



Programme Specification

A statement of the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin a taught programme of study leading to an award from
The University of Sheffield

The programme specification covers the curriculum in **Japanese** for the following dual honours degree programmes and should be read in conjunction with the relevant programme specification for the second subject:

1. Programme Title	2. Programme Code	3. JACS Code
Linguistics and Japanese Studies	EGHU003	Q100
Business Studies and Japanese Studies	MGTU19	N200
Japanese Studies with German	EASU17	T200
Japanese Studies with Spanish	EASU19	T200
Japanese Studies and History	EASU24	T200
4	Level of Study	Undergraduate
5a	Final Qualification	Bachelor of Arts with Honours (BA Hons)
5b	QAA FHEQ Level	Honours
6	Intermediate Qualification(s)	None
7	Teaching Institution (if not Sheffield)	Not applicable
8	Faculty	Social Sciences and Arts
9	Co-ordinating Department	East Asian Studies, apart from: English Language and Linguistics (ELLU10), Management School (MGTU19), History (HSTU06)
10	Other Department(s) involved in teaching the programme	Sociology, Politics, History, Linguistics, School of Modern Languages and Linguistics, and the Management School
11	Mode(s) of Attendance	Full-time
12	Duration of the Programme	Three years plus one year at a leading Japanese University
13	Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	None
14	Date of production/revision	January 2008, March 2026

15. Background to the programme and subject area

The Japanese Studies component of all these Dual BA degrees embraces the study of the language, history, society and culture of Japan. Japan is playing and will continue to play a major role in the world, whether from the point of view of economics, politics or culture. To a considerable extent, the central task for the world system in the twenty-first century will be the accommodation of the rising economic, political and cultural influence of Japan.

The Japanese Studies component of these programmes is offered by the School of East Asian Studies, which was founded here at the University of Sheffield in 1963. Established originally as a Centre for Japanese Studies, the School has expanded over time, adding Centres for Korean Studies and Chinese Studies in 1988 and 1993 respectively. With a large number of research-active staff, who combine teaching with research at the frontiers of knowledge on subjects as diverse as business, economics, international relations, politics, film, identity, literature, migration and history, the School has grown to be one of the largest and most distinguished departments of its kind in the world. Its teaching, renowned nationally for its focus on contemporary East Asia, on the acquisition of practical language skills and on the use of social science methodologies, was rated 'excellent' in the most recent government-sponsored survey of teaching quality.

In the case of the Japanese Studies component of these dual degrees, the School's aim is to bring students up to a high level of expertise in the Japanese language, to give them a thorough grounding in Japanese politics, culture, society and modern history, and to enable them to pursue in-depth study of major areas of the subject, according to their developing tastes and interests. These areas can include Japanese politics, history, society, literature, international relations or business.

Graduates in Japanese Studies have always been highly employable. The growing influence of Japan in the world means that they are becoming increasingly sought-after across the entire spectrum of careers in business, finance, administration, communications and education. More generally, there is a strong and growing need for the combination of analytical, cultural and linguistic expertise that our degree programme in Japanese Studies develops. In addition, the degree programmes help inculcate a wide range of generic skills, such as word-processing, internet usage, the use of audio-visual and other communicative technology, the giving of individual and group presentations, and other activities. These and a range of significant life-skills are further developed by the programme's study-abroad element, a year spent studying in Japan.

Further information is available on the School website: <http://www.seas.ac.uk/>

16. Programme aims

The Japanese Studies component of the Japanese Dual Degrees offered by the School of East Asian Studies has the following aims consonant with the Mission Statement of the University of Sheffield:

1. To provide high-quality teaching informed and invigorated by the research and scholarship of the School's staff;
2. To provide for the acquisition of high-level Japanese language skills alongside an awareness and understanding of the associated cultural context;
3. To sustain a culture of research and teaching that is able to foster the free pursuit of knowledge, the impartial analysis of values, and the acquisition of intercultural awareness and of informed and professional attitudes towards Japan and Japanese;
4. To respond to the diversity of student interests by allowing a level of student choice within the Japanese Studies component of the degree;
5. To widen access to the extent permitted by the intellectual and linguistic aptitudes which Japanese Studies demands;
6. To enable students to maximise their potential in all aspects of their programme;
7. To assess students over a range of knowledge, understanding and skills, and to identify and support academic excellence;
8. To offer a range of student-centred forms of learning which foster transferable analytical and communicative skills.

17. Programme learning outcomes

Having successfully completed the Japanese Studies component of these Japanese Dual degrees, a student will have acquired:

Knowledge and understanding:

K1	Sound knowledge and critical understanding of the structures and usage of modern Japanese
K2	Knowledge and critical understanding of aspects of Japanese culture and society through study of the cultural products of those societies
K3	Knowledge and practical and critical understanding of the methodologies used to analyse language and culture
K4	Knowledge and critical understanding of aspects of Japan's history, politics and institutions
K5	Practical knowledge of contemporary life in Japan

Skills and other attributes:

S1	A high level of competence in writing and speaking modern Japanese
S2	A high level of competence in understanding the written and spoken forms of modern Japanese
S3	A developed level of intercultural awareness, derived from the study of language and culture and the experience of the year abroad, and leading to tolerant, professional and informed attitudes to the language and culture studied
S4	Skills in acquiring, using, and critically evaluating information about language and culture gained from a variety of sources, including teachers, native speakers, newspapers, broadcasts, books and works of reference, and electronic sources
S5	Familiarity with the essential primary and secondary source material appropriate to the programme of study, alongside a regard for the impartial analysis of values expressed therein

S6	An ability to carry out individual study and research, and to participate in group activities such as seminars
S7	Familiarity with bibliographic and research skills, including the use of Japanese for word-processing, e-mail and use of the internet
S8	Further transferable skills, valuable for employment, including information gathering, general IT skills, the development of individual resourcefulness, analytical thinking, the ability to identify problems and ways of resolving them, the critical appreciation of source material, the ability to construct and sustain logical argument on the basis of such material, and the ability to present such argument clearly in both oral and written forms

18. Teaching, learning and assessment

Development of the learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

- 1. Induction procedures** at Level 1 include year-group orientation sessions, a Japan-specific Library induction session, University-wide IT induction, an initial tutorial of a pastoral nature, and the distribution of level-specific handbooks and a guide to essay writing.
- 2. Formal Lectures** are used in order to impart essential knowledge (K1-K4).
- 3. Seminars**, which may be either staff-led or student-led, are used throughout the programme for both language classes and modules devoted to culture, literature, history, politics, institutions and linguistics/philology. Their use is extensive beyond Level 1 and is designed to reinforce information imparted through formal lecturing by allowing students to work through, analyse, understand and respond to that information. Seminars devoted to Japanese language acquisition may take the form of classes devoted to reading or listening comprehension, written and spoken language production, translation both from and into Japanese, or the teaching of formal grammar backed up by exercises and drills. In all cases the aim is to expose students to as much authentic material in Japanese as possible, both written and spoken. Language seminars may therefore be conducted partly in Japanese. Seminars thus contribute both to the achievement of knowledge and understanding (K1-K4) and to the development of key skills (S1, S2, S4, S5, S6, S8).
- 4. Independent study** is essential to the successful completion of the programme. New students are introduced to study skills through a Level 1 skills seminar in Registration week, information in the Student Handbook and through practical experience in Level 1 modules. The amount of independent study broadly expected for each module is clearly set out in the course information, although it is recognised that this will vary from student to student. Independent study is generally geared towards the assimilation and further clarification of material gleaned from lectures, preparation for seminars, preparation for written assessments, and the broader development of knowledge of the field of study. Independent study thus contributes to the development of all the programme learning outcomes, but is especially important in refining skills S4-S8.
- 5. The period of residence abroad**, during the third year of the programme, is spent at a leading Japanese university. It is an essential part of the learning experience (K5), providing unrivalled opportunities for creative contact with native speakers, for the sustained exercise and development of both productive and receptive linguistic skills to a level appropriate to embark upon final year study at level 3 (S1, S2), for the development of practical intercultural awareness to set alongside the theoretical awareness derived from the study of culture (S3), and for the development of personal resourcefulness and adaptability likely to enhance employability (S8). The assessment takes the form of a mandatory **project**.

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes are provided through the following assessment methods:

Regular formative assessment – usually in the form of periodic tests or exercises designed to reinforce knowledge and skills such as vocabulary acquisition, language production (written and spoken), language comprehension (written and spoken), translation to and from Japanese – is used at all levels to monitor carefully the student's progression through the core language programme and to pick up and rectify areas of potential weakness in linguistic competence (K1, S1, S2).

Summative assessment of Japanese-language knowledge and skills uses a variety of methods across all levels, combining formal examination, aural skills testing, and continuous assessment of oral skills. Unseen examination comprises around 70% of assessment at all levels.

Assessment of modules in thematic subjects (politics, culture, history, etc.) uses appropriate combinations of the following:

- written examinations designed to test subject knowledge (K2, K4);
- essay writing and project work designed to test subject knowledge, increasing autonomy in student learning, and the development of transferable skills (K2, K4, S3-8);
- oral presentations designed to test organisational and communicative skills (S6, S8).

19. Reference points

The learning outcomes have been developed to reflect the following points of reference:

The research interests of departmental staff and the research strategy of the School of East Asian Studies;

Subject Benchmark Statements

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/subject-guidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statements.aspx>

Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (2008)

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/The-framework-for-higher-education-qualifications-in-England-Wales-and-Northern-Ireland.aspx>

University Strategic Plan

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/strategicplan>

Learning and Teaching Strategy (2011-16)

http://www.shef.ac.uk/lets/strategy/lts11_16

20. Programme structure and regulations

In the Japanese Studies component of these Dual degrees, students focus primarily on the study of the Japanese language. A choice of Japan-focused non-language modules is available at level 3. More specifically:

- at **Level 1**, two core double Japanese Language modules (80 credits) plus modules in their other department on the Dual degree programme;
- at **Level 2**, two core Japanese Language modules (40 credits) plus modules in their other department on the Dual degree programme;
- a **Year Abroad** between Level 2 and Level 3 requiring attendance at a Japanese University and the completion of a project;
- at **Level 3**, two core Japanese Language modules (40 credits), a 20 credit module chosen from a selection of modules on Japanese society, history, linguistics, politics or business (depending on the Dual degree chosen), plus modules in the other department offering the Dual degree programme.

The programme structure is designed to provide a context in which students can achieve all the programme learning outcomes.

Detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression and descriptions of individual modules are published in the University Calendar available on-line at

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/govern/calendar/regs.html>.

21. Student development over the course of study

At **Level 1**, the programme requires the study of a core of language modules which develop skills in Japanese from beginner's level

At Level 2, the language modules build on the Level 1 modules and provide skills required for the Year Abroad, extending grammatical competence, exploring advanced translation, extending essay skills and oral competence.

The **Year Abroad** is taken between Levels Two and Three. Students study at one of Japan's leading Universities. The Year Abroad consolidates all language skills, promotes intercultural awareness and understanding, and develops self-reliance and confidence in the use of Japanese.

At Level 3, the Japanese Studies component of the Dual requires the study of two core language modules. The language module builds on the advanced competence in areas of the written and spoken language gained in earlier study and the Year Abroad. The options, where available within specific dual degree programmes, are strongly focused on areas of staff research and are designed to deepen students' understanding of the specialist fields covered and of the methodologies the investigation of them entails, and to enhance further their analytical skills, their intellectual sophistication, and their abilities in written and oral expression.

22. Criteria for admission to the programme

The School teaches Japanese from beginner's level, and no prior language knowledge is required.

Detailed information regarding admission to the programme is available at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/prospective/>

23. Additional information

For further information students are directed to the School web pages at www.seas.ac.uk

This specification represents a concise statement about the main features of the programme and should be considered alongside other sources of information provided by the teaching department(s) and the University. In addition to programme specific information, further information about studying at The University of Sheffield can be accessed via our Student Services web site at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid>.