

Programme specification 2012/2013

School of Oriental and African Studies

The following information forms the programme specification at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. It gives definitive information relating to a programme of study and is written for a public audience, particularly prospective and current students. It is also used for other purposes such as initial programme approval, and is therefore produced at the start of the programme development process. Once approved, it forms the base-line information for all statements relating to the programme and is updated as approved amendments are made.

CORE INFORMATION

Programme title	BA Japanese Studies
Final award	BA Honours
Intermediate awards	n/a
Mode of attendance	Full-time
UCAS code	T200 BA/Jap
Professional body accreditation	n/a
Date specification created/updated	April 2011

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAMME?

Why study at SOAS?	SOAS is unique as the only higher education institution in the UK specialising in the study of Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The School also has the largest concentration of specialist faculty concerned with the study of these areas at any university in the world. SOAS is consistently ranked among the top higher education institutions in the UK and the world and it also offers a friendly, vibrant environment for students in a diverse and close-knit community.
What is special about this programme?	This programme offers students the opportunity to study Japanese culture in-depth, along with the study of Japanese language. The programme prides itself in having a broad range of expertise in Japanese subjects across the School. If you want to learn about culture/society in depth and study some Japanese language, as well as study a particular discipline, then this programme offers you many opportunities. We have experts and course offerings in traditional Japan and

	<p>in contemporary Japan including the popular arts, as well as politics and economics.</p> <p>In the most recent national assessment of university research, the Japan and Korea Department was rated, with other Asian Studies Departments at SOAS, as the number one centre for research on Asia.</p>
Who would it suit?	<p>This course is aimed at those who are fascinated by Japanese culture and want to understand it deeply, but who do not want to study Japanese language intensively, and who want to focus on various aspects of Japanese society, culture, politics, etc. in depth. Students with no former knowledge of Japanese and those with advanced knowledge are encouraged to apply. It is for students who want to be challenged to achieve.</p> <p>The range of expertise in Japanese at SOAS offers specialists in almost all humanities and social science areas. Our students follow a wide variety of career paths, and many spend time after graduation in Japan and/or working in areas related to Japan. The range of career options open to graduates is vast. Besides those who go into research, many graduates use their subject directly in subsequent employment. Examples include journalism, business and commerce, teaching overseas, the Civil Service (especially the Foreign Office), or NGOs. Our recent graduates have also gone into banking, marketing, law, and one worked with a rock music promotion company in Japan, and then became a patent lawyer, now also working with Japanese clients in London.</p>
Programme structure	<p>You will study Japanese language and Japanese subjects of your choice, from a list of Japan-related units from a wide range of disciplines. The final year you will also work on an Independent Study Project on some aspect of Japan.</p>
Assessment summary	<p>Courses will be assessed in a variety of ways. Some are assessed by essay or coursework only; others will have a mixture of coursework and final exam assessment.</p>

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

SOAS has general minimum entrance requirements for registration for an undergraduate degree and these can be viewed at <http://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/entryreq/>

- **A Levels:** AAB
- A Level language preferred
- **IB:** 36 (6/6/6)

- **BTEC:** DDM
- **Scottish Highers:** AAABB
- **Scottish Advanced Highers:** AAB
- **Irish LC:** 340 points from 5 Higher level subjects at grade C1 or above
- **Advanced Placement:** 4 4 5 (Two semesters UCAS Group A) plus US HSGD with GPA 3.0
- **Euro Bacc:** 80%
- **French Bacc:** 14/20
- **German Abitur:** 2.0
- **Italy DES:** 80/100
- **Austria Mat:** 2.0
- **Polish Mat:** 75%

Minimum Entry Requirements: No preliminary knowledge of the language is required but a foreign language at A-level or equivalent is preferred.

Interview Policy: In principle all mature students, and all Japanese nationals and all students one of whose parents is Japanese are invited for interview. Students with experience in Japan or in Japanese language may be invited for interview.

PROGRAMME AIMS

What will this programme give the student an opportunity to achieve?

- To develop knowledge and understanding of the cultural, artistic and intellectual history of Japan from multidisciplinary approaches.
- To achieve a basic level of competence in Japanese language.
- To gain knowledge of various disciplines, their methodologies and the subject matter.
- To learn transferable skills in researching topics, and in writing essays to communicate the findings.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

What will the student learn?

Knowledge

1. Basic active and passive competence in modern Japanese
2. Competence in one or more disciplines of the Humanities or Social Sciences, especially in its relation to Japan
3. Detailed knowledge of the history, development and current state of Japanese

culture.

4. Good general knowledge of Japanese history and society

Intellectual (thinking) skills

1. Ability to critically engage with the area studied from a number of disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, including sociology, anthropology, archaeology, art history, cultural studies, economics, film and media studies, history, linguistics, literature, philosophy, politics, religious studies
2. Ability to compare and contrast the appropriateness of different disciplinary approaches in an examination of the area studied
3. Ability to use and critically interrogate a range of primary and secondary written and/or oral and/or visual sources, in their original language, where appropriate
4. Critical reasoning, from a non-eurocentric perspective
5. Oral and written application of linguistic, literary and philosophical concepts, as well as of the concepts central to the discipline studied as a second subject
6. Written formulation of problems, hypotheses, methods of inquiry and conclusions
7. Demonstration and exercise of independence of mind and thought.

Subject-based practical skills

1. Ability to use modern Japanese language at a basic level.
2. Ability to understand and make use of the methodologies of a discipline.
3. Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources
4. Plan, undertake and report both bibliographically-based and fieldwork-based research

Transferable skills

Ability to analyse a problem or topic, to formulate research questions, explore the topic and to write an essay or report to communicate the findings.

The programme will encourage students to:

1. Adopt a non-eurocentric perspective and foster intercultural awareness and understanding
2. Structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing
3. Participate constructively in groups
4. Work independently
5. Find information and use information technology
6. Be self-reliant
7. Assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR GAINING AN AWARD

How will the student's study be structured? How will they achieve an award?

Structure, duration and requirements for gaining an award

SOAS has standard requirements relating to the structure and duration of undergraduate programmes and for the award and classification of these programmes.

Details can be found at

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/registry/degreeregulations/file60378.pdf>

Programme structure diagram

Below is a structure diagram for this programme.

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
4	1	155901199	Aspects of Japanese Culture 1	15	Core	
4	1	155901200	Aspects of Japanese Culture 2	15	Core	
n/a	1	n/a	Japanese language unit at the appropriate level from List A	30	Compulsory	
4	1	n/a	Course(s) on Japan chosen from List B	30	Compulsory	
n/a	1	n/a	Open option or further course(s) from List B	30		
5	2	155901213	Survey of Pre-Modern Japanese Literature in Translation	15	Core	
5	2	155901214	Survey of Modern Japanese Literature in Translation	15	Core	
n/a	2	n/a	Japanese language unit at the appropriate level from List A	30	Compulsory	
n/a	2	n/a	Course(s) on Japan chosen from List B	30	Compulsory	
n/a	2	n/a	Open option or further course(s) from List B	30		
6	3	155901364	Independent Study Project in Japanese Studies	30	Compulsory	
n/a	3	n/a	Japanese language unit at the	30	Compulsory	

			appropriate level from List A OR course(s) on Japan from List B			
n/a	3	n/a	Course(s) on Japan chosen from List B	30	Compulsory	
n/a	3	n/a	Open option or further course(s) from List B	30		

The availability of optional/elective courses may vary in a given academic session due to factors such as staff absence and student numbers. For an up to date list of courses running in a given academic session please refer to the degree structures as listed on the SOAS website for the degree programmes taught by each Department.

List A

Available to year 1, 2 and 3 students

- [Basic Japanese 1](#) 155900874
- [Basic Japanese 2](#) 155900875
- [Intermediate Japanese 1](#) 155901345
- [Intermediate Japanese 2](#) 155901346
- [Intermediate Japanese 3](#) 155901255
- [J2: Japanese Readings](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155901235
- [Introduction to Pre-Modern Japanese language](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155901294
- [JIV\(B\)i Readings in Japanese History](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155900881
- [JIV\(B\)ii Readings in Japanese Intellectual History](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155900882
- [Advanced Practical Japanese](#) 155901285

Available to year 2 students only

- [Readings in Pre-Modern Japanese Literature](#) 155901284
- [Readings in Modern Japanese Literature](#) 155901273

List B

Available to year 1, 2 and 3 students

NB: Year 1 students wanting to take H383 Modern Japan (normally for year 2 or 3 students only), may be accepted following an interview with the course convenor.

- [Introduction to Pre-Modern Japanese language](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155901294
- [Japanese Art](#) 154900110
- [The Visual Culture of Eighteenth-Century Japan](#) 154900120
- [Survey of Modern Japanese Literature in Translation](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155901214

- [Survey of Modern Japanese Literature in Translation](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155901214

Available to year 1 students only

- [H120 Introduction to the History of East Asia](#) 154800229
- [Buddhism: Foundation](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 158000110
- [Religions of East and Central Asia](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 2 158000100

Available to year 2 students only

- [Issues in Post-war Japanese Society 1](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155901329
- [Issues in Post-war Japanese Society 2](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155901330
- [Extended Essay \(Japanese Language and Culture\) 1](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155900853

Available to year 2 or 3 students only

Please note that prerequisites or course convenor approval may be required for some of these courses

- [Ethnography of a Selected Region Japan](#) 151802045
- [H486 City and Country in Modern Japan \(I\)](#) 154800265
- [H383 Modern Japan](#) 154800233
- [Japanese Religion: A Historical Overview](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 158000044
- [Themes in Japanese Religions](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 2 158000043

Available to year 3 students only

Please note that prerequisites or course convenor approval may be required for some of these courses

- [Economic development of Japan since 1868](#) 153400013
- [Extended Essay \(Japanese Language and Culture\) 2](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155900854

The following courses require advanced language proficiency

'Memory and Militarism on Japanese TV' can only be taken in year 3. 'Readings in Modern Japanese Literature' and 'Readings in Pre-modern Japanese Literature' can only be taken in year 2 or 3.

- [Memory and Militarism on Japanese TV](#) 155901378
- [Readings in Modern Japanese Literature](#) 155901273
- [JIV\(B\)i Readings in Japanese History](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155900881
- [JIV\(B\)ii Readings in Japanese Intellectual History](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155900882
- [Readings in Pre-Modern Japanese Literature](#) 155901284

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

What methods will be used to achieve the learning outcomes?

Knowledge

- Acquisition of 1, 3 and 4 is through small-group classes, tutorials, regular assessed and non-assessed coursework.
- Acquisition of 2 is through courses taught in another department at SOAS. These can be large lecture courses or small-group classes.
- Acquisition of 4 is through lectures and practical exercises, as well as through dedicated courses in culture and linguistics at various levels..

Assessment:

Testing of the knowledge base is through:

- a) written examinations, typically containing both seen and unseen elements;
- b) oral examinations
- c) assessed coursework;
- d) assessed library assignments;
- e) essays

Intellectual (thinking) skills

- Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each course involves discussion of key issues, practice in applying concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of materials, and individual feedback sessions for learners on work produced.

Assessment:

Assessment of intellectual skills (oral presentation, participation in classroom discussion, essay writing) is typically reflected in a 40% “coursework mark” for upper level courses in literature and linguistics.

Subject-based practical skills

The programme aims to help students with the following practical skills:

1. Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources
2. Plan, undertake and report both bibliographically-based and fieldwork-based research
3. Understand, speak and read modern Japanese at a basic level of proficiency

Transferable skills

The programme will encourage students to:

1. Adopt a non-eurocentric perspective and foster intercultural awareness and understanding
2. Structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing
3. Participate constructively in groups
4. Work independently
5. Find information and use information technology
6. Be self-reliant
7. Assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others

Skills 2, 4, 5 and 7 are typically learned in the process of carrying out research assignments (coursework, essays etc.) as well as during classroom discussions.

Assessment:

Assessment of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 is through various types of coursework and research assignments described above.

Encouragement of 1, 3, 6 and 7 is also a key element of the classroom experience, as well as of personal feedback from and contact with tutors.

REFERENCE POINTS

What has been the basis for the design of this programme?

The following reference points were used in designing the programme:

- School Learning and Teaching Strategy
- Staff research
- QAA framework for higher education qualifications
- QAA subject benchmark statement Languages and related studies (2007)
 1. The programme provides a basic standard of active and passive competence in the use of the language. The programme also caters to the needs of non-beginners and/or heritage students.
 2. Explicit knowledge of language is covered by specific upper-year courses as well as by a first-year course in Language Learning.
 3. The programme clearly provides knowledge of aspects of the cultures, communities and societies where the languages are used, as well as subject-related skills. This is done through survey courses in the first year, as well as through reading (or viewing) and analysis of literary and other cultural materials in later years.
 4. The programme actively promotes the adoption of a non-eurocentric perspective and intercultural understanding. The staffing of the Japanese section, with scholars from Japan, Britain, Germany and Italy, educated at universities in Asia, Europe and the United States, in itself is a model of intercultural understanding, and guarantees that the students are provided with diverse and sometimes conflicting perspectives, as should be the aim of any university education.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ENHANCEMENT

SOAS has internal procedures to assure the quality of provision to be offered to students and to enhance the quality in the light of experience following delivery, taking into account the input of external experts and students. The procedures are set out in the School's Quality Assurance Handbook and can be viewed at (<http://www.soas.ac.uk/add/qualityassurance/quality-assurance-handbook/>).

SOAS is also subject to periodic external review from bodies such as the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and relevant professional and statutory regulatory bodies.

The procedures described in the Quality Assurance Handbook are in place to provide a high quality student experience for those choosing to study at SOAS, and student input and evaluation of their experiences is greatly valued. Students make an input to the ongoing development of their programmes, and the environment in which they operate, in a number of ways, including:

- formal student evaluation as part of the annual programme review;
- student representation on School committees at various levels (through the Students' Union) where many relevant issues are discussed.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- [SOAS Vision and Strategy Statement](#);
- [Undergraduate Handbook](#);
- [Quality Assurance Handbook](#);
- [UCAS website](#);
- [QAA website](#).