

Programme Specification

Award and title: MA TESOL with Japanese

<i>School:</i>	Education, Language and Psychology
<i>Subject area:</i>	Languages and Linguistics
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2026-27
<i>in the month(s) of</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>	
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate TESOL Postgraduate Diploma TESOL with Japanese
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	N/A
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Linguistics Languages, Cultures and Societies
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full time: one calendar year Part time: two calendar years
<i>Language of study:</i>	English and Japanese
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No
<i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i>	No

Introduction and special features

TESOL is the Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages. It is an umbrella term which encompasses the teaching of English as a 'second', 'foreign' or 'additional' language and as a lingua franca; teaching both multilingual and monolingual groups of students; and teaching both young learners and adults. TESOL professionals work as instructors, materials designers, and test developers.

The MA TESOL with Japanese is designed for both qualified/experienced and intending TESOL professionals (who may be joining the programme directly from undergraduate-level studies or who may have other, non-ESOL, teaching experience) who plan to teach English in Japan after graduation. You can enter this programme as a beginner in Japanese. You can also enter if you have studied Japanese before, as long as you do not already have C1 level or above of the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFR).

Our MA programmes attract students from the UK and many parts of the world, who bring with them a diverse mix of educational backgrounds and experiences. This creates opportunities for you to work with people of different nationalities and educational cultures with a view to increasing your cross-cultural understanding and opening your mind to new possibilities within your specialisation.

The TESOL side of the programme consists of two 30-credit modules, two 15-credit modules, and a 60 credit Dissertation. For 30-credit modules you will take Second Language Acquisition, where you will discover key theoretical issues in second language learning and relate theoretical frameworks to your own teaching context, and Theory and Practice in Language Teaching, where you will gain practical experience of lesson planning and delivery and explore how to adapt materials and methods to diverse contexts.

For 15-credit modules, you will take Current Developments in Language and Applied Linguistics where you will develop a critical understanding of contemporary developments in the fields of language and applied linguistics with a particular focus on the nature and status of English and other languages in a rapidly changing world. On the second 15-credit module, Research Methods, you will discover a variety of approaches to research used in TESOL and the broader field of Applied Linguistics and explore links between research and your professional practice.

In addition, you will take two 15-credit Japanese language modules. We have a range of modules at varying proficiency levels to suit your level of Japanese. You will learn to communicate effectively, using both spoken and written Japanese, enabling you to adapt quickly to teaching English in Japan after graduation. You are encouraged to make use of opportunities available to you to research Japanese language, culture and society for the assessments on your TESOL modules and the dissertation, in order to deepen your understanding of these areas.

You will complete your MA with a 60-credit module which gives you the freedom to conduct an independent research project related to TESOL.

Special features:

- Start Japanese from beginner level – no need to have studied Japanese, or any other language, before – or study at a level that suits you. We can also provide the appropriate-level Japanese modules on this programme, if you have prior knowledge in Japanese.
- Make use of your Japanese skills after graduation when teaching English in Japan – you will be at an advantage when settling in, and have special insight into your future students' language learning needs
- Gain English language teaching experience through community language programmes, such as YEAL (York: English as an Additional Language)
- Access specialist spaces for students: a Linguistics Lab and Languages Workshop
- Learn about current research issues and methods from guest lecturers in our Colloquium Series on a variety of topics related to programmes in Language and Linguistics
- Apply to join the University's Students-as-Researchers scheme
- Take part in extra-curricular activities related to Japanese language and culture: the various vibrant student-run Societies, where you can experience Japanese culture and meet home and exchange students, where you can improve intercultural communication skills and cultural awareness

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. In addition:

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 [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

To prepare students to work as a TESOL practitioner in Japan and/or continue to doctoral level study. Successful students will be able to adapt materials and methods to diverse contexts and challenge conventional thinking in TESOL policies and practices. The study of Japanese will give students an

advantage when adapting to life in Japan and provide insight into their future students' language learning needs.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

- 7.1 Display in-depth, extended or specialist knowledge and understanding of concepts, information and techniques relevant to TESOL
- 7.2 Display an advanced understanding of the applications of theory to relevant real-world contexts
- 7.3 Critically evaluate current issues and research in the subject field of TESOL
- 7.4 Take a critical and reflective role in developing and communicating ideas
- 7.5 Communicate effectively, using both spoken and written Japanese, at the level that enables them to adapt quickly to teaching English in Japan after graduation.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
LAL7018M	7	1	Current Developments in Language and Applied Linguistics	15	C	X
LAL7020M	7	1	Second Language Acquisition	30	C	X
LAJ7011M	7	1	Japanese for Communication 1	15	O	X
LAJ7012M	7	1	Japanese for Continuing Learners 1	15	O	X
LAJ7015M	7	1	Japanese in Use 1	15	O	X
LAJ7017M	7	1	Japanese Language Project	15	O	X
LAL7019M	7	2	Theory and Practice in Language Teaching	30	C	NC
LAL7022M	7	2	Research Methods	15	C	X
LAJ7013M	7	2	Japanese for Communication 2	15	O	NC
LAJ7014M	7	2	Japanese for Continuing Learners 2	15	O	NC
LAJ7016M	7	2	Japanese in Use 2	15	O	NC
LAJ7018M	7	2	Japanese for Professional Purposes	15	O	NC
LAL7023M	7	Year	Dissertation	60	C	NC

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 50) in order to progress.

At the start of Semester 1, students will take a placement test to assess their Japanese language proficiency and will be placed at the appropriate level based on the test results. Please note that the MA-level Japanese language modules are integrated with BA Japanese modules, and the placement level determined in Semester 1 will normally carry over into Semester 2.

E.g. Japanese for Communication 1 to Japanese for Communication 2, Japanese for Continuing Learners 1 to Japanese for Continuing Learners 2, Japanese in Use 1 to Japanese in Use 2, Japanese Language Project to Japanese for Professional Purposes

Part-time route over two calendar years:

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
LAL7020M	7	Yr 1 sem 1	Second Language Acquisition	30	C	X
LAL7019M	7	Yr 1 sem 2	Theory and Practice in Language Teaching	30	C	NC
LAL7018M	7	Yr 2 sem 1	Current Developments in Language and Applied Linguistics	15	C	X
LAJ7011M	7	Yr 2 sem 1	Japanese for Communication 1	15	O	X
LAJ7012M	7	Yr 2 sem 1	Japanese for Continuing Learners 1	15	O	X
LAJ7015M	7	Yr 2 sem 1	Japanese in Use 1	15	O	X
LAJ7017M	7	Yr 2 sem 1	Japanese Language Project	15	O	X
LAL7022M	7	Yr 2 sem 2	Research Methods	15	C	X
LAJ7013M	7	Yr 2 sem 2	Japanese for Communication 2	15	O	NC
LAJ7014M	7	Yr 2 sem 2	Japanese for Continuing Learners 2	15	O	NC
LAJ7016M	7	Yr 2 sem 2	Japanese in Use 2	15	O	NC
LAJ7018M	7	Yr 2 sem 2	Japanese for Professional Purposes	15	O	NC
LAL7023M	7	Yr 2	Dissertation	60	C	NC

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 50) in order to progress.

At the start of Semester 1, students will take a placement test to assess their Japanese language proficiency and will be placed at the appropriate level based on the test results. Please note that the MA-level Japanese language modules are integrated with BA Japanese modules, and the placement level determined in Semester 1 will normally carry over into Semester 2.

E.g. Japanese for Communication 1 to Japanese for Communication 2, Japanese for Continuing Learners 1 to Japanese for Continuing Learners 2, Japanese in Use 1 to Japanese in Use 2, Japanese Language Project to Japanese for Professional Purposes

Learning, teaching and assessment

In your TESOL modules you are encouraged to play an active role, critically reflecting on subject input and contextualising it through structured and assessed reflection on how your reading and discussion connects with your own experience. Module tutors will take the role of facilitators, encouraging you to think outside your own sphere of reference and maximising the development of your subject knowledge and understanding. You will be encouraged to share your experience and reflections through in-class dialogue and a proactive approach to learning will be promoted.

On the Theory and Practice in Language Teaching module you will have opportunities to gain experience of lesson planning, developing your confidence to deliver and evaluate your lessons through micro teaching.

Our programme can accommodate a wide range of levels (from beginner to advanced). Your Japanese level will be tested on arrival, and you will be allocated to the appropriate level of Japanese language modules for your programme. In the Japanese modules, we use a communicative teaching style, teaching speaking and listening through tasks such as pair-work and group work. Reading and writing inputs include focus on independent learning strategies. In the modules for students with prior knowledge in Japanese, we will be using more authentic materials in Japanese, and you will conduct a project-based assignment that focuses on the aspects of Japanese language, culture, communities and societies. You are expected to proactively engage with the language inside and outside of class time. Japanese modules are assessed with a combination of speaking tests, videos, class tests, essays, and/or project-based portfolios which varies according to the modules and language levels.

Your final piece of work will be a dissertation exploring a specific research question(s) about a topic within TESOL which is of interest to you. This dissertation provides an opportunity for you to show that your knowledge of Applied Linguistics, 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 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.

You will be helped to acquire the key skills appropriate to taught postgraduate study. These include: evaluation of your 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 encourages continuing professional development.

The programme employs a range of teaching, learning and assessment practices including:

- Lectures (with supporting materials posted on the VLE)
- Tutor and student-led seminars; workshops and discussion groups
- Independent study and research
- Collection and analysis of data
- A range of assessment methods, catering for a diverse range of preferences in assessment type, including essays, self-reflection, data analysis, peer teaching, and critical reviews, and, for the language modules, oral, reading/writing/grammar tests, and video
- Online submission of assessment
- Formative assessment and feedback

Progression and graduation requirements

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

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

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [Self-assessment grid \(CEFR\): Common Reference levels](#)

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: