

## Programme specification

### BA (Hons) Japanese & Intercultural Communication

<i>School:</i>	School of Languages & Linguistics
<i>Entry from:</i>	2019/20 <i>in:</i> September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	BA (Ord) Japanese & Intercultural Communication Diploma of Higher Education Japanese & Intercultural Communication Certificate of Higher Education Japanese & Intercultural Communication
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	T2X4
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA benchmark group(s):</i>	Languages, Cultures and Societies 2015: Linguistics 2015
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	<a href="#">Undergraduate periods of study for</a> <sup>1</sup> Full-time for 3 years
<i>Language of study:</i>	English and Japanese
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes – compulsory full year or one semester Study Abroad
<i>Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No

### Introduction and special features

This three-year degree in Japanese & Intercultural Communication – which includes a year or semester in Japan – gives you the skills you need to work in Japan or in an international professional context. The programme is designed to give you communicative Japanese language skills, a deep understanding of Japanese culture, the ability to communicate interculturally, and insight into different sociocultural language practices. You'll study how language relates to speakers' intentions and purposes in social interaction, social attitudes to language, and the way language choices can express identities and cultural values. This programme is ideal for you if you feel confident studying in Japan after just one year of university study.

#### Special features:

- Start Japanese from beginners or with prior study. On arrival at York St John University you will be placed at an appropriate level, either Accelerated Japanese 1 or Japanese Communication 1.
- Study abroad without adding an extra year to your degree – go to Japan during level 5.
- Take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test for no extra fee at level 6.
- Take part in extra-curricular activities related to Japanese language and culture: the vibrant student-run Japanese Society, where you can experience Japanese culture and meet home and exchange students, and the staff-led taiko drumming group, where you can learn a new skill and practice intercultural understanding.
- Access specialist spaces for students: a Linguistics Lab, Languages Workshop, Lounge and Study.

<sup>1</sup> The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

- Learn about current research issues and methods from guest lecturers in our Colloquium Series on a variety of topics related to programmes in the School of Language and Linguistics.
- Apply to join the University's Students-as-Researchers scheme or present your dissertation research at ULAB, the Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain conference.

### **Admissions criteria**

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study.

You can enter this programme as a beginner in Japanese. You can also enter if you have studied Japanese before and/or if you have any qualifications in Japanese.

The programme is not suitable if Japanese is your first language, or if you have C1 level of the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFR) in Japanese

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

## **Programme aims**

By the end of the programme, successful students will reach upper B2/C1 Independent/Proficient User level on the JF standard for Japanese language education. You will be able to have conversations, give presentations, join in discussions, read articles and reports, and write coherently, communicating effectively for a range of academic, social and professional purposes. You will have both theoretical expertise and real-life experience in intercultural communication, enabling you to work in Japan or in an international professional context.

## **Programme learning outcomes**

### **Level 4**

Upon successful completion of this level students will be able to:

- 4.1. Effectively communicate in Japanese, both orally and in writing, on routine and familiar matters
- 4.2. Read and write hiragana and katakana characters, and recognise sufficient kanji characters to understand text on predictable everyday matters
- 4.3. Handle, analyse and present data in an ethical way using appropriate digital tools
- 4.4. Recognise, explain and reflect on the socio-cultural, political and/or interpersonal contexts of language use
- 4.5. Source and interpret a range of academic literature to effectively communicate orally and in writing, adopting appropriate referencing conventions
- 4.6. Recognise, evidence and explain common misconceptions regarding language learning and use

### **Level 5**

Upon successful completion of this level students will be able to:

- 5.1. Effectively describe experiences and events in Japanese, both orally and in writing, and give reasons and explanations for opinions
- 5.2. Demonstrate a critical understanding of aspects of Japanese cultures, communities and societies
- 5.3. Investigate, interpret and/or reflect on socio-cultural, political and/or interpersonal contexts of language use
- 5.4. Communicate professionally both in writing and orally, evidencing arguments through correctly referenced, appropriate sources
- 5.5. Demonstrate an awareness of professional values

### **Level 6**

Upon successful completion of this level students will be able to:

- 6.1. Communicate flexibly and effectively in Japanese, both orally and in writing, for a range of academic, social and professional purposes
- 6.2. Design and carry out an independent research study, presenting and critically analysing data in an ethical way
- 6.3. Select and apply appropriate theoretical frameworks
- 6.4. Investigate and critically evaluate socio-cultural and/or political contexts of language use
- 6.5. Appropriately adapt language to communicate professionally with a range of audiences
- 6.6. Construct a convincing argument, evidenced by critical engagement with appropriate sources
- 6.7. Demonstrate professional and transferable skills

## Programme Structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
Students will take Module 1LLJA1 or 1LLJA3. This is dependent upon language proficiency					
1LLJA1	4	1	Accelerated Japanese 1	20	OA <sup>1</sup>
1LLJA3	4	1	Japanese Communication 1	20	OA <sup>1</sup>
1LL302	4	1	Language and Society	20	CA
1LL306	4	1	Key Concepts for Language Learning and Teaching	20	CA
Students will take Module 1LLJA2 or 1LLJA4. This is dependent upon language proficiency					
1LLJA2	4	2	Accelerated Japanese 2	20	OA <sup>2</sup>
1LLJA4	4	2	Japanese Communication 2	20	OA <sup>2</sup>
1LL317	4	2	Intercultural Communication	20	CA
1LL305	4	2	Multilingualism	20	CA
If abroad for full year:					
xxxxxx	5	Yr	Modules offered by host institution	100	C
2LL318	5	2	Language at Work (Distance)	20	C
If at YSJ in semester 1, and abroad in semester 2:					
2LLJA5	5	1	Japanese Language and Society 1	20	C
2LL305	5	1	Analysing Texts	20	O
2LL304	5	1	Language, Gender and Sexuality	20	O
2LL302	5	1	World Englishes	20	O
xxxxxx	5	2	Modules offered by host institution	40	C
2LL318	5	2	Language at Work (Distance)	20	C
If abroad in semester 1, and at YSJ in semester 2:					
xxxxxx	5	1	Modules offered by host institution	60	C
2LLJA6	5	2	Japanese Language and Society 2	20	C
2LL311	5	2	Forensic Linguistics	20	O
2LL307	5	2	Language and Literacy	20	O
2LL309	5	2	Sociolinguistics	20	O
2LL306	5	2	Language at Work	20	C
3LLJA7	6	1	Japanese Language Project 1	20	C
3LL302	6	1	Attitudes to Language	20	C
3LL303	6	1	Language, Identities and Cultures	20	C
3LLJA8	6	2	Japanese Language Project 2	20	C
3LL310	6	2	Dissertation	40	C

\***C**: Compulsory, **OC**: Compulsory if taken, **OA**: Compulsory for award if taken, **CA**: Compulsory for award, **O**: option or **E**: elective.

<sup>1</sup> Your Japanese level will be tested on arrival and the appropriate module selected.

<sup>2</sup> Accelerated Japanese 2 follows Accelerated Japanese 1; Japanese Communication 2 follows Japanese Communication 1.

In special circumstances where the students are not able to go to Study Abroad due to external factors (e.g. virus pandemic, war, political conflict), students will be consulted and may be able to stay on this programme without going to Study Abroad. In this case, students will take the 2nd year (level 5) modules listed above at York St John University both in Semester 1 and Semester 2.

*Please note that not all options will be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability.*

## Exemptions for modules

### 1. Work experience modules

There may be some circumstances where an exemption is appropriate from the work experience module. Alternative modules may be offered in this situation at the discretion of the University. Modules exceptionally taken in this situation will normally be:

- 2LL318 Language at Work (Distance) is replaced by 2LL320 World Englishes (Distance) or a host institution module.
- 2LL306 Language at Work is replaced by any other optional module

### 2. Distance modules while abroad

While Studying Abroad students take Japanese language modules and also modules, taught in English or Japanese, that are relevant to the Intercultural Communication / TESOL side of the programme. If insufficient Intercultural communication / TESOL or related modules are available at the host institution, the following modules are taken instead:

- 2LL319 Sociolinguistics (Distance)

## Learning, teaching and assessment

### Japanese

You can enter this programme if you are a complete beginner or if you have studied Japanese before. On arrival at York St John University your Japanese level will be tested using a placement test. You will be placed at an appropriate level, either Accelerated Japanese 1 or Japanese Communication 1. Japanese Communication 1 is designed for students who have studied Japanese before and/or who have a qualification in Japanese.

We use a communicative Japanese teaching style at level 4, teaching speaking and listening through tasks such as pair-work and group work. Reading and writing input includes focus on independent learning strategies. At level 5 you will study Japanese language and culture, as well as modules relating to the Intercultural Communication side of your programme, at a host university in Japan. Our level 6 Japanese language project modules use content-and-language integrated learning – you will study aspects of Japanese cultures, communities and societies through the medium of Japanese. You will learn through individual and/or group presentations, reading and discussion of authentic texts, and formative feedback on writing. You are expected to proactively engage with the language outside of class time at all levels.

Japanese modules are assessed with a combination of oral exam, videos, class tests and written work which varies according to the module. In addition, if you wish you can take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test for no extra fee at level 6.

We also provide opportunities for you to take part in extra-curricular activities related to Japanese language and culture: the vibrant student-run Japanese Society, where you can experience Japanese culture and meet home and exchange students, and the staff-led taiko drumming group, where you can learn a new skill and practice intercultural understanding.

### Intercultural Communication

Intercultural Communication modules are delivered using a mixture of lectures, workshops and seminars. Academic and research skills are embedded in modules, for example, academic writing and referencing, peer review, use of web based resources for document sharing, and the use of wikis and blogs. The assessment varies from module to module. Assessment methods include essays, presentations, data analysis, peer reviews, blog posts and research proposals and reports.

### Study Abroad and Work Experience

Study abroad for at least one semester is compulsory during level 5. You will take Japanese language classes at your host university. You will also take courses, either taught in English or in Japanese, which are relevant to the Intercultural communication side of your degree. Both your Japanese and your Intercultural communication courses will be assessed by the host institution, and the grades will be converted to York St John University credits.

You will also take a work experience module at level 5, either 2LL306 Language at Work or 2LL318 Language at Work (Distance). This module addresses the University commitment to ensuring that graduates of York St John have worked towards the development of their own post-graduation careers. As such, this module includes 10 days of work experience as arranged by students. In addition, given the fundamental importance of language and communication in any working organisation, the module will consider relevant issues and practices within places of work.

## Level 6

Level 6 modules challenge you to investigate and critically evaluate socio-cultural and/or political contexts of language use through independent study. You learn research and academic literacy skills across both Japanese and Intercultural Communication modules, enabling you to construct a convincing argument, evidenced by critical engagement with appropriate sources, both orally and in writing, and in both English and Japanese. In the 40-credit dissertation module you conduct an independent research study of relevance to your programme, drawing on the research skills you have learned throughout the programme, and supported by additional skills sessions and up to six hours of one-on-one supervision.

## Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for](#) undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation.

The opportunity to study abroad is a privilege and approval will be given during level 4 subject to meeting the following criteria:

1. At least 80% attendance in Japanese modules, and across all six level 4 semester 1 and semester 2 modules.
2. At least 60% attendance across all three level 4 semester 1 modules (any lower than this means that meeting criteria 1 would not be possible by the end of semester 2).
3. A pass on all level 4 modules (after resit(s) where applicable).
4. At least a serious attempt (a mark of 20 or above) on all level 4 semester 1 modules at first attempt.
5. No concerns have arisen under the Fitness to Study Policy that would prevent you from studying abroad.
6. No breaches of the York St John Code of Discipline.
7. Acceptance by a host institution.

In exceptional cases, if a student is not deemed suitable for study abroad, the Subject Director in consultation with the Head of School may not approve it. If you have otherwise met the requirements to progress to level 5, but have not met the criteria for study abroad, it will usually be possible to transfer to a course which does not contain a study abroad element, most likely Language & Communication Studies, or alternatively, to the four-year programme Japanese, Intercultural & Contemporary Communication.

## Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)  
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/level-descriptions>
- Japanese Foundation (JF) Standard for Language Education  
([https://www.ipf.go.jp/e/urawa/e\\_rsorcs/dl/jfs2015\\_pamphlet\\_eng.pdf](https://www.ipf.go.jp/e/urawa/e_rsorcs/dl/jfs2015_pamphlet_eng.pdf))

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*Date written / revised:*