

## Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies

### ■ Master of Arts in International and Advanced Japanese Studies

#### Program Educational Objectives

The 21st-century world faces not only social issues such as population decline, aging societies, economic disparities, environmental crises, and the transformation of democracy, but also cultural issues such as increasing linguistic and cultural diversity and the need for intercultural understanding. Japan, too, is confronting social changes brought about by multicultural coexistence and digitalization, and its experience provides an important point of comparison for the international community. This situation demands a repositioning of Japan within an international context and the creation of knowledge that contributes to solving global challenges through comparative research.

This degree program aims to cultivate researchers and highly specialized professionals who can contribute to the development and international dissemination of Japanese language and culture through interdisciplinary research that integrates humanities, social sciences, and Japanese language education. By combining humanistic perspectives on literature, language, history, and thought with social scientific analysis, and the practical study of Japanese language education, the program seeks to renew the value of Japanese language and culture and disseminate universal knowledge to the international community. Through collaborative learning with diverse students from around the world, the program produces "Japan specialists" capable of transcending national and disciplinary boundaries and contributing to the construction of a sustainable and inclusive multicultural society.

<b>Graduate Profile</b>	We aim to nurture graduates who possess broad specialized knowledge and comprehensive perspectives necessary for elucidating the characteristics of contemporary Japan from a global viewpoint. Through acquisition of fundamental academic skills and engagement with related fields, they will develop the ability to advance to doctoral programs and pursue research careers.
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## Diploma Policy

The Master of Arts in International and Advanced Japanese Studies degree is awarded to students who fulfill the completion requirements of the Master's Program as stipulated in the University of Tsukuba Graduate School Regulations and related rules, and those who are recognized as having acquired the following knowledge and abilities.

	Competences	Evaluation perspectives
<b>Knowledge and Skills</b>	1. Application of Knowledge: Ability to apply advanced knowledge for the benefit of society.	① Does the student show motivation to apply knowledge gained through research and related activities for the benefit of society? ② Can the student identify problems beyond their own field of specialization, and propose solutions based on broad knowledge?
	2. Management Skills: Ability to respond appropriately to challenges from a broad perspective	① Can the student address issues related to the field of International and Advanced Japanese Studies in a systematic manner? ② Can the student approach and solve problems from multiple perspectives?
	3. Communication Skills: Ability to convey specialized knowledge accurately and comprehensibly	① Can the student communicate effectively for smooth research implementation ② Can the student explain research content and specialized knowledge accurately and clearly to both specialists and non-specialists
	4. Teamwork Skills: Ability to collaborate as a team member and actively contribute to goal achievement	① Has the student actively engaged in tackling issues through teamwork and collaboration ② Has the student contributed in some way to the advancement of projects other than their own research?
	5. International Perspective: Awareness of contributing to international society	① Does the student demonstrate motivation to contribute to international society and to engage in global activities? ② Does the student possess language skills necessary for international activities
	6. Research Skills: Basic knowledge and abilities for setting research topics and executing research plans in international Japanese studies	① Has the student acquired the ability to set research questions in international Japanese studies? ② Has acquired the ability to execute research plans in International and Advanced Japanese studies
	7. Specialized Knowledge: Advanced specialized knowledge and application skills in international Japanese studies	① Has the student acquired specialized knowledge in the field of International and Advanced Japanese Studies? ② Has the student acquired the ability to apply specialized knowledge in the field of International and Advanced Japanese Studies?
	8. Ethics: Ethical awareness and knowledge appropriate for personnel with basic research capabilities in international Japanese studies	① Has the student acquired the ethical awareness required in the field of International and Advanced Japanese Studies? ② Has the student acquired the ethical knowledge required in the field of International and Advanced Japanese Studies?

<p><b>Guidelines for Assessing Learning Outcomes</b></p>	<p>The evaluation of learning outcomes is objectively confirmed and assessed based on the degree of achievement as outlined in the "Achievement Evaluation Table", reflecting the acquisition status of competences according to the policy for the conferment of degrees at each stage. The stages and methods of achievement evaluation are indicated below.</p> <p>This degree program has established a system to accurately assess the acquisition of knowledge and competences outlined in the Diploma Policy, and to reflect these learning outcomes in both evaluation and educational guidance. Specifically, students are required to complete a "Competence Sheet" each semester, providing an opportunity to review their progress in earning credits and achieving learning goals associated with each competence area.</p> <p>Once submitted, the sheets are reviewed and commented on by the administrative office, followed by a review session between the student and their academic advisor. The advisor then provides written feedback, which supports learning guidance and adjustments to the student's academic plan. The Curriculum Committee then confirms this, and finally, the status of competence scores is evaluated by each individual's thesis examination committee during the thesis assessment, which helps support learning and adjust study plans.</p> <p>Through this process, the level of achievement in each competence area is quantified and visualized using charts such as radar graphs. This enables students to clearly identify areas to focus on in future coursework and study, thereby promoting a more structured and self-directed approach to learning.</p>
<p><b>Evaluation Criteria for Degree Theses/ Dissertations</b></p>	<p>(Examination System)</p> <p>(1) Among the examination committee members, at least one chief examiner (research supervisor) and two co-examiners (research supervisors or course instructor), totaling three members, shall be appointed from the faculty members of the relevant degree programs. The chief examiner and more than half of the co-examiners shall be appointed from the faculty members of Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies.</p> <p>(2) At least one examination specialist belonging to Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies should hold a doctoral degree.</p> <p>(3) At least one examination committee member belonging to Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies shall continue to serve as a research supervision faculty member of Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies for at least one year after the dissolution of the examination committee.</p> <p>(4) A faculty member at the University of Tsukuba who is not course instructor of a graduate school or degree program may be appointed as a co-examiner to the examination committee if deemed necessary for the relevant thesis examination.</p> <p>(5) Faculty members from other graduate schools/degree programs within the University, as well as faculty from graduate schools or research institutes outside the University, may be appointed as co-examiners to the examination committee if deemed necessary.</p>

<b>Evaluation Criteria for Degree Theses/ Dissertations</b>	<p>(Evaluation Criteria)</p> <p>Thesis examination is conducted based on the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>① The research questions are appropriately set.</li><li>② The argument is clear and consistent.</li><li>③ The analysis is conducted appropriately and employs accurate terminology.</li><li>④ Sufficient understanding of prior research achievements.</li><li>⑤ Reference materials and other resources are appropriately used.</li><li>⑥ The format and structure are appropriate.</li><li>⑦ The thesis demonstrates an academic contribution of suitable significance.</li></ol> <p>(Evaluation Standards)</p> <p>Theses that satisfy all the above evaluation criteria, and have cleared the review process, shall be deemed successful.</p>
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**Curriculum Policy**

Master's Program in International and Advanced Japanese Studies, in the Graduate School of Business Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences is founded on interdisciplinary research bridging the humanities, social sciences, and Japanese language education. The program seeks to cultivate research ability, specialized knowledge, and ethical awareness, while also fostering foundational literacy in the humanities and social sciences, a broad perspective that encompasses business, as well as transferable knowledge and skills, thereby equipping graduates with the ability to contribute to diverse fields of society.

<p><b>Curriculum Design Framework</b></p>	<p>Based on students' primary research interests, the curriculum is designed to foster fundamental literacy in related fields, broad perspectives, as well as transferable knowledge and skills. Students are required to complete one credit from Graduate General Education Courses and Inter-disciplinary Foundation Courses, and two credits from Degree Programs' Common Courses including Joint Master's Thesis Seminar, Introduction to Research Methods or Academic Writing and Research Ethics. Research supervision is conducted under a multiple-advisor system (with faculty from other degree programs participating as needed) to cultivate research ability with multifaceted perspectives. The specific courses a student takes, and the selection of co-examiners are decided based on each individual student's research and career plans.</p> <p>Competence Development through Course Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Through participation in Graduate General Education Courses, Joint Master's Thesis Seminar, Introduction to Research Methods or Academic Writing and Research Ethics, Project Seminar 1A/1B/2A/2B/2C/2D, Research Program Development, master's thesis preparation, and presenting at academic conferences, students will develop the ability to apply advanced knowledge for the benefit of society (1. Knowledge Application Skills).</li> <li>- Through Graduate General Education Courses, Internship for Humanities and Social Sciences (1)(2), Project Seminar 1A/1B/2A/2B/2C/2D, self-assessment of achievement, and participation in external competitions, students will develop the ability to respond appropriately to issues from a broad perspective (2. Management Skills).</li> <li>- Through Graduate General Education Courses, Joint Master's Thesis Seminar, Japanese Language for IAJS, English Language for IAJS, and presenting at academic conferences, students will develop the ability to convey specialized knowledge accurately and comprehensibly (3. Communication Skills).</li> <li>- Through Graduate General Education Courses, Internship for Humanities and Social Sciences (1)(2), TA(teaching assistant) experience, participating in team competitions, conference Q&amp;A sessions, and seminar discussions, students will develop the ability to collaborate as a team and proactively contribute to achieving goals (4. Teamwork Skills).</li> <li>- Through Graduate General Education Courses, Grant Writing for Humanities and Social Sciences, Japanese Language for IAJS, English Language for IAJS, overseas activity, interaction with international students, TOEIC, presenting at international conferences, and conducting collaborative research with foreign researchers, students will cultivate a mindset geared toward contributing to the international community. (5. International Perspective).</li> </ul>
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<b>Curriculum Design Framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Through Inter-disciplinary Foundation Courses, Joint Master's Thesis Seminar, Introduction to Research Methods or Academic Writing and Research Ethics, Project Seminar 1A/1B/2A/2B/2C/2D, Major Subject (Seminar Courses), master's thesis preparation, and research presentations, students will develop fundamental knowledge and abilities for setting research goals and executing research plans in humanities, social sciences, and international Japanese studies (6. Research Skills).</li><li>- Through Inter-disciplinary Foundation Courses, Joint Master's Thesis Seminar, Foundation Subject for Major, Major Subject (Lecture Courses, Seminar Courses), Research Program Development, master's thesis preparation, and making research presentations, students will develop advanced specialized knowledge and application abilities in humanities, social sciences, and international Japanese studies (7. Specialized Knowledge).</li><li>- Through Graduate General Education Courses (Life, Environment, Academic Integrity), Inter-disciplinary Foundation Courses, Introduction to Research Methods or Academic Writing and Research Ethics, Major Subject (Seminar Courses), and research supervision, students will develop ethical awareness and ethical knowledge expected of individuals with basic research capabilities in the humanities, social sciences, and international Japanese studies (8. Ethical Awareness).</li></ul>
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<p><b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General Foundation Subject: Introduction to Research Methods and Academic Writing and Research Ethics cover research ethics, information ethics foundations, and characteristics of research in international Japanese studies. Graduate General Education Courses and Interdisciplinary Foundation Courses provide broad perspectives that contribute to research.</li> <li>- Foundation Subject for Major: Japanese Language for IAJS and English Language for IAJS aim to develop knowledge and skills necessary for research using Japanese (as a non-native language) and English. Other Specialized Foundation Courses systematically teach the foundations of interdisciplinary humanities, social sciences, and Japanese language education disciplines, while fostering broad perspectives and problem awareness through interdisciplinary research that transcends specific disciplines. Seminar Courses enable students to practice discussion, presentation, and analysis based on fundamental disciplinary knowledge.</li> <li>- Major Subject: Project Seminar provide opportunities for students to design research projects, present their processes and results, and engage in discussions with faculty and peers. Research Program Development supports students' independent research activities including conference presentations, research exchanges, and academic social contributions. Other Specialized Courses deepen interdisciplinary perspectives through systematic study across the humanities, social sciences, and Japanese language education. Seminar Courses further train students in debate, presentation, and analysis rooted in specialized knowledge.</li> <li>- Competence Standards: Achievement standards are established for each of the eight competences, with students aiming to meet 60% of the standards by the end of the first year, 80% by the end of the first half of the second year, and full standards by the end of the second year. The specific achievement standards will be announced separately to students.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Knowledge Application</li> <li>2.Management Skills</li> <li>3.Communication Skills</li> <li>4.Teamwork Skills</li> <li>5.International Perspective</li> <li>6.Research Skills</li> <li>7.Specialized Knowledge</li> <li>8.Ethics</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
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**Admission Policy**

<p><b>Desired Student Profile</b></p>	<p>We seek individuals who are motivated to actively engage with global challenges—particularly those facing Japan and East Asia—by conducting research on Japanese culture, society, and Japanese language education from an international and comparative perspective. In the Master's Program, we welcome a wide range of applicants, including both students and working professionals, who aim to cultivate foundational research skills or apply their expertise practically in professional settings.</p>
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<p><b>Student Selection Process</b></p>	<p>To accommodate diverse applicants, we offer multiple admission pathways such as general entrance exams, recommendation-based admissions, and special selection for working professionals. We divide the admission quota and conduct entrance examinations multiple times within the same academic year. Admission opportunities are available not only in April but also in October.</p> <p><b>General Selection Process:</b> Applicants are evaluated comprehensively through written exams in specialized subjects and foreign languages, as well as an oral examination. Applicants must select one specialized subject related to International Japanese Studies at the time of application from the following fields: Politics; Economics; Literature, Culture, and Philosophy; Law, Society, Media, and Information; Linguistics; and Research in Japanese Language Education. Answers must be written in Japanese or English (only Japanese for “Research in Japanese Language Education”). This examination assesses the applicant's ability to conduct research in International Japanese Studies and their specialized knowledge in the chosen field. The foreign language written examination evaluates proficiency necessary for research in International Japanese Studies. The oral examination assesses academic achievements, critical thinking, passion and motivation for research, specialized knowledge in the intended field, as well as presentation and communication skills, based on the applicant's research proposal and other submitted materials.</p> <p><b>Special Selection Process for Recommended Applicants:</b> Applicants are evaluated comprehensively through a written essay and an oral examination. This pathway is intended for those who have been recommended by faculty members familiar with the applicant's abilities, character, and aptitude, and who have already acquired the necessary specialized knowledge, capacity for independent research, and foreign language proficiency for International Japanese Studies. As applicants have either obtained or are expected to obtain a bachelor's degree, no written exams in specialized subjects or foreign languages are conducted. Instead, the essay assesses knowledge, comprehension, and logical thinking ability in the specialized field, thereby determining whether the applicant possesses the academic capability to pursue research in the Master's Program. The oral examination——evaluates motivation to engage earnestly with International Japanese Studies, the research plan, reasons for applying to this program, specialized knowledge in the intended field, as well as presentation and communication skills, including language proficiency, based on the research proposal and recommendation letter.</p> <p><b>Special Selection Process for Working Individuals:</b> Applicants are evaluated through a written examination in a specialized subject and an oral examination. This pathway is intended for individuals with professional experience. Applicants must select one specialized subject related to International Japanese Studies at the time of application from the following fields: Politics; Economics; Literature, Culture, and Philosophy; Law, Society, Media, and Information; Linguistics; and Research in Japanese Language Education. Answers must be written in Japanese or English (only Japanese for “Research in Japanese Language Education” ). The examination assesses specialized academic ability to conduct research in International Japanese Studies. The oral exam evaluates the research plan, awareness of issues gained through professional experience, specialized knowledge in the intended field, as well as presentation and communication skills.</p>
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## Learning Support Framework

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<b>Academic Support</b>	<p>This degree program provides a range of learning support measures to enable students to conduct research effectively and communicate their findings both within and beyond the university. A financial support system for travel expenses related to conference presentations has been established, actively encouraging students to present at academic conferences in Japan and abroad. This helps create an environment that connects student research activities with broader society. Under the guidance of academic advisors, students develop presentation materials and practice their delivery in preparation for academic conferences. These activities are incorporated into the curriculum as part of the Research Program Development course, fostering the ability to communicate research clearly and effectively.</p> <p>In addition, the required course Japanese/English Language for IAJS provides instruction in academic writing and scholarly presentation skills, with a strong emphasis on building foundational academic competences.</p> <p>Through these support systems, students not only develop the ability to communicate their research outcomes accurately and effectively, but also acquire the skills to share academic knowledge with individuals from diverse cultural and social backgrounds, fostering dialogue and the creation of new value.</p>
<b>Opportunities for Peer Interaction</b>	<p>This degree program actively promotes student-led interaction as a means to enhance motivation for learning and improve the quality of research. As part of this initiative, regular gatherings are held where faculty and students come together, and master's students share their academic progress, research activities, and experiences such as study abroad and internships. These sessions foster mutual understanding and intellectual stimulation among students from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise, contributing to the development of interdisciplinary perspectives.</p> <p>To support students working on their master's theses, a “Mini Experience Sharing Session on Thesis Writing” is held during the fall semester, featuring insights from alumni and current students with thesis-writing experience. Practical advice is shared on all stages of the process—from initial planning to submission and oral defense—helping to alleviate anxiety and build a supportive learning environment.</p> <p>Through these peer-support initiatives, students exchange knowledge and experiences, creating opportunities for mutual inspiration and fostering a collaborative atmosphere that supports high-level research engagement.</p>

<b>Opportunities for Student-Faculty Interaction</b>	<p>This degree program is committed to fostering an environment that encourages student motivation and improves the quality of research through smooth and continuous communication between students and faculty. At plenary meetings, faculty and students gather together for opportunities to exchange opinions on their daily academic and research activities. These sessions serve as a platform for incorporating student feedback into the management and development of the educational program.</p> <p>In addition, student surveys are conducted to collect opinions and requests regarding the degree program. The results of these surveys are shared during the plenary meetings, with faculty providing open feedback to promote transparency and mutual understanding. These efforts contribute to the ongoing improvement of the educational environment.</p> <p>Faculty members also actively support students' career development by offering diverse career-related information—including pathways to further study, employment, and research positions—and providing individualized consultations tailored to each student's aspirations.</p> <p>Through these continuous opportunities for dialogue, the program supports students in pursuing independent learning and planning for their future careers.</p>
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### Approaches to Assuring and Enhancing Educational Quality

This degree program has established a framework to ensure and continuously improve the quality of education. By establishing an FD (Faculty Development) committee and continuously conducting inspections and improvements across all educational activities, we ensure the quality of education and strengthen the system aimed at achieving the objectives of the degree programs. Faculty members regularly engage in FD activities to exchange information on course content, teaching methods, and curriculum design. These discussions contribute to the ongoing review and enhancement of the program's overall educational offerings. In addition, student feedback collected through course evaluation surveys is carefully considered. When necessary, adjustments are made to teaching methods and course content in response to student input. This flexible and ongoing approach supports the continuous improvement of educational quality.