CONTACT

MODERN JAPANESE STUDIES PROGRAM

Institute for the Advancement of Higher Education
Hokkaido University
Kita 17, Nishi 8, Kita-ku, Sapporo, 060-0817

Modern Japanese Studies Program Office
☎ +81-(0)11-706-8048 • 8049
✉ mjsp@oia.hokudai.ac.jp

Admission Center (for Admission Inquiry)
☎ +81-(0)11-706-8045
✉ adm-mjsp@academic.hokudai.ac.jp

Hokkaido University's Modern Japanese Studies Program
www.youtube.com/HokkaidoUniv

www.oia.hokudai.ac.jp/mjsp

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MJSP 現プロ

HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY'S

Modern Japanese Studies Program

DISCOVER YOUR JAPAN!

Intensive Japanese Course and Bachelor's Degree

HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

WHY HOKKAIDO?

Sapporo Station

Gingko Avenue, Hokkaido University

Skiing in Kiroro

Hokkaido is the northernmost region of Japan, consisting of one large island and 509 surrounding islands. Dotting the center of the main island are mountain ranges and impressive volcanoes surrounded by sweeping coastal plains. The islands' total land mass is 83,000km^2 which makes up 22% of the total land mass of Japan. Hokkaido is known for its amazing food, natural beauty, world-class skiing resorts and unique history.

Hokkaido University is right in the center of Sapporo, Japan's fifth-largest city with a population of 1.97 million. You will never be short of options when it comes to eating out with friends, taking in Sapporo's vibrant cultural scene, or going out for a night on the town. Sapporo has something for everyone.

Today, Hokkaido has a population of 5.3 million people, but the region was only fully incorporated into Japan in the mid-nineteenth century. Hokkaido is the home of the indigenous Ainu people. As a place where various cultures meet, Hokkaido is an ideal location to consider issues of cultural diversity and multiculturalism in Japan, Asia and beyond.

© Rumiko Fujitani, 2013.
Traditional Ainu pattern for Attus clothing.

WHY HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY?

Hokkaido University is one of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious universities in Japan. Boasting the largest number of faculties of Japan's national universities, we cover almost all areas of the humanities and social and natural sciences and we are a leader in research activities in Japan and the world. Hokkaido University alumni include a Nobel laureate, business leaders, research pioneers, artists and writers.

Our graduates benefit from the University's determination to develop curious minds that are ready to embrace challenges and acquire knowledge, reveal new global perspectives and find solutions which change society for the better.

We offer a broad-based educational experience, world-class research facilities, and all the attractions of living in the cosmopolitan city of Sapporo. The atmosphere is warm and welcoming, our campuses clean and safe, and we are located in a breathtakingly beautiful setting.

Do you want to study in the most beautiful campus in Japan? In one of the most desirable cities in Japan? And have an amazing international student experience? - Then Hokkaido University is for you.

HOKKAIDO CLIMATE *average daily temperatures

April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
April>>>6C/43F	May>>>11C/52F	June>>>16C/61F	July>>>20C/68F	August>>>22C/72F	September>>>17C/63F	October>>>10C/50F	November>>>4C/39F	December>>>-3C/27F	January>>>-6C/21F	February>>> -5C/23F	March>>>-1C/30F

SPRING Pleasant temperatures with an abundance of colors

SUMMER Warm days full of sunshine with temperate mornings and evenings

AUTUMN All the beautiful colors of Autumn

WINTER Refreshing and invigorating days with sun and powdery snow

EVENTS IN SAPPORO

April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Keiryu Koinobori (Jozankei Hot Spring Area)	Sapporo Lilac Festival (Odori Park)	Hokkaido Shrine Festival (throughout the city)	Toyohira River Fireworks (Toyohira River)	Sapporo City Jazz (Odori Park and Sapporo Art Park)	Dai-Don-Den! Street performances (Ekimae-dori)	Sapporo Marathon (downtown Sapporo)	Sapporo Art Stage (throughout the city)	Christmas Market in Sapporo (Odori Park)	World Cup Ski-Jumping Tournament (Okurayama Ski Jump)	Sapporo Snow Festival (Odori Park)	Mt. Moiwa Ski-Ground Festival (Mt. Moiwa)
		YOSAKOI Soran Festival (Odori Park)	Pacific Music Festival (Sapporo Art Park)	Sapporo Summer Festival (Odori Park)		Sapporo International Short Film Festival (downtown Sapporo)	Sapporo White Illumination (Odori Park, Ekimae-dori)				

ACADEMIC CALENDER

April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Academic year (first semester) begins Bachelor's Degree program entry	Golden Week	University Festival		University Foundation Day (August 14) Classes end early August	Summer Vacation	Second semester begins Intensive Japanese Course entry		New Year Break (2 weeks)	Classes restart early January	Classes end early February	Winter Vacation Graduation ceremony

WHY MJSP?

The Modern Japanese Studies Program (MJSP) is a four-year bilingual Bachelor's Degree program, preceded by a six-month Intensive Japanese Course for those without sufficient proficiency in Japanese to enter the Bachelor's Degree program directly. MJSP gives a comprehensive education in the language and society of Japan. The program has four main characteristics:

1) Intensive study of the Japanese language – you should be completely fluent on graduation;
2) The study of Japan in four main academic disciplines – history, cultural studies, sociology and political economy;
3) Co-learning with Japanese students – you will take many classes with your Japanese peers;
4) A flexible curriculum that allows you to discover your Japan from the unique and multicultural vantage point of Japan's northernmost island.

There are two modules to choose from: **History/Culture** and **Society/Political Economy.** One module becomes your major ; the other is your minor. You start by taking intensive Japanese language courses alongside social sciences courses in English.
Once you have sufficient Japanese, you may take courses in Japanese in the faculties of Law, Humanities and Human Sciences, Education, and Economics & Business. **This truly bilingual degree program is the ultimate preparation for an international career related to Japan.**

Message from the MJSP Faculty

Dr. Hironori Sasada

People from all around the world come to study on MJSP. The international atmosphere is a fascinating learning experience in itself. We are all joined, however, by our common, deep interest in Japan. There is no better place to learn about Japan than actually in Japan.

Our ambitious and defining educational aim is for all MJSP students to be able to take regular university classes in the Japanese language alongside their Japanese peers. We share our curriculum in English with Nitobe College, an international education program for students in other faculties. Extensive educational integration with the Japanese student population from the first year of the degree program is another key philosophy of MJSP.

Intensive Japanese Course

The Modern Japanese Studies Program offers one of the most rigorous Japanese language training programs of any four-year Bachelor's Degree. You do not need to have any prior experience of studying the Japanese language to apply for MJSP, but **mastering the language sufficiently to study history, culture, society and political economy in Japanese is a requirement to graduate from MJSP.**

The Intensive Japanese Course ensures students have enough Japanese language ability on entry to the Bachelor's Degree. **People who already have intermediate level Japanese may apply for exemption from the Intensive Japanese Course.** Their Japanese language ability will be assessed in a Japanese interview taken as part of the entrance exams.

HOW TO APPLY

MJSP AT A GLANCE

Degree Title:
Bachelor's Degree (in the field of Japanese Studies)

Program Length:
4 years (4.5 years including the Intensive Japanese Course)

Starting Date:
October (Intensive Japanese Course + Bachelor's Degree program)
April (Bachelor's Degree program only)

Entry Requirements:

a) Individuals who have citizenship other than Japanese are eligible to apply. Individuals who have Japanese permanent resident status are not eligible to apply.

b) 12 completed years of education in a foreign country or at an approved international school in Japan OR will hold a high school qualification deemed to be equivalent by the time of entrance.

c) Mother tongue English OR four years or more of secondary education (at junior or senior high school, etc.) with English as the primary language of instruction OR English ability of IELTS (Academic Module) 6.5, TOEFL-iBT 79, TOEFL-PBT 550 or higher.

d) Japanese ability: none for Intensive Japanese Course entry; intermediate Japanese for Bachelor's Degree entry (determined by an entrance exam); clear evidence of aptitude in foreign languages is strongly preferred.

e) A high school academic record that would enable you to attend a leading research-intensive university in your own country.

The detailed list of entry requirements is available in the Application Guidelines published on the Modern Japanese Studies Program website.

Application Periods:
1st call: October-November
2nd call: February

Number of Students:
20 per year

STEPS TO ENTRY

1. Connect with us
Read carefully all the information on our website. Feel free to ask questions using "Contact Us" form.

2. Confirm your possible start date
Applicants with intermediate Japanese can apply for April (Bachelor's Degree) entry. Exemption from the Intensive Japanese Course requires passing our Japanese interview. All other applicants apply for October (Intensive Japanese Course) entry.

3. Apply
Submit your application online in October / November (1st call for applications) OR February (2nd call for applications) and send the required documents by post to arrive by early to mid-December (1st call) or mid-March (2nd call).
Check the Application Guidelines for the exact deadlines, which are strictly enforced. There is a ¥5,000 application fee.

4. Interviews
Interviews are held in January (1st call) and April (2nd call) via Skype.

5. Accept your offer
Students who are offered a place must accept the offer by March (1st call) or June (2nd call).

6. Get ready for departure!
We will be in touch with a pre-departure kit to ensure you are in the know regarding such things as how to obtain a visa, accommodation placements and much more.

*As of January 2020

For more details visit: www.oia.hokudai.ac.jp/mjsp

FEES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Tuition fees for Intensive Japanese Course is **¥181,200 (6 months)** and for Bachelor's degree program is **¥535,800 a year.** But, we provide considerable financial support to offset the cost of your education (See the table below). Students who have not received fee waivers during the second to fourth years may apply for the university's tuition reduction program(25% 50%, or 100%). *Correct as of January 2020

Intensive Japanese Course	1st Year	2nd-4th Year
We are planning to waive the enrollment fee for the Intensive Japanese Course. *The course tuition fee is ¥181,200.	We are planning to waive the entire enrollment and tuition fees in the Modern Japanese Studies Program.	In the second year and thereafter, 100% or 50% of the tuition fees will be waived for selected students based on academic performance. * Waivers will not be available to all students.

MJSP CORE FACULTY

Hironori Sasada

Society Political Economy Module

I research the political economy of Japan and East Asia, particularly the Japanese economy from the Meiji period to after WWII. I am currently researching trade policies and government protection of the agricultural sector.

I lived in the United States for 15 years and have taught at the University of Washington. I encourage students to get actively involved in class discussion.

Emma Cook

Society Political Economy Module

My research currently focuses on food, health and illness in Japan. I have a range of interests including gender, intimacy, employment, risk, emotion, and well-being which inform my classes.

In class I encourage active discussion and student involvement based on lecture content, assigned readings and multi-media.

Takayuki Ito

History Culture Module
Japanese language

My research focuses on the history and development of the Japanese language, for example, through analysis of debates in the Imperial Diet and prewar Japanese language textbooks.

I am from Sendai. I speak using the Sendai dialect that I learned from my grandmother.
I have worked as a Japanese teacher in Bangkok, Taipei and Okinawa.

Susanne Klien

History Culture Module

My research focus is on rural Japan. My research interests include the practice and transmission of traditions in contemporary Japan, regional revitalization and demographic decline and alternative lifestyles in rural areas. Recently, I have also conducted ethnographic research into hip hop practitioners in Hokkaido. Furthermore, I have started a research project on transnational mobility of Japanese contemporary artists in Europe.

I believe that learning should not be confined to the classroom. I encourage students to explore their environment to reflect on issues we discuss in class.

Michael Schiltz

History Culture Module

I am a historian specializing in modern Japanese finance. I have published about the origins of the Bank of Japan, gold standard adoption, and the nature of Japanese financial imperialism in the colonies, spheres of influence and occupied territories before and during WWII. My latest project sheds light on the workings of exchange banks in Asia after 1873. From now on, I also plan to write about the treatment of financial matters in the press, mostly political cartoons published in satirical journals.

Tomohisa Yamada

History Culture Module
Japanese language

As a teacher trainer, I am interested in the development of teacher and how we can improve our teaching. After I received my MA in language education from the UCL Institute of Education, University of London, I was working at SOAS and Saga University as a Japanese language teacher. My research areas are Second Language Acquisition, EdTech and Teacher training. From 2014 to 2019, I was honored as one of Hokkaido University Excellent Teachers.

I would like to recommend to all of the students learning at MJSP course to take the "long way round." We are conditioned to get the best results in the fastest way possible, but I would like you to take the long way, to walk on your own two feet, to see things with your own two eyes, and to think with your own mind. Let's continue this discussion in the classroom!

Jonathan Bull

History Culture Module

My research is about the movement of settler colonists following the collapse of the Japanese empire. In my class we look at how former settler colonists made the transition from empire to nation-state and the ways this influenced Japanese society after 1945. I also like to use a comparative approach by thinking about forced and coerced migration in Northeast Asia in a global context.

As a teacher I encourage active learning through class discussion, group work and independent study. I look forward to meeting you!

Shunsuke Nozawa

History Culture Module

As a linguistic anthropologist and cultural semiotician, I am broadly interested in the meaning of communication and sociality: how ideas and assumptions about language, media, interaction, voice, and so forth, shape everyday habits, institutional practices, and political processes. I have written on themes such as anonymity, solitude, characterization, voice acting, affect, and popular history.

I teach classes on diverse topics, ranging from popular culture to politics of language, from anthropology of Japan to academic writing and methods. My classes are mostly discussion-based, and I am looking forward to working with students to create meaningful learning experience together.

For other members of MJSP faculty, visit the MJSP website.

GUEST LECTURES

The Modern Japanese Studies Program Lecture Series is a series of guest lectures given by researchers from outside the university, or other people whose professional experience is relevant to Japanese Studies.
The lectures aim to broaden students' interests in the many aspects of Japanese Studies.

There are also MJSP Workshops, in which the guest lecturers lead seminars or local field trips.

Roland Kelts delivers a guest lecture titled
"Anime, Manga, Sushi & Cosplay: how Japan Enchants the West"
as part of the MJSP lecture series.

CURRICULUM

INTENSIVE JAPANESE COURSE (6 months (October - March))	BACHELOR'S DEGREE				Credits
	1 st year (April–)	2nd year (April–)	3rd year (April–)	4th year (April–)	
Japanese Language					
Beginner's Japanese	Applied Japanese				41
Japanese language (beginners to intermediate)	**Japanese language** (intermediate to advanced)	**Applied Japanese** (content-based courses using intermediate level Japanese)	**Applied Japanese** (Academic Japanese)	**Applied Japanese** (Business Japanese)	
Japanese Studies (History, Culture, Society, Political Economy)					
In English	Major/Minor Module Subjects			In Japanese	46
An introduction to study skills and modern Japan	**Introduction to Japanese Studies I: History** **Introduction to Japanese Studies II: Culture** **Introduction to Japanese Studies III: Society** **Introduction to Japanese Studies IV: Political Economy** **Multiculturality in Hokkaido and Japan** **Aspects of Japan:** Courses provided by MJSP and other faculties in English	**Japanese History I-III** **Japanese Culture I-III** **Japanese Society I-III** **Japanese Political Economy I-III** *I – Japan and the World *II – Advanced Readings *III – Japanese(History, Culture, Society, Political Economy) in Japanese	Major / Minor subjects taught in Japanese in the faculties of Law, Humanities and Human Sciences, Education and Economics & Business Administration		
Optional and Other Subjects					
	In English / In Japanese				19
	General education seminars: Courses in English based on the research of English-speaking faculty **Intercultural exchange seminars:** Group-based learning with Japanese students in Japanese		Internship at a company (Optional) Study abroad at one of Hokkaido University's partner universities (Optional)		
	Liberal Arts Courses/Foundation Courses Optional courses taught in Japanese in other faculties (for example, in the sciences) **Modern Japanese Studies Workshop, etc.**				
Individual Research					
	English and/or Japanese				22
	Academic Writing	**Project Study I**	**Project Study II**	**Project Study III**	
This is for students enrolled in 2020. Subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the curriculum, visit the MJSP website.					Total 128

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

About one sixth of the total credits required to complete MJSP are categorized as Project Study. Each year you can design your own research project suitable for your interests and career aims.

- **In Year 1(Academic Writing)** learn how to structure and reference academic essays.
- **In Year 2 (Project Study I)** make an oral presentation about your research in Japanese for the first time.
- **In Year 3 (Project Study II)** be creative and showcase your growing expertise in Japan through a longer piece of research.
- **In Year 4 (Project Study III** [**Graduation Thesis**]**)** undertake a extended piece of academic research.

Receive one-on-one or small group supervision from a professor assigned to you as your supervisor based on your interests.

STUDENT LIFE

Vietnamese traditional dance performed in HUISA International Cultural Festival in 2017
(HUISA: Hokkaido University International Students' Association)

Intensive Japanese Course
Completion Ceremony in March 2016

Learning about pop culture event management at the Toyako Manga Anime Festa .

Wearing Kimono to celebrate Coming-of-Age Day.

Participating in a cultural exchange event at a school with only 4 students in the Shakotan region.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

With over 250 university clubs and societies to join, there will be something to suit everyone's interest. Join one of the teams that dances in the Yosakoi Soran Festival, play in the university orchestra, go skiing in Niseko or learn a Japanese martial art. You will find that joining a club is a fascinating insight into Japanese life and culture, as well as a great place to make Japanese friends.

Becoming friends with Japanese students through club activities.

COST OF LIVING

Sapporo has an excellent standard of living at reasonable prices compared to other large cities in Japan. Your budget will depend on your lifestyle, but the table below gives a basic guide of your expected living costs while on MJSP.

Expense	Cost	Total Cost / Year	Notes
Housing / Utilities	¥35,000〜45,000 / month	¥420,000〜540,000	Budget for at least ¥40,000 per month, including bills. It may be more than this depending on your lifestyle.
Study Expenses	¥10,000〜15,000 / month	¥120,000〜180,000	Covers textbooks, photocopying, study trips and other education-related expenses.
Food	¥20,000〜35,000 / month	¥240,000〜420,000	This figure may change significantly according to personal lifestyle choices.
Misc	¥15,000〜20,000 / month	¥180,000〜240,000	Mobile phone, club activities and other optional expenditure.
Total	**￥960,000〜1,380,000（Estimated living expenses per year）**		

STUDENT SUPPORT

Our staff will help you adapt to life in Japanese society. Things may not always go smoothly, but the International Student Support Desk and university's bilingual counseling service is always there to help you.

ACCOMMODATION

MJSP students generally spend their first year in Japan living in student dormitories. The approximate cost is **¥22,000-¥29,000** per month (not including electricity, heating and water bills). Thereafter, students will find their own accommodation in Sapporo. Monthly rents are about **¥35,000-¥45,000** per month (although this may vary according to size and location).

DISCOVER YOUR JAPAN!

MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI

Bin Xu

China

Career after graduation:
IBM Japan, Ltd.

MJSP offers great opportunities for studies, academic researches and student activities, which I took full advantage of during my 4 years of study. Here, my learning skills, communication skills and abilities to live on my own have drastically improved. Various courses in both English and Japanese have not only provided me with knowledge and experience, but also gave me so many great memories and friendships. I will keep living and working in Japan after graduation, and I strongly believe that my experience on MJSP will help me greatly in the future.

Silja Maria Ijas

Finland

Path after graduation:
Hokkaido University Graduate School of Humanities and Human Sciences

Studying at MJSP for four years Japanese society and political economy as my major has been an extremely rewarding experience. I had a bit rosy picture of Japan before coming to Sapporo, but I have developed a more critical view based on what I learned and experienced. And of course my Japanese language skills have improved drastically. There is naturally life outside the studies, too, and I think those experiences are as valuable as the education itself. The people–both locals and people from other parts of the world–I've met while studying, participating a university hobby circle, working as a volunteer, and working part-time are clearly the best thing that happened to me in MJSP.

Van Thi Thuy Nguyen

Vietnam

Career after graduation:
Asahi Diamond Industrial Co., Ltd.
(Oversea Sales Department)

I came to Hokkaido University with the dream of becoming a bridge between Vietnam (my home country) and Japan after graduation. While doing job hunting, I deeply felt the advantages of flexible and comprehensive curriculum equipped by MJSP. Despite no prior Japanese language background and uncertainties in choosing a specific major in the beginning, I am now confident to participate in group discussions with Japanese peers and know precisely which academic disciplines I am most interested in, thanks to a range of various classes provided by different faculties. My current future plan is to work for several years and then pursue an MBA degree to maximize business-related capabilities.

Van Thi Tuyet Duong

Vietnam

Career after graduation:
TOYOTA TSUSHO CORPORATION

Enrolling in MJSP at Hokkaido University is one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life. In MJSP, I could delve into Japanese Studies in both English and Japanese. Besides relevant coursework in Japanese Studies, I was able to take various classes in Faculty of Economics & Business and learned practical skills that would be useful for my career after graduation. Moreover, MJSP gave me the opportunity to study abroad at the University of Washington as an exchange student, allowing me to explore a new culture that is different from the Japanese culture or my own. The four years that I spent in MJSP have not only become a memorable part of my life but also given me the skills, knowledge, and most importantly the confidence to head towards a bright future.

CAREER PATHS

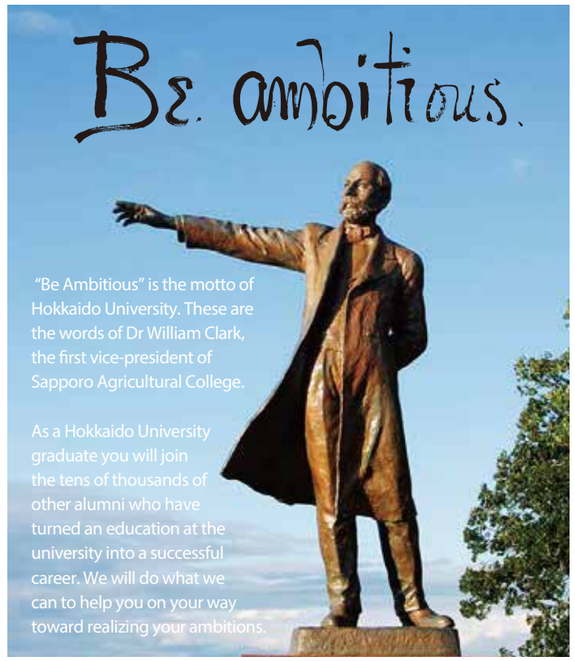
In the twenty-first century, Asia will increasingly take center stage in global affairs. Japan is the world's number three economy and is a regional leader in business, technology and innovation. Your bilingual and multicultural education on MJSP provides the skills for various career paths.

Help shape the Asian century!

Graduates' Paths
(Class of 2019)

【Place of Employment】 • AlphaSights • Mitsui O.S.K. Lines • Zenken • Hokkaido Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd • Real Made Corporation (Sapporo) • Lift Inc.
【Graduate School】 • Master's Program of Education at University of Tsukuba • Hokkaido University Accounting School

Research/ Education	Pursue postgraduate studies and a research career relating to Japan, or become a teacher in Japan or your home country.
Business	Work for a Japanese company that actively recruits Japan-literate international staff, or an international company with operations in Japan.
Journalism/ Tourism	People around the world want and need to know what is happening in Japan and Asia. You will be ideally qualified to show them.
Translation/ Interpreting	Bilingualism opens up many opportunities, from subtitling films to simultaneous interpretation at conferences.
Discover Your Own Path	With the insights and inspiration gained from your years in Japan, put into action your own vision for really making a difference.



"Be Ambitious" is the motto of Hokkaido University. These are the words of Dr William Clark, the first vice-president of Sapporo Agricultural College.

As a Hokkaido University graduate you will join the tens of thousands of other alumni who have turned an education at the university into a successful career. We will do what we can to help you on your way toward realizing your ambitions.