WHY JAPANESE?

Japanese ranks as one of the world’s most important languages with over 126 million speakers. In fact, the number of these speakers has been steadily rising over the last 30 years due to a great surge of interest in Japanese culture in the Western world, and increased global recognition of Japan’s ongoing status as a world economic powerhouse. More and more students see the advantages of studying Japanese as a second language and appreciate the additional value that such studies add to their education and future employment, business, and travel opportunities.

In addition to learning the language, students who take Japanese courses at the University of Calgary also learn about the culture and way of life in Japan. This is particularly true for those who partake in the Japanese Group Study Program, which is offered annually and gives students the chance to further their study of Japanese language and culture in an immersion setting. This 4-week study abroad program typically takes place in Tokyo in May-June, with courses of language instruction offered through Senshu University. Past program participants have indicated that they gained valuable international experiences through the program and many have even returned to Japan to study or work for longer periods of time.

For more information regarding the Japanese Language and Culture Group Study Program, please contact the Japanese program at slllc@ucalgary.ca, or the Group Study Program office at group.study@ucalgary.ca.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Students should consult with the Japanese program to be placed in language courses corresponding to their ability. Native speakers are not eligible to take language courses by special assessment or to receive advanced credit for them.

E-mail slllc@ucalgary.ca in order to coordinate your placement/assessment, or visit the website: slllc.ucalgary.ca.

Study abroad and exchange opportunities in Japan are available. Please refer to the International Centre website for details: ucalgary.ca/uci/

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日本語および東アジア言語研究
JAPANESE STUDIES

The Japanese program at the University of Calgary offers four years of instruction in Japanese language, culture and history. Students can choose to take Japanese courses towards the completion of an East Asian Language Studies major* (concentration in Japanese), Japanese minor, or fulfill other program requirements, or even as an Open Studies student for general interest or learning.

Courses are designed to accommodate students with a background in Japanese, as well as those without, and include instruction at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels in the four basic language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing).

Students with a background in Japanese should consult with the program so that they can be placed in language courses corresponding to their ability.

In addition to classroom instruction, students in the Japanese program also have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities such as the annual Japanese Speech Competition, and various program-sponsored cultural events.

Specific scholarship opportunities may be available to students in the Japanese program who meet the award criteria. Please check the website for more information: sillc.ucalgary.ca

* Since 2005, the Chinese and Japanese programs have jointly offered the East Asian Language Studies major program (EALS).

COURSE OFFERINGS

JPNS 205 and 207
Beginners’ Japanese I and II
Basic concepts of modern Japanese. Reading and writing of characters, essentials of grammar, basic vocabulary, and oral drills on normal speech patterns.

JPNS 301 and 303
Continuing Japanese I and II

JPNS 309 / 311 / 313
*Study Abroad
Japanese Culture/Language in an Immersion Setting
An introduction to contemporary Japanese culture through research projects and life experience. These courses stress oral skills and cultural understanding in an immersion setting. While the focus will be on speaking and aural comprehension, reading and writing will also be introduced. This course is given during Spring/Summer Intersession in Japan.

JPNS 317*
Topics in Japanese Civilization
Distinctive features of Japanese civilization within the Asian context. Different topics have included: Japanese civilization and Japanese cultural history through film.

*This course is given in English; no knowledge of Japanese is required.

JPNS 331 and 333
Intermediate Japanese I and II
Intermediate courses giving emphasis to both writing and oral skills. Some of the more difficult aspects of modern Japanese grammar will be studied.

JPNS 341
Introduction to Japanese Literature
Reading and discussion of selected works of modern Japanese literature.

JPNS 441
Advanced Conversational Japanese
Intensive development of aural and oral skills in Japanese through discussion of selected topics using a variety of authentic media. The focus will be on developing conversational abilities and vocabulary.

JPNS 451
Japanese Through Texts
Language practice and cultural analysis through the study of contemporary Japanese texts. Authentic material will be selected from documents and textbooks. Students will be able to improve their reading skills while enhancing their knowledge of Japanese culture.

JPNS 461*
Japanese-Chinese Cultural Relations
Discussion of cultural relations and influences between Japan and China. Topics may include cultural identities and cross-influences, literary and artistic traditions and writing systems.

*Jointly offered with Chinese 461.

For more information on courses, please visit the University of Calgary online Calendar:
ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/japanese