Programme specification
MA Japanese Language Teaching
Postgraduate Certificate Japanese Language Teaching

School: Languages and Linguistics
Entry from: 2017/8
in: September
Awarding institution: York St John University
Teaching institution: York St John University
Delivery location: York St John University
Programme/s accredited by: Not applicable

Exit awards:
MA Applied Linguistics
Postgraduate Diploma in Japanese Language Learning
Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Linguistics

UCAS code / GTTR / other: Not applicable
Joint Honours combinations: Not applicable
QAA benchmark group(s):
QAA Master’s degree characteristics (2010)

Mode/s of study:
Full-time for 1 year
MA Japanese Language Teaching
Part-time for 2 years

Mode/s of study:
Part-time for 1 year
Postgraduate Certificate Japanese Language Teaching

Language of study: English and Japanese

Introduction and special features

This innovative MA programme is designed for those interested in teaching Japanese to speakers of other languages and in deepening their knowledge of applied linguistics. It is also aimed at those who are already teaching Japanese or have previous experience of doing so. As a student on this programme, you will explore the latest theories of language teaching and learning, and critically evaluate them in the context of Japanese as a foreign language.

Special features

- This MA draws from state-of-the-art teaching approaches derived from research and practice in TESOL and Japanese language teaching; both are areas of expertise within the DoLL (Department of Languages and Linguistics) at York St John University.
- You will be part of a thriving research community in the Department of Languages and Linguistics at York St John University.
- The programme will be attractive to global teachers, aspiring teachers and researchers whose first language may be English, Japanese or other. In the UK, it is currently the only MA of its kind outside London.
- On this programme, you will be able to apply theories through teaching practice and observation of both peers and experienced teachers of Japanese in authentic classroom contexts.
This MA equips you with the skills and expertise to teach Japanese in a wide range of settings, for example independent schools, colleges, as freelance instructors, in companies and for private individuals.

All students on the programme will be offered bespoke academic writing development classes (dedicated to Postgraduate Linguistics students). These classes will comprise 10 hours of teaching per semester, plus independent study and formative assessments, with feedback from peers and from the academic writing development tutors. Particular attention will be paid to the issues of plagiarism, paraphrasing and summarising, referencing and critical thinking.

Teaching on the programme draws on the expertise of specialist staff who are considered key contributors to research and the development of subject knowledge in their fields. The DoLL has particular research strengths which are reflected in the content of the programme. A number of the key readings used on the programme have been written by the DoLL members of staff. The department has a vibrant research culture which will enhance the programme and ensures that the content is continually updated. You will have opportunities to attend the departmental colloquium lectures and to attend and participate in the PG Research Methodologies conference. Upon successful completion of the MA programme, if you wish to pursue your studies to doctoral level, potential research degree supervisors are available in the department.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University’s general entry criteria for postgraduate study. In addition, you would normally have the following qualifications:

If your first language is not Japanese:
• a bachelor’s degree (normally a 2.1 or above) with a significant Japanese language component of an approved university or institution;
or
• a bachelor’s degree (normally a 2.1 equivalent or above) of an approved university or institution and an advanced level in both oral and written Japanese.

If your first language is Japanese:
• a bachelor’s degree (normally a 2.1 equivalent or above) of an approved university or institution or an equivalent qualification acceptable to York St John University.

Applicants may also be required to take part in an interview designed to assess their suitability for the programme and current level of Japanese (if this is not their first language).

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.yorksj.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).

Decisions on applications will be made by the Head of Programme in consultation with Admissions.

Programme aims

The aims of the programme are to:

1. Provide a broad disciplinary framework from applied linguistics for the professional development of teachers and researchers of Japanese as a foreign language.
2. Equip you with the skills, expertise and confidence to teach Japanese as a foreign language in a wide range of settings.
3. Develop your understanding of the core concepts of applied linguistics and aspects of Japanese linguistics which underpin the study of Japanese language teaching and learning.
4. Develop and extend your existing academic and professional knowledge and skills.
5. Enable you to demonstrate an advanced understanding of techniques and processes applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship.
6. Enable you to engage with a range of cognitive and academic skills including data collection and analysis, application of theories and principles, critical analysis, synthesis and evaluation, and extended independent research.
7. Provide you with opportunities to develop as independent and co-operative learners.
8. Offer a qualification which will enhance your present or future career options, including progression to doctoral level programmes.

Programme learning outcomes

On successful completion of Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma you will demonstrate:

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Critical understanding of theories and applications of language teaching methodologies to the Japanese-as-a-foreign-language context.
2. Advanced knowledge of theories, approaches and methods in language-based and applied linguistic research.

Cognitive and Thinking Skills

3. Synthesis and analysis of information and knowledge in order to extract meaning and understanding, including research findings on a range of topics related to applied linguistics.
4. Critical evaluation of different theoretical positions and related research in second language learning/acquisition.

Practical/Professional Skills

5. Ability to apply theory and appropriate methodology to the teaching situation, designing effective materials, lesson plans and delivering Japanese language teaching programmes.
6. Critical evaluation and reflection on own and others’ teaching and learning.

Key Transferable Skills

7. Advanced IT skills involving use of Japanese language and appropriate language related software.
8. Self-directedness and ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing decisions and strategies.
9. Ability to learn independently and work in a way that ensures continuing professional development.

As well as the above, on successful completion of the MA Japanese Language Teaching you will additionally demonstrate:

10. In-depth knowledge of theoretical and practical issues relating to the field of Japanese language teaching and learning.
11. Mastery in the exercise of generic and subject-specific intellectual abilities.
12. Advanced and comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or to advanced scholarship.
13. A proactive and self-reflective approach in working and/or developing professional relationships with others.
14. Ability to design, conduct and successfully execute an extended piece of independent research in the area of Japanese language teaching and learning.
Programme structure

You will take the following M-level modules in order to meet the accredited award of your choice, whether full-time or part-time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Sem.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>MA</th>
<th>PG</th>
<th>Cert</th>
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<td>MLG003</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Dissertation: Japanese Language Teaching</td>
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<td>MLG004</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Research in Language and Linguistics</td>
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<td>MLG006</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Japanese Language Teaching Methodology A</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>MLG022</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>MLG023</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Themes in Japanese Linguistics</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>C</td>
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*Students are required to pass at least one of the Japanese Language Methodology modules to qualify for the MA Japanese Language Teaching award.

Semester 1 runs from September to January (MLG006, MLG020 & MLG022 are delivered during semester 1).

Semester 2 runs from January to May (MLG004, MLG021 & MLG023 are delivered during semester 2).

Teaching, learning and assessment

Throughout the programme, you are encouraged to play an active role, critically evaluating the input and contextualising it through structured and assessed reflection on how your reading, discussions and teaching connects with your experience. Module tutors will take the role of facilitators, encouraging students to think outside their own sphere of reference in order to maximise the development of their subject knowledge and understanding.

Your final piece of work will be a dissertation exploring specific research question(s) about a topic of Japanese language teaching and learning, Japanese linguistics and related research areas. The dissertation provides an opportunity for you to show your knowledge, as it applies to your chosen research topic and question, is both relevant and up-to-date. You will be supervised by an academic member of staff, but will be guided towards taking independent responsibility for your own work. The dissertation module is designed to enable you to provide evidence of your ability to pro-actively formulate research plans, independently carry these out and critically reflect on your findings and limitations.

Throughout the programme, you will acquire the key skills appropriate to taught postgraduate study. Students write a proposal for their dissertation as part of the assessment for MLG004 Research in Language and Linguistics. This enables them to plan and design the research (and receive feedback from tutors) prior to carrying it out in the Dissertation module. Students are also required to discuss their dissertation topic with a tutor and then write up this discussion as part of the assessment for MLG004. These include: evaluation of own achievement and that of others; the ability to develop professional relationships; self-direction and effective decision-making and time management; independent learning; and the ability to work in a way that ensures continuing professional development.

The programme will engage you in the following learning, teaching and assessment practices:

- Flexible and accessible learning and teaching methods, with full use of the virtual learning environment (VLE), email communication and varied timetabling of modules.
• The use of a range of assessment methods, to provide for a diverse range of preferences in assessment type.
• The provision of a variety of learning methods within and across modules to appeal to a diverse range of learning styles.

The strategy is to employ a range of teaching and learning methods as follows:
• Pre-course reflective tasks (downloadable from the VLE).
• Lectures (with supporting materials posted on the VLE).
• Tutor and student-led seminars (face-to-face and/or using discussion forums on the VLE and supported by guided reading tasks using printed materials or ebooks and ejournals).
• Teaching practice and observations.
• Workshops and discussion groups (face-to-face or using discussion forums on the VLE and supported by printed data or data posted to the VLE).
• Independent study and research.
• Individual and group tutorials.
• Access to the digital archive of the Department of Languages and Linguistics Colloquium Series of guest lectures hosted on the University Digital Repository.
• Verbal feedback.
• Access to University-based support services including library and IT support.
• Module handbooks with participant requirements, timetable, learning outcomes, dates of submission and associated policy and procedure (posted on the VLE).
• Written feedback on assessed work (delivered via the VLE).

The assessment strategy acknowledges the needs of both international students who may have particular preferences regarding assessment, and part-time students who may have to fit their studies around other commitments. Elements of the assessment strategy are as follows:
• Submission of module assessments will be wholly online via the VLE.
• Assessments will occur during and at the end of the module.
• A variety of assessment types will be utilised throughout the programme.
• Formative assessment, using a variety of assessment strategies, will be used within the programme for feedback purposes.
• Normally the requirement for summative assessment per 30 credit module will be the equivalent of 6000 words.
• The dissertation will normally be 10–12,000 words.

Progression and graduation requirements
The University’s general regulations for postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

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

In addition, if you meet the University’s general regulations for a Master’s award but do not pass the following modules you will be awarded MA Applied Linguistics:
• MLG020 Japanese Language Teaching Methodology A and / or
• MLG021 Japanese Language Teaching Methodology B

If you meet the University’s general regulations for a Postgraduate Certificate but do not pass all of the following modules you will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate Applied Linguistics:
• MLG020 Japanese Language Teaching Methodology A
• MLG021 Japanese Language Teaching Methodology B
• MLG022 Japanese Society and Culture
• MLG023 Themes in Japanese Linguistics

Students on the MA may choose to exit the programme with the PG Certificate/Diploma, provided that they have fulfilled the minimum requirements of this award in accordance with the University’s general regulations and programme-specific regulations for award.

Some students may choose to enrol on the PG Certificate and only take MLG020, MLG021, MLG022 and MLG023. On successful completion of the PG Certificate, students may decide to progress to the full MA. Students wishing to pursue this option will be asked to indicate their intention in November during semester 1 so that a subsequent decision can be made in time for the start of semester 2 teaching. The decision and change in registration status will be formally applied following the semester 1 Subject Assessment Panel.

In order to be awarded an MA Japanese Language Teaching, you must meet the University’s general regulations for a Master’s awarded and have achieved a minimum of 150 credits including at least one of MLG020 and MLG021.

**Internal and external reference points**

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- University Strategic Plan
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](see page four)
- QAA subject benchmark statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

**Further information**

Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions entry profile (Admissions)
- Programme validation document (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Student programme handbook (school)
- Module handbooks (school)

*Date written / revised: 12/05/16, July 2017
Mode of study amended by Registry QSC PASP 25/04/17*