)
- Extended Essay (Japanese Language and Culture) 2 (15 credits)
- H283 Modern Japan (30 credits)
- History and Memory in East Asian Cultures (15 credits)
- Japanese Art (30 credits)
- Themes in Japanese Religions (15 credits)
- Visual Culture of Early-Modern Japan (30 credits)
- Musical Traditions of East Asia (15 credits)
- Pop and Politics in East Asia (15 credits)
- Queer Cinema in Asia (15 credits)
- 1990's South Korean cinema: A critical Survey (15 credits)
- Cinema and Performance in China: Critical and Historical Approaches (15 credits)
- History and Culture of Korea to the late 19th Century (30 credits)
- Contemporary Issues in the Japanese and Korean Economies (15 credits)
- Finance in Japan and Korea (15 credits)
- H333 Urban Modern Eastern Asia (I) (30 credits)
- Japanese Language Ideologies (15 credits)
- Japanese Traditional Drama (15 credits)
- Modern Film from Taiwan and the Chinese Diaspora (15 credits)
- Modern Japanese Literature (15 credits)
- The Other Korea: North Korea since 1945 (15 credits)
- Trajectories of Modernity in Korean Literature (15 credits)

