

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Japanese Studies BA Japanese Studies with International Experience BA Japanese Studies with Foundation Year				
4	Programme Code(s)	UUBAJAPN_C (Full-time 3 years) UBAJAPAN_C (Part-time 4 years) UUBAJPIX_C (Full-time 4 years with int. experience) UUBFJAPN_C (Full-time 4 years with Foundation Year) UBFJAPAN_C (Part-time 6 years with Foundation Year)				
5	UCAS code	T210/T211 (with international experience)/ T212 (with Foundation Year)				
6	Home Department	Languages, Cultures and Applied Linguistics				
7	Exit Award(s)	Cert HE, Dip HE				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years, 4 years, 6 years				
9	Mode of Study	FT	x	PT	x	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	For Foundation Year: English, Theatre and Creative Writing, Film, Media and Cultural Studies, History of Art				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Statement	Languages, Cultures and Societies				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>For Foundation Year (year zero), see School of Arts Foundation Year programme specification: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/for-staff/quality/programme-specifications/2020-21/school-of-arts/school-of-arts-foundation-year</p> <p>The programme, offering evening, face-to-face study, allows students to reach a BA honours degree 'exit' level of attainment in Japanese (Japanese Language Proficiency Test, JLPT, N2) by the end of the three-year, four-year or six-year period of study. Students will also study the culture of Japan, either through the medium of that language, or in English. They will also have the opportunity to acquire advanced knowledge of a range of comparative cultural topics. Students study this programme in a three-year full-time, four-year-full-time, four-year part-time or six-year decelerated mode.</p> <p>Students taking the four-year full-time BA Japanese Studies with International Experience programme will spend a year of study (normally the third year) in Japan. Please note: students must make satisfactory progress during year 1 and 2 of their degree to be eligible for a Year Abroad. Additionally, the non-UK partner institution may set its own entrance criteria, including, but not limited to, academic criteria, language requirements and visa</p>

	<p>requirements. In instances where a student does not meet the eligibility criteria for an approved Year Abroad, their registration may be transferred to the corresponding BA programme pathway without the ‘with International Experience’ designation.</p> <p>More specifically we aim to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer a broad and balanced degree programme in the evening that enables students to engage fully in the improvement of their language skills, in the reading and analysing of a variety of literary texts in the study of Japanese modern history, culture and society, Japanese cinema, media and popular culture. 2. Provide access to learning and curricula appropriate for students with a range of traditional and non-traditional educational backgrounds, including European and international students. 3. Enable our students to develop independent critical thinking and judgement. 4. Develop a range of subject-specific and transferable skills, particularly conceptual, analytical, and communication skills, including the ability to write lucid, logical, and well-structured prose in both English and Japanese. To these should be added appropriate IT skills and confidence to engage with evolving media. 5. To enable our students to work or study in Japan (subject to the restrictions stated above) either for a term, as an optional part of the three-year full-time degree, or for a year as part of the four-year full-time BA Japanese Studies with International Experience in order to provide them with an opportunity to develop their language skills and their knowledge of the culture of Japan, as well as to acquire a range of transferable personal, academic and employability skills. <p>Further distinctive features:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are particularly well-known for the strength of our language teaching-provision. 2. The flexibility of our language pathways means that students can normally enter the part-time programme at any language level from beginner to advanced and the full-time programme at any level from A-level to advanced. All students have the opportunity to reach the BA honours degree ‘exit’ level of attainment. 3. The relatively high proportion of students engaged in the study of Japanese language and culture not only enriches all students’ learning experience through shared experience and discussion, but also strengthens the Japanese atmosphere we endeavour to create in our classes and social activities which is helped by our extremely active Japanese society run by the students. <p>We offer a varied range of modules relating both to Japanese culture, and the comparative study of cultures relating to Japan and to the other languages taught at Birkbeck (currently German, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish).</p>
15	<p>Entry Criteria</p>
	<p>For Foundation Year (year zero), see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p>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.</p>

	<p>To join the full-time programme you must normally have N5-level (JLPT) competence, or the equivalent, in Japanese, but students without prior knowledge of Japanese may also be accepted.</p> <p>UCAS TARIFF POINTS 104-128</p> <p>The UCAS tariff score is applicable if applicants have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>FOUNDATION YEAR DEGREES</p> <p>You can progress onto the BA Japanese Studies if you successfully complete the foundation year of our BA Arts and Humanities with Foundation Year course. This is an ideal route onto an undergraduate degree if you are returning to study after a gap, or if you have not previously studied this subject, or if you didn't achieve the grades you need for a place on this degree.</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>If English is not your first language or you 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.</p> <p>If you don't meet the minimum IELTS requirement, we offer pre-sessional English courses, foundation programmes and language support services to help you improve your English language skills and get your place at Birkbeck.</p> <p>For the BA Japanese Studies with International Experience, please be aware that international students who require a Tier 4 visa will initially be provided with a CAS to study for the first two years of your course whilst at Birkbeck. During your third year of study at an institution in Japan, you will be required to obtain a visa. When you return to the UK to complete your fourth year, Birkbeck will issue you with a second CAS so that you can apply for another Tier 4 visa for your final year. You will therefore need to make a total of three visa applications – two for Birkbeck and one for the institution abroad.</p>
--	---

16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>For Foundation Year (year zero), see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p><i>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:</i></p> <p>Subject Specific</p> <p>A. Use of the target language</p> <p>1. Our Japanese language courses have been mapped to the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) as follows:</p> <p>Stage 1 N5 Stage 2 N5/4 Stage 3 N4/3 Stage 4 N3/2 Stage 5 N2</p> <p>The aims and objectives for each of these stages are defined for each corresponding module.</p>
----	--

	<p>2. Communicate fluently and appropriately, maintaining a high degree of grammatical accuracy, in Japanese, to a level approximately equivalent to a BA honours degree ‘exit’ level (N2)</p> <p>3. Be able to exploit for a variety of purposes and, as appropriate, to contextualise a broad range of materials in written or spoken French appropriate to the level attained.</p> <p>4. Be able to apply effectively and appropriately language skills in a professional context.</p> <p>B. Explicit knowledge of language</p> <p>5. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the structures, registers and, as appropriate, varieties of Japanese.</p> <p>6. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the linguistic principles required to analyse Japanese. (This aim applies to certain modules only.)</p> <p>C. Knowledge of related studies</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>D. Intercultural awareness and understanding</p> <p>9. Demonstrate a reasoned awareness and critical understanding of one or more cultures and societies, other than the student’s own.</p> <p>10. Demonstrate an ability to describe, analyse and evaluate the similarities and dissimilarities of one or more French-speaking culture or society in comparison with the student’s own.</p> <p>Intellectual</p> <p>11. Identify and describe problems and to devise effective strategies for their resolution.</p> <p>12. Demonstrate a reasoned awareness and critical understanding.</p> <p>Practical</p> <p>See Subject-specific skills, plus the following:</p> <p>13. Gather, process and evaluate critically information from a variety of paper, audio-visual and electronic sources.</p> <p>14. Use IT effectively, both as a means of communication and as an aid to learning.</p> <p>Personal and Social</p> <p>15. Communicate information, ideas and arguments cogently and coherently both orally and in writing with due regard to the target audience.</p> <p>16. Be responsive to the discipline of working with others and to work effectively as part of a team.</p> <p>17. Be an effective and self-aware independent learner.</p>
17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>For Foundation Year (year zero), see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p>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 of Cultures and Languages.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 3 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. 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. <p>Study abroad Students taking modules at one of partner institutions in Japan will be assessed according to the methods employed at those institutions. Students not based at a university during their time abroad will be expected to submit work to Birkbeck in order to gain credits, including essays and a learning diary. All students may be required to take an oral exam on their return.</p>
--	--

18	<p>Programme Description</p> <p>For Foundation Year (year zero), see Foundation Year programme specification.</p> <p>Three-year full-time, four-year part-time Students take 120 credits at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6.</p> <p>Normally, 210 credits are made up of Japanese language and language ‘content’ modules and up to 150 credits can be chosen from beyond the Japanese programme.</p> <p>‘With International Experience’ programmes The degree will be made up of 420 credits. 360 credits will be taken at Birkbeck (in accordance with the already existing BA Japanese Studies programme). 60 credits will be awarded as APL for the study undertaken during the year abroad (normally as credit only without marks being recorded). This credit will normally be awarded at level 5.</p> <p>Year One = 120 credits at Birkbeck Year Two = 120 credits at Birkbeck Year Three = 60 credits at a Japanese partner institution Year Four = 120 credits at Birkbeck</p> <p>*Note: Students need to have their application to study in Japan approved by a Birkbeck study abroad committee and by our partner university. Applicants are expected to have good academic performance, at least an overall average of 2:2 by the time of the application, and need to be enrolled and on track to pass Japanese 2 or Japanese 3 (depending on the university students are applying for) by the time they submit their application. If an applicant fails to meet the requirements, they may be withdrawn from the “with International Experience” programme.</p>
----	--

Language Pathways

A student's programme of study is determined by his or her language pathways. The language pathway is determined by the student's level of proficiency in Japanese at entry. Possible entry levels are as follows - Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) entry levels for these courses are given in brackets:

Japanese 1 (Complete beginner Beginner N5)

Japanese 2 (Beginner N5 Upper Beginner N5-N4)

Japanese 3 (Upper Beginner N5-N4 Intermediate N4-N3)

Japanese 4 (Intermediate N4-N3 Upper Intermediate N3-N2)

Japanese 5 (Upper Intermediate N3-N2 Advanced N2)

For ALL language pathways, students take any given language module at a level appropriate to their year of study, i.e. Level 4 for 1st year, Level 5 for 2nd year (and for 3rd year in PT mode), Level 6 for 3rd year (4th or subsequent year for PT). However, Japanese 5 is always offered at Level 6, and students who start at this stage take Japanese 5 in their 2nd or 3rd year of study. The assessment pattern is always appropriate to the given Level 4, 5 or 6.

Pathway B (not available for 3 year programme)

Students take Japanese 2 in their first year and Japanese 3, Japanese 4, and Japanese 5 consecutively in subsequent years.

Pathway C

Students take Japanese 3 in their first year and Japanese 4, and Japanese 5 consecutively in subsequent years.

Pathway D

Students take Japanese 4 in their first year and Japanese 5 in their second year.

Pathway E

Students take Japanese 5 in their second year.

For all pathways a minimum of 210 credits of the 360 credits must have Japanese content: Japanese language modules and Japanese 'content' modules. All students must take 'Rethinking Japan: Introduction to Modern Japanese Society and Culture' (Level 4-5; 30 credits; compulsory).

Up to 150 credits can be chosen from beyond the Japanese programme.

'JAPANESE PROGRAMME' MODULES (AT LEAST 210 CREDITS):

Japanese 'content modules' (all 30 credits):

LNLN023S4 Rethinking Japan: Introduction to Modern Japanese Society and Culture (year 1 or 2. Levels 4 & 5)

ARMC145S5 Popular Culture in Japan and East Asia (year 1 or 2. Level 5)

ARMC093S5 Theorising Japanese Cinema (year 2. Level 5)

ARMC187S6 Manga and Anime (year 3. Level 6)

ARMC203S6 Advanced Seminar in Japanese Culture and Society (year 3. Level 6)

Japanese language modules (all 30 credits)

Japanese 1

Japanese 2

Japanese 3

Japanese 4

Japanese 5

Year of entry: 2021/22

<p>Students may enter the programme at any level of language, and follow the pathway in sequence for three or more years. They take any given language module at the appropriate Level 4, 5 or 6 according to their year of study (except for entry at Japanese 4, where they take Japanese 5 in the second or third year, and entry at Japanese 5, which is taken in year 2 or 3 of study – Japanese 5 is offered at Level 6 only, even when offered in year 2 of study). All language modules include an assessment scheme appropriate to the relevant Level, and consistent across all the languages offered within the Department.</p> <p>OTHER MODULES (UP TO 150 CREDITS):</p> <p>Comparative ‘culture’ optional modules (all 30 credits) Understanding Culture: Language and Texts (Level 4) Reading Transnational Cultures (Level 4/5) Culture and Crisis (Level 4) Representations of Love, Desire and Sexuality (Levels 5 & 6) Film and Politics (Levels 5 and 6; 30 credits)</p> <p>Other modules offered at the Department of Cultures and Languages with no language requirement: Cultural Perspectives on German History (Level 4; 30 credits) German Film: Nation and Identity (Level 5; 15 credits) Literature and Society since 1945 (Level 5&6; 15 credits) The Weimar Republic (Level 5&6; 15 credits) Aesthetics and Politics: International Intellectuals and the Spanish Civil War (Level 6; 30 credits) Power and Control in Spanish Golden Age Art (Level 5; 30 credits) Studying the Hispanic, Luso-Brazilian and Native American Worlds (Level 4; 30 credits) The Urban Experience in Brazil (Level 6; 30 credits)</p> <p>Language modules French, German, Spanish, Italian.</p> <p>Other modules offered from BA English , BA Film and Media, BA Global Politics, BA History, BA History of Art, BA International Law, BA Journalism, BA Management, BA Politics, BA Linguistics, BA Linguistics and Culture</p>

19	Programme Structure			
3 year full-time sample programme: Language Pathway C				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	ARCL101S4	Japanese 3 (Level 4)	30	Core
4	LNLN023S4	Rethinking Japan: Introduction to Modern Japanese Society and Culture	30	Compulsory
4	LNLN021S4 OR LNLN026S4	EITHER Understanding Culture: Language and Texts OR Approaches to Language	30	Option
4		Option	30	Option
	ARCL069Z4	Doing Cultures and Languages	0	Core

Year of entry: 2021/22

Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	ARMC166S5	Japanese 4 (Level 5)	30	Core
5		Option	30	Option
5		Option	30	Option
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	ARMC167S6	Japanese 5	30	Core
6		Option	30	Option
6		Option	30	Option
6		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
4 year part-time sample programme: Language Pathway A				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	ARMC161S4	Japanese 1 (Level 4)	30	Core
4	LNLN023S4 ARMC001S5	Rethinking Japan: Introduction to Modern Japanese Society and Culture	30	Compulsory
4	LNLN021S4 OR LNLN026S4	EITHER Understanding Culture: Language and Texts OR Approaches to Language	30	Option
4	ARCL069Z4	Doing Cultures and Languages	0	Core
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	ARCL099S5	Japanese 2 (Level 5)	30	Core
4		Option	30	Option
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
Year 3 Students take 60 credits at L5 and 30 credits at L6 in year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	ARMC165S5	Japanese 3 (Level 5)	30	Core
5		Option	30	Option
6		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	ARMC186S6	Japanese 4 (Level 6)	30	Core
6		Option	30	Option
6		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	30	Option
BA Japanese Studies "with International Experience Programme structure – full-time				
Year 1 (120 credits)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4		Japanese language module, Level 4	Up to 60	Core
4	LNLN023S4	Rethinking Japan: Introduction to Modern Japanese Society and Culture	30	Compulsory
4		Optional modules	Up to 60	Option
4	ARCL069Z4	Doing Cultures and Languages*	0	Core

Year of entry: 2021/22

Year 2 (120 credits)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5		Japanese language module, Level 5	30	Core
5		Japanese 'content modules'	Up to 90	Option
5		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	Up to 60	Option
Year 3 (Study Abroad in Japan 60 credits at level 5)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	N/A	60 credits APL from modules taken at a partner institution**	60	Core
**Note: where student is unable to complete credit from partner institution these APL credits may be substituted through taking the two 30 credit level 5 option modules: ARCL067S5 Study Abroad Module 1 and ARCL068S5 Study abroad Module 2.				
Year 4 (120 credits)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6		Japanese language module, level 6	30	Core
6		Japanese 'content modules'	Up to 90	Option
6		1 X 30 credit Option OR 2 X 15 credit Options	Up to 60	Option

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	Programme Director	Dr Marcos Centeno
21	Start Date (term/year)	Autumn 2020
22	Date approved by TQEC	Summer 2019
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2019
24	Date(s) updated/amended	May 2020