

THE FIELD

Japanese is the language of more than 100 million people who are heirs to an exceptionally rich tradition in literature and the arts. It is the language of the world's third greatest economic power and of much important innovation in such fields as engineering, chemistry, linguistics, management, and marketing. It is the language of one of the most important trading partners of the United States and of a literary tradition in which many of the most important works were written by women.

UMass Amherst is the only public institution of higher education in New England to offer bachelor of arts degrees in Japanese language and literature and Japanese language and linguistics. These programs offer students a sound command of the language as well as a solid background in literature, linguistics, culture, and civilization.

A minor in Japanese is available.

THE MAJOR

The major is unrestricted, which means that students can declare it at any time, ideally during the first semester. There are language prerequisites to complete before beginning language coursework in the major—specifically, successful completion of four semester courses in Japanese (24 credits): 126, 246, 326, and 327, or the equivalent—but students can take entry level cultural courses immediately while working on the language prerequisites. The major requires a total of 33 credits in Japanese language, linguistics, and culture. Courses offered include those in the performing arts, Japanese women writers, popular culture, religion, history, and film.

JOINT MAJOR IN LINGUISTICS AND JAPANESE

Students may also elect an interdisciplinary major in linguistics and Japanese offered by the linguistics department. The requirements include the successful completion of four courses in Japanese (24 credits): 126, 246, 326, and 327, or the equivalent. Students must also complete at least 37 credits distributed between Japanese and linguistics courses. Visit the linguistics website (umass.edu/linguistics) for more information.

HONORS

Contact the program honors coordinator for information on how to pursue honors opportunities within the major.

STUDY ABROAD

The East Asian Languages and Cultures program supports study abroad programs in Japan, which are aimed at increasing students' fluency in Japanese and the understanding of Japanese culture. Though there is no requirement, many students spend their junior year in Japan. There are also options for a single semester or a summer program abroad.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Asia-related courses can play an important role in general education, and a major in Japanese can lead to exciting career prospects in the following areas.

TEACHING: English as a second language in the United States and Asia; Asian literature courses in junior high and high school; basic language skills in elementary schools

BUSINESS: International and national banking; travel organizations; publishing houses; shipping firms; import-export houses; advertising/public relations

GOVERNMENT SERVICE: National Security Agency; Central Intelligence Agency; Departments of State, Defense, Treasury; Diplomatic Corps; Peace Corps; public relations

PROFESSIONAL: Librarian; museum research/curator; ministry; international law; international labor relations

GRADUATE STUDY: Comparative literature; linguistics; East Asian languages; history; law; international law; international management; international marketing research; library science; art history; business administration; computer science; economics

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS

The humanities focus on human creativity, endeavor, and culture. The imaginative and creative arts—literary and performing—derive from life and teach about human behavior and constructs of social reality. The history of social, political, and economic systems illuminates and shapes the present and future. Students in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts are expected to broaden their perspectives on individual and cultural expression within their own and other societies, to understand the development and evolution of the discipline of study in relation to the culture from which it emanates, and to learn the methods by which knowledge in the discipline is gained.

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