

Japanese Studies, M.A. programme

Japanese studies were introduced at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana in October 1995 out of an awareness of the economic and cultural importance of Japan on a world scale, and of the need for specialists with first hand knowledge of this part of the world for Slovenia to be able to actively take part in the process of globalisation.

The first Japanese studies programme at the University of Ljubljana was a 4-year double-major undergraduate degree programme including a fifth year for thesis compilation. 10 years after the programme was established it became clear that the programme needs some adjustments.

Considering the objective difficulty of learning a structurally very different non-Indo-European language with one of the most complex writing systems, while learning about Japan's history, society, tradition and literature, and considering the growing number of high-school graduates applying for this study programme, a single-major programme was introduced. The single-major programme is structured into 3 years of introductory undergraduate study and 2 years of specialised master degree study, following the example of European universities with a longer tradition of Japanese studies, such as London SOAS, Ca'foscari University in Venice and Charles' University in Prague. At the same time, the double major programme was also continued for the most talented and strongly motivated students.

After 3 years of intensive language training in the undergraduate programme, students are expected to be able to read primary sources in Japanese in order to build on the basic knowledge about Japan's history, society, tradition and literature they gained from undergraduate courses, and specialise in a more specific area of Japanese studies: Japanese linguistics, literature or sociology.

Objectives/study outcomes

The objective of the programme is to ensure graduates with the following skills:

- an excellent command of standard Japanese (active use of 2000 characters, 10000 words and general grammar knowledge equivalent to the new 1st level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test - N1);
- thorough knowledge of Japanese pragmatic rules and ability to use appropriate language forms in different social situations;
- ability to thoroughly understand Japanese texts on general subjects;
- ability to translate technical and scientific texts from Japanese to Slovene and vice-versa;
- basic knowledge of classical Japanese;
- ability to perform linguistic analyses of Japanese texts and conduct linguistic research;
- ability to use Japanese-related ICT: Japanese language processing, use of online dictionaries and information sources;

- general knowledge of Japanese society, culture and tradition;
- ability to carry out independent academic research, with a particular awareness of the characteristics of cross-cultural research.
- (depending on their choice of elective courses) be well acquainted with Japanese linguistics, literature, sociology, or Japanese language teaching methodologies and resources; be able to consecutively interpret between Slovene and Japanese.

Student mobility:

While study in Japan is not formally required, it is highly recommended to spend one of the two years of the master-degree programme at one of Ljubljana University's partner universities in Japan, taking advantage of the tuition-waver and grant programmes offered.

Employment possibilities

The knowledge and skills obtained within the programme will enable graduates to find employment in journalism, publishing, international trade and marketing, business, tourism, public relations, education, developmental aid, in government bodies, international agencies and NGOs. Alumni of the programme are connected through the Slovenian Japanese Studies Alumni Association [<https://alumnijapanslovenia.wordpress.com/>].

Entry requirements:

Holders of a BA degree in Japanese Studies from the University of Ljubljana can automatically be considered for entry in the programme. Applicants with a BA degree (or higher) in Japanese Studies or Japanese Studies from other universities as well as those holding BA degrees (or higher) in other disciplines will first be subject to examination of congruity with expected entry knowledge and skills. Depending on already obtained knowledge and skills, applicants may be required to obtain proof of knowledge of basic Japanese Studies subjects up to 60 ECTS. At the same time, credit may be given for up to 60 ECTS of the MA programme for credits obtained elsewhere.

Enrolment is set at 15 full time students and 5 part time students per year.

CURRICULUM

Legend: L = lectures, S = seminar, T = tutorials

1st semester

	Subject	L	S	T	ECTS
1	Analysis and translation of Japanese media texts		60		6
2	Elective - specialty I				18
3	Elective - general I				6
TOTAL					30

2nd semester

	Subject	L	S	T	ECTS
1	Analysis and translation of Japanese scientific texts I		60		6
2	Elective - specialty II				18
3	Elective - general II				6
TOTAL					30

3rd semester

	Subject	L	S	T	ECTS
1	Analysis and translation of Japanese scientific texts II		60		6
4	Elective - specialty III				12
5	Elective - general III				6
3	Master's thesis seminar*		30		3
3	Master's thesis (individual work)	-	-	-	3
TOTAL					30

4th semester

	Subject	L	S	T	ECTS
1	Master thesis seminar		30		3
2	Master thesis (individual work) and defense	--	--	--	21
3	Elective - specialty IV				6
TOTAL					30

Elective subjects – 1st or 3rd semester

	Subject	L	S	T	ECTS
1	Japanese language teaching 1 (year-long)		15	15	3
2	Language of Japanese media	15	15		3

3	Modern Japanese literature	15	15		3
4	Contemporary Japanese literature	15	15		3
5	Information resources and tools for Japanese studies	15	15		3
6	Topics in Japanese sociology	15	15		3
7	Epistemology of Japanese studies research	15	15		3
8	Modern Korean language 1 (1 st half of year-long subject)			90	6
9	Modern Korean language 2 (1 st half of year-long subject)			60	3
10	Politics, society and economy of China (1 st half of year-long subject)	30			4
11	Selected topics in Japanese translation	30		30	6
12	Japanese corpus linguistics		60		6
13	Classical Japanese I	30		30	6
14	Project research	-	-	-	3
15	Team research	-	-	-	6
16	Internship	-	-	-	3
17	Japanese language teaching 2 (only after completion of Japanese language teaching 1)		15	15	3

Elective subjects – 2nd or 4th semester

	Subject	L	S	T	ECTS
1	Japanese language teaching 1 (2 nd half of year-long subject)		15	15	3
2	Introduction to Japanese consecutive interpreting			30	3
3	Selected topics in the history of Japanese arts				
4	Classical Japanese literature	15	15		3
5	Classical Japanese performing arts	15	15		3
6	Selected topics in Japanese cultural history	15	15		3
7	Selected topics in Japanese history of thought	15	15		3
8	Modern Korean language 1 (2 nd half of year-long subject)			60	3
9	Modern Korean language 2 (2 nd half of year-long subject)			90	6
10	Selected topics in the history of Chinese arts 2	15	15		3
11	Politics, society and economy of China (2 nd half of year-long subject)	30			4
12	Japanese linguistics I	30		30	6
13	Japanese linguistics II	30		30	6
14	Project research	-	-	-	3
15	Team research	-	-	-	6
16	Internship	-	-	-	3

Most elective subjects are offered every alternate year.

Students may select their **elective – specialty** subjects freely from all subjects offered by the Department of Asian and African studies as 2nd cycle subjects and – pending approval from the Department of Asian and African studies – also subjects offered by other departments of the Faculty of Arts.

Students may select their **elective – general** subjects freely, within the University of Ljubljana or at other tertiary institutions.