

Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies

Name of the degree to be conferred	Master of Arts in International and Advanced Japanese Studies
Educational purpose	<p>Japan highly grew as the first country to get industrialized with utmost speed among the non-western society and as the first country that ended the baby boom among the world's major countries after World War II, whereas, after the 90's, the country turned out to take the challenge of having the most serious case of aging population with declining birthrate among the developed countries.</p> <p>The academic knowledge based on such experience of Japan is meaningful to search for the way how not only Japan but also the world should be in the future.</p> <p>The Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies is designed to cultivate researchers (basic level) who can squarely face, based on Japan's such standing position, the various problems that Japan and the world are facing in today's globalized world. Also, the Program cultivates researchers (basic level) who possess the research and education abilities concerning Japanese culture and society in humanities, social sciences and Japanese language education to transmit the findings of such research widely inside Japan and also overseas from an international, interdisciplinary and comparative point of view.</p> <p>Moreover, the Program seeks to cultivate internationally and scholarly human resources active in the world, specializing in the areas of humanities, social sciences and Japanese language education.</p>
Vision of human resources development	<p>He or she should possess a broader specialized knowledge and spectrum of points of view in order to shed light on the contemporary Japan's characteristics from a global perspective, and should have the basic skills for it. In addition, through learning in a wide area of associated fields, he or she should be potentially capable of advancing to a doctoral program with research activities in view.</p>

Diploma Policy

The degree of Master of Arts in International and Advanced Japanese Studies is commenced to those who have fulfilled the requirements for the completion of the Master's programs, as set out in the Graduate School Regulations of the University of Tsukuba and related university regulations, and who are deemed to have the following competencies.

Competencies	Evaluation perspectives
1. Knowledge application competence: Ability to contribute to society with advanced knowledge	① Can you apply knowledge gained through research and other activities in society? ② Can you identify new problems, even in other fields of expertise, based on broad knowledge?
2. Management competence: Ability to appropriately address challenges from broad standpoints	① Can you take on major tasks with systematic planning? ② Can you understand and solve problems from multiple perspectives?
3. Communication competence: Ability to accurately and clearly communicate expert knowledge	① Are you capable of efficient communication for research purposes? ② Can you discuss research or research-specific knowledge with experts from your own field and from other fields?
4. Teamwork competence: Ability to work with a team and actively contribute to the achievement of goals	① Do you have experience cooperatively and actively working on challenges as part of a team? ② Have you helped promote projects and activities other than your own research?

5. Internationality competence: Willingness to contribute to international society	① Are you aware of making contributions to international society and getting involved in international activities? ② Have you obtained the linguistic skills necessary for international information collection and action?
6. Research ability: Basic knowledge and ability to set research tasks and carry out a research plan in the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies	① If the ability to set research tasks in the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies was acquired ② If the ability to carry out a research plan in the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies was acquired
7. Specialized knowledge: Advanced specialized knowledge and command of the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies	① If advanced specialized knowledge necessary in the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies was acquired ② If advanced specialized command necessary in the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies was acquired
8. Ethical view: Ethical view and ethical knowledge appropriate for persons with basic research ability in the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies	① If ethical view necessary in the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies was acquired ② If ethical knowledge necessary in the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies was acquired

Dissertation evaluation criteria

(Review system)

(1) The review exclusive board members (exclusive reviewer) must include a total of three or reviewers, which are one chief reviewer (research supervision) and two sub-reviewers (research supervisory or course teaching faculty members) appointed from the members of the faculty member meeting for the applicable Degree Programs; the one chief reviewer and half or more of the sub-reviewers are appointed from the members of the Faculty Meeting for Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies of the Degree Programs in Humanities and Social Sciences.

(2) At least one of the exclusive reviewers belonging to the Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies of the Degree Programs in Humanities and Social Sciences must be a doctor's degree holder.

(3) At least one of the exclusive reviewers belonging to the Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies of the Degree Programs in Humanities and Social Sciences must be a research supervisory faculty member as a member of Faculty Meeting for the Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies over a year or more continuously after the review exclusive board breaks up.

(4) Faculty members of Tsukuba who do not teach in any subject of Graduate School's Degree Programs can be added as sub-reviewers of the review exclusive board if approved as essential to the review of the degree thesis for the Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies.

(5) Faculty members or such who belong to other Graduate Schools, Degree Programs or such of Tsukuba or faculty members of other universities' graduate schools or other research institutes or such can be added as sub-reviewers of the review exclusive board if approved as essential to the review exclusive board for the degree thesis for the Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies.

(Evaluation items)

Degree theses must be reviewed based on the following items.

- ① The tasks are appropriately set up.
- ② The line of reasoning is clear and consistent.
- ③ Appropriate analyses are developed using accurate terminology.
- ④ The findings of preceding researches are sufficiently grasped.
- ⑤ Literature and materials are approximately used.
- ⑥ The style of presentation and composition are appropriate.
- ⑦ Due academic contributions are identified.

(Evaluation criteria)

A thesis for degree grant meeting all of the above evaluation items passes with the final exam included in the judgment.

Curriculum Policy

The Program is designed to provide students with education and research supervision to develop a breadth of basic skills in humanities and social sciences, and to have the big picture in mind not only in humanities, society but also business scene as well as the generic knowledge and ability that support the students to be active in diverse social scenes, along with the research ability, specialized knowledge and ethics in international and advanced Japanese studies that involve the three areas of humanities, social sciences and Japanese language education.

Curriculum organization policy

In order to cultivate the basic skills and wide perspectives as well as generic knowledge and ability in associated areas with the student's primarily interested research at the core, one credit from Graduate General Education Courses or Inter-disciplinary Foundation Courses and 2 credits from "Joint Seminar for Master's Thesis" and "Introduction to Research Methods or Academic Writing and Research Ethics" in Degree Programs' Common Courses must be earned as required subjects.

The research supervision takes a multiple-instruction scheme (participated by faculty members of other Programs if required) to develop a research ability that exerts multifaceted perspectives. The concrete subjects to be taken and the assignment of sub-supervisory faculty members will be decided based on the individual student's research planning, carrier planning, etc.

- The ability to put advanced knowledge to use in society (1. Competence of knowledge application) is acquired with Graduate General Education Courses, Joint Seminar for Master's Thesis, Introduction to Research Methods or Academic Writing and Research Ethics, Project Seminar 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D, master's thesis creation, academic conference presentations, etc.
- The ability to appropriately address challenges from every angle (2. Management competence) is acquired with Graduate General Education Courses, Internship for Humanities and Social Sciences (1)(2), Project Seminar 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D, self-check on level of attainment, participation in external contests, etc.
- The ability to express expert knowledge accurately and clearly (3. Communication competence) is acquired with Graduate General Education Courses, Joint Seminar for Master's Thesis, Japanese Language for IAJS, English Language for IAJS, academic conference presentations, etc.
- The ability to cooperate and actively contribute to the achievement of goals as a team (4. Teamwork competence) is acquired with Graduate General Education Courses, Internship for Humanities and Social Sciences (1)(2), Japan's Politics and Civil Society 1 and 2, teaching assistant experience, contest participation as a team, questions at academic conferences, questions at seminars, etc.
- The awareness to contribute to international society (5. Competence in Internationality) is acquired with Graduate General Education Courses, Grant Writing for Humanities and Social Sciences, Japanese Language for IAJS, English Language for IAJS, overseas activity experience, interaction with international students, TOEIC, international conference presentations, joint research with foreigners, etc.
- The basic knowledge and ability to set research tasks and carry out a research plan in the areas of humanities and social sciences and the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies (6. Research ability) are acquired with Inter-disciplinary Foundation Courses, Joint Seminar for Master's Thesis, Introduction to Research Methods or Academic Writing and Research Ethics, Project Seminar 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D, Major Subjects (seminar subjects), master's thesis creation, special interest group presentations, etc.
- The advanced specialized knowledge and command of the areas of humanities and social sciences and the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies (7. Specialized knowledge) are acquired with Inter-disciplinary Foundation Courses, Joint Seminar for Master's Thesis, Foundation Subjects for Major, Major Subjects (lecture subjects, seminar subjects), master's thesis creation, special interest group presentations, etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ethical view and ethical knowledge appropriate for persons with basic research ability in the areas of humanities and social sciences and the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies (8. Ethical view) are acquired with Graduate General Education Courses (life, environment and research ethics subjects), Inter-disciplinary Foundation Courses, Introduction to Research Methods or Academic Writing and Research Ethics, Major Subjects (seminar subjects), research supervision, etc.
Learning methods • Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Foundation Subjects: In “Introduction to Research Methods” or “Academic Writing and Research Ethics”, students learn the fundamentals of research and information ethics and the research qualities in the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies. Students also take “Graduate General Education Courses” and “Inter-disciplinary Foundation Courses” to acquire wide perspectives useful to research. • Foundation Subjects for Major: In “Japanese Language for IAJ” and “English Language for IAJ”, students acquire the knowledge and skill necessary for the research using Japanese (non-native) or English. In other Foundation Subjects for Major, students systematically learn the fundamentals of interdisciplinary disciplines of humanities, social sciences and Japanese language education and develop wide perspectives and problem awareness not bound to specific disciplines by means of multidisciplinary research that aim to meld humanities and social sciences. In the seminar subjects, graduate school students learn debates, presentations, analyses and so on founded on the basic knowledge of specialty in each subject, and put them into practice. • Major Subjects: In “Project Seminar”, graduate school students make presentations on the conception, research processes and findings of research projects and debate on them with faculty members and other graduate school students. “Research Program Development”, students advanced to complete the Program earlier take intensive seminars. <p>In other Major Subjects, students systematically learn the interdisciplinary disciplines of humanities, social sciences and Japanese language education and develop wider perspectives and deeper problem awareness not bound to specific disciplines by means of multidisciplinary research that aim to meld humanities and social sciences.</p> <p>In the seminar subjects, graduate students learn debates, presentations, analyses and so on founded on the specialized knowledge in each subject, and put them into practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with the acquisition criteria set up for each of the eight competences, students learn while pressing on toward meeting the criteria 60% or more by the end of the first year, 80% or more by the end of the first half of the second year, and 100% by the end of the second year. <p>Acquisition criteria are separately presented to students.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Competence of knowledge application 2. Management competence 3. Communication competence 4. Teamwork competence 5. Competence in Internationality 6. Research ability 7. Specialized knowledge 8. Ethical view
Evaluation of learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In “Project Seminar”, students critically appraise the research findings that each student has made so far through question-and-answer sessions based on the students’ presentations on the conception and interim outcomes of master’s theses to help them clarify his/her respective positions in the path toward the completion of the master’s thesis as well as the direction of the research from now on. In other Foundation Subjects for Major and Major Subjects, students learn to critically appraise their existing knowledge and ideas through the classes taken and the seminars during which students debate with faculty members and other participating students.

• Competence achievement is evaluated as follows.

- ① The supervisory faculty member makes an evaluation in “Project Seminar” 1A or 1B at the end of the first year and supervises the acquisition during the first half of the second year.
- ② The supervisory faculty member makes an evaluation in “Project Seminar” 2A or 2B at the end of the first half of the second year and supervises the acquisition during the second half of the second year.
- ③ The supervisory faculty member makes an evaluation in “Project Seminar” 2C or 2D at the end of the second year, and if any of the competences 1 to 8 is not met, the student fails.

Admission Policy

Desired students We seek candidates who have motivation to research Japan’s culture and society and Japanese language education from an internationally comparative point of view and to apply the findings of such research to address various problems of Japan, East Asia and other countries under their initiative.
In the Master’s Program, we widely seek students or adult members of society who have motivation to squarely face these problems as researchers (basic level) or other professionals.

Selection policy Diverse candidates are sought through the general entrance exam, special entrance exam for adults or other enrollment selection methods. The opportunity of entrance exam is offered multiple times in the same year with the split of the number of persons admitted.

• In the general entrance exam, candidates are comprehensively evaluated with the written exams of specialized subject and foreign language and an oral exam.
For the specialized subject, candidates, at the time of application, select one subject, which is associated to the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies; the selectable subjects are “politics”, “economics”, “literature / culture / philosophy”, “law / society / media / information”, “linguistics” and “Japanese language education”, and the candidates answer in Japanese or English (only Japanese for “Japanese language education”), so that the exam can evaluate the ability to carry out the Master's Program in international and advanced Japanese studies as well as the specialized knowledge of the area to be researched.
The written exam on a foreign language evaluates the command of the language necessary for international and advanced Japanese studies.
The oral exam, which has regard to a research plan, etc., evaluates learning outcomes and the thinking ability, the candidate’s enthusiasm and motivation for research, and the specialized knowledge of the area to be researched, as well as the presentation ability and the communication ability.

• In the recommendation entrance exam, candidates are required to write an essay as the written exam and take an oral exam.
The recommendation entrance exam is applicable to students who have been recommended by some faculty members as a supervisor in the undergraduate program. Applicants must be recommended for having already acquired the academic expertise, research ability, and foreign language skills necessary for international and advanced Japanese studies. Also, the recommender must be familiar with the applicant's academic potential, personality, and advantage in order to recommend him/her.
As applicable candidates have already earned or will earn a bachelor's degree, writing an essay takes the place of the exam of a specialized subject to evaluate the knowledge and understanding of the specialized area, the logical thinking ability and other specialized abilities to carry out high levels of international and advanced Japanese studies in the master’s program.

The oral exam, which has regard to a research plan, a recommendation sheet, etc., evaluates the motivation to squarely face international and advanced Japanese studies, the research plan, the reason to desire to learn in the master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies, and the specialized knowledge of the area to be researched, as well as the presentation ability, the communication ability, etc. The oral examination includes to evaluate the foreign language skill.

- In the special entrance exam for adults, candidates are required to take the written exam of a specialized subject and an oral exam.

The special entrance exam for adults is applicable to those who have experience as an adult member of society.

For the specialized subject, candidates, at the time of application, select one subject, which is associated to the areas of international and advanced Japanese studies; the selectable subjects are “politics”, “economics”, “literature / culture / philosophy”, “law / society / media / information”, “linguistics” and “Japanese language education”, and the candidates answer in Japanese or English (only Japanese for “Japanese language education”), so that the exam can evaluate the specialized ability to carry out international and advanced Japanese studies.

The oral exam evaluates the research plan, the problem awareness gained as an adult member of society, and the specialized knowledge of the area to be researched, as well as the presentation ability, the communication ability, etc.