

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	Graduate Diploma Japanese Studies (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Grad Cert
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	Creative Arts, Culture and Communication
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English and Japanese
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 years) Part-time (2 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Languages, Cultures and Societies
Birkbeck Course Code	GDGJAPAN_C
HECoS Code	101168 (Japanese studies)
Start date of programme	Autumn 2021/22
Date of programme approval	Autumn 2020
Date of last programme amendment approval	Autumn 2020
Valid for academic entry year	2024-25
Programme Director	Michael Tsang
Date of last revision to document	16/01/2023

Admissions requirements

Normally a first degree in a subject other than Japanese Studies or modern languages. Language skills in Japanese equivalent to A-level or JLPT N4 (also equivalent to a pass in Japanese 3).

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

International Entry Requirements: If English is not the applicant's first language or they have not previously studied in English, our usual requirement is the equivalent of an International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic Test) score of 6.5, with not less than 6.0 in each of the sub-tests.

Course aims

This Graduate Diploma in Japanese Studies is designed to develop Japanese language skills through small-group language classes, to increase a student's knowledge of Japanese culture in optional modules, as well as improving research and study skills.

The course has been designed for those who want to expand their knowledge of Japanese and Japanese Culture in preparation for a Master's degree. This course is also aimed at those who do not have a BA honours qualification in Japanese Studies and those with a qualification at, or near, BA level who would like to take a one-year qualification.

This is an undergraduate-level qualification that will prepare students for postgraduate study. Students study this programme one-year full-time or two-years part-time.

Course structure

Students need to obtain 120 credits at Level 6 for the award of this Graduate Diploma. Students must take at least 60 credits from the Japanese 'content' modules and 30 credits from the Japanese language modules. Additionally, they might also take up to 30 credits from the 'comparative culture option' modules.

'Japanese 'content' modules (at least 60 credits)

Advanced Seminar in Japanese Culture and Society
Manga and Anime
Extended Essay in Japanese Studies

Japanese language modules (at least 30 credits)

Japanese 4
Japanese 5

Comparative Culture Option Modules (up to 30 credits)

Film and Politics
Industry Placement
Representations of Gender, Love and Sexuality

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term
Full-time – 1 year					
6	ARMC186S6 ARMC167S6	Japanese 4 OR Japanese 5	30	Compulsory	T1-3
6	ARMC203S6	Advanced Seminar in Japanese Culture and Society	30	Option	T1
6	ARMC187S6	Manga and Anime	30	Option	T2
6		Option (1 x 30 or 2 x 15 credits)	30	Option	T1, 2 or 3
Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
6	ARMC186S6 ARMC167S6	Japanese 4 OR Japanese 5	30	Compulsory	T1-3
6	ARMC203S6	Advanced Seminar in Japanese Culture and Society	30	Option	T1
Year 2					
6		Japanese content, comparative or Language option (Japanese 5 if Japanese 4 taken in Year 1)	30	Option	T1 or 3 or T1-3 if Japanese 5 taken
6	ARMC187S6	Manga and Anime	30	Option	T2
Part-time students must take at least 60 credits from the Japanese 'content' modules and at least 30 credits from the Japanese language modules. Full-time students take 30 credits from Japanese language modules and 90 credits of 'content'/comparative options.					

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*

Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Learning and teaching methods vary between Language modules and 'Content' modules, but in all cases the programme builds on tried and tested methods, and the collective experience and expertise deployed in existing modules within the Department.

- Classes (90 minutes) adopt a mixed-mode delivery, part lecture, part student activity either singly or in small groups, part open discussion. The range of methods deployed is effective in retaining students' attention after a day's work. Varied use is made of the full range of available support materials and technologies, including Moodle. Supervised group and pair-work and short student presentations serve to vary the pace of

classroom activity. Presentations also offer the opportunity for formative feedback, and may be used to prepare a written assignment.

- Language classes are 2.5 hours long. Activities are varied and are designed to promote student participation. Regular homework is given and returned to students, with extensive feedback, usually within a week.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

- For Language classes, assessment takes place at regular intervals throughout the academic year and takes a variety of forms as appropriate to the language-level of the module, including in-class tests, oral presentations, essays and other written tasks.
- Assessment for 'content' modules is via a combination of assessed essays and in class tests.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

Subject Specific:

A. Use of the target language

1. Our Japanese language courses have been mapped to the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) as follows:

Stage 4 N3/2

Stage 5 N2

The aims and objectives for each of these stages are defined for each corresponding module.

2. Communicate fluently and appropriately, maintaining a high degree of grammatical accuracy, in Japanese.
3. Be able to exploit for a variety of purposes and, as appropriate, to contextualise a broad range of materials in written or spoken Japanese appropriate to the level attained.
4. Be able to apply effectively and appropriately language skills in a professional context.

B. Explicit knowledge of language

5. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the structures, registers and, as appropriate, varieties of Japanese.
6. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the linguistic principles required to analyse Japanese. (This aim applies to certain modules only.)

C. Knowledge of related studies

7. Demonstrate an ability critically to evaluate through appropriate methodologies one or more aspects of the arts, cultures, histories, institutions or linguistic situation of Japan.
8. Demonstrate a broad knowledge and, using appropriate methodologies, a critical understanding of Japanese culture and society gained through one or more of the creative media of Japan.

D. Intercultural awareness and understanding

9. Demonstrate a reasoned awareness and critical understanding of the diversity of Japanese society and culture; this includes the existence of different cultures within Japan as well as Japanese culture abroad.

10. Demonstrate an ability to describe, analyse and evaluate the circulation and consumption of Japanese culture abroad, including students' own local context.

Intellectual:

11. Identify and describe problems and to devise effective strategies for their resolution.

12. Learn theoretical tools and epistemological keys to be able to identify the contradictions regarding the myth of the “Japanese homogeneity” and the “only-one race”.

Practical:

See Subject-specific skills, plus the following:

13. Gather, process and evaluate critically information from a variety of paper, audio-visual and electronic sources.

14. Develop skills to handle critically material related to Japanese culture and society both in English and Japanese language.

Personal and Social:

15. Communicate information, ideas and arguments cogently and coherently both orally and in writing with due regard to the target audience.

16. Be an effective and self-aware independent learner.

Careers and further study

Graduates can pursue career paths in Japanese organisations or businesses, in translation or teaching, and as researchers or journalists. Possible professions include:

- translator
- teacher
- researcher
- journalist
- diplomatic services operational officer
- interpreter.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website: <https://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services/careers-service>.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies](#) published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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