

Programme Specification

BA (Hons) Japanese, Intercultural Communication and Linguistics

<i>School:</i>	Education, Language and Psychology
<i>Subject area:</i>	Languages and Linguistics
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2025-26
<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>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Japanese, Intercultural Communication and Linguistics Diploma of Higher Education Japanese, Intercultural Communication and Linguistics BA (Ord) Japanese, Intercultural Communication and Linguistics BA (Hons) Intercultural Communication and Linguistics with Japanese BA (Ord) Intercultural Communication and Linguistics with Japanese
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	T2X5
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Languages, Cultures and Societies 2015; Linguistics 2015
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Non-standard period of study as follows: Full-time for 4 years
<i>Language of study:</i>	English and Japanese
<i>Paired with foundation year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes – compulsory Year Abroad between level 5 and level 6
<i>Placement year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

This four-year degree in Japanese, Intercultural Communication and Linguistics – which includes a year in Japan – gives you the skills you need to work in Japan or in an international professional context. The programme is designed to help you gain 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.

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, as long as you do not already have B1 level or above of the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFR). Through the programme, you

will progress from talking about yourself and your routine to using your Japanese flexibly in a variety of social, academic and professional contexts.

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 between level 5 and level 6 – study Japanese for two years before going abroad
- 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
- Access specialist spaces for students: a Linguistics Lab, Languages Workshop, Lounge and Study
- Learn about current research issues and methods from guest lecturers in our Colloquium Series on a variety of topics related to programmes in Languages 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.

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

Programme aim(s)

By the end of the programme, successful students will reach upper B2/C1 level on the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFR) in Japanese. 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 and linguistics, enabling you to work in Japan or in an international professional context.

Programme learning outcomes

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

Level 4

- 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 and explain the socio-cultural, political, psychological and/or historical 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 Describe and analyse the structures of language using appropriate terminology

Level 5

- 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 Analyse and present naturalistic and/or experimental data in an ethical way
- 5.4 Identify and use appropriate theoretical frameworks
- 5.5 Investigate, interpret and/or reflect on socio-cultural, political, psychological, historical and/or interpersonal contexts of language use
- 5.6 Communicate professionally both in writing and orally, evidencing arguments through correctly referenced, appropriate sources

Year Abroad

- 5.7 Demonstrate an awareness of professional values
- 5.8 Reflect on your capacity to apply theoretical knowledge to real-life contexts

Level 6

- 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	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
Year 1						
<i>Students will take either module LAJ4001M or LAJ4003M. This is dependent upon language proficiency.</i>						
LAJ4001M	4	1	Accelerated Japanese 1	20	C ¹	X
LAJ4003M	4	1	Japanese Communication 1	20	C ¹	X
LAL4003M	4	1	Language and Society	20	C	X
LAL4013M	4	1	Introduction to Language and Linguistics	20	C	X
<i>Students will take Module LAJ4002M or LAJ4004M. This is dependent upon language proficiency.</i>						
LAJ4002M	4	2	Accelerated Japanese 2	20	C ²	NC
LAJ4004M	4	2	Japanese Communication 2	20	C ²	NC
LAL4004M	4	2	Descriptive Grammar of English	20	C	X
LAL4009M	4	2	Deaf Cultures	20	O	X
LAL4006M	4	2	Multilingualism	20	O	X
LAL4005M	4	2	Phonetics	20	O	X
LAL4016M	4	2	Proceed to Study Abroad 1	0	C	NC
Year 2						

LAJ5001M	5	1	Japanese Language and Society 1	20	C	X
LAL5006M	5	1 or 2	Analysing Texts	20	O	X
LAL5002M	5	1 or 2	Applied Phonetics and Phonology	20	O	X
LAL5005M	5	1 or 2	Language, Gender and Sexuality	20	O	X
LAL5003M	5	1 or 2	World Englishes	20	O	X
LAJ5002M	5	2	Japanese Language and Society 2	20	C	NC
LAL5015M	5	2	Intercultural Communication	20	C ³	X
LAL5007M	5	2	Language At Work	20	C ³	X
LAL5012M	5	1 or 2	Forensic Linguistics	20	O	X
LAL5008M	5	1 or 2	Language and Literacy	20	O	X
LAL5009M	5	1 or 2	Psycholinguistics	20	O	X
LAL5010M	5	1 or 2	Sociolinguistics	20	O	X
LAL5024M	5	2	Proceed to Study Abroad 2	0	C	NC
Year abroad						
LAL5017M	5	Year	Reflective Report	0	C	NC
Year 4						
LAJ6001M	6	1	Japanese Language Project 1	20	C	X
LAL6004M	6	1	Language, Identities and Cultures	20	C	X
LAL6002M	6	1	English Accents and Dialects	20	O	X
LAL6007M	6	1	Child Language Acquisition	20	O	X
LAL6003M	6	1	Attitudes to Language	20	O	X
LAL6015M	6	1	East Asian Linguistics and Culture	20	O	X
LAJ6002M	6	2	Japanese Language Project 2	20	C	X
LAL6010M	6	2	Dissertation	40	C	NC

¹ Your Japanese level will be tested on arrival and the appropriate module selected.

² Accelerated Japanese 2 normally follows Accelerated Japanese 1; Japanese Communication 2 normally follows Japanese Communication 1.

³ If you fail LAL4016M, LAL5024M or choose not to study abroad before the start of level 5 semester 2, it may be more appropriate for you to take LAL5007M instead of LAL5015M as that module is geared towards study abroad. Students studying abroad must take LAL5015M.

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

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 be taught Japanese via a range of strategies which may include content-and-language integrated learning – you will study aspects of Japanese cultures, communities and societies through the medium of Japanese and English. You will learn through giving and listening to presentations,

reading and discussing news articles. There will be discussion of independent learning strategies, weekly tests and formative feedback on writing. In your Year Abroad, if you study at a host university in Japan, you will study Japanese language and culture, as well as modules relating to the Intercultural Communication and Linguistics side of your programme. Our level 6 Japanese language project modules make use of a range of learning and teaching strategies which may include content-and-language integrated learning – you will study academic and professional Japanese through topics on Japanese cultures, communities and societies. 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.

Intercultural Communication and Linguistics

Intercultural Communication and Linguistics 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. There is an exam on LAL4004M Descriptive Grammar of English at level 4. Other assessment methods include essays, presentations, data analysis, peer reviews, blog posts and research proposals and reports.

Year Abroad and Work Experience

You will normally spend a year in Japan between level 5 and level 6, studying at one of our partner institutions. While studying abroad, 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 and Linguistics side of your degree. You are expected to fully engage with the tuition and assessment, but your grades will not count towards your York St John credits.

At the end of your Year Abroad you will submit a *Reflective Report* LAL5017M. Through this module you will reflect on your Year Abroad with particular reference to how your experience relates to the modules you studied at level 4 and 5 and will go on to study at level 6. As part of this module you will also carry out 10 days of work experience. This addresses the University commitment to ensuring that graduates of York St John have worked towards the development of their own post-graduation careers.

Instead of a year studying abroad plus 10 days of work experience, it may alternatively be possible to you to do a year-long work placement while in Japan.

If you fail LAL4016M, LAL5024M or choose not to study abroad, you may transfer to the exit award BA (Hons) Intercultural Communication and Linguistics with Japanese. For this award, PLOs 5.7 and 5.8 do not apply.

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 and Linguistics 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 as non-compensatable.

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

The opportunity to participate in the Year Abroad is a privilege and approval will be given during level 4 and 5 subject to meeting the following criteria:

1. At least 70% attendance in Japanese modules, and across all six level 4 semester 1 and semester 2 modules.
2. At least 50% 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. At least 80% attendance in Japanese modules, and across all six level 5 semester 1 and semester 2 modules
4. At least 60% attendance across all three level 5 semester 1 modules (any lower than this means that meeting criteria 3 would not be possible by the end of semester 2)
5. To have met the university requirements for progression to level 6 by the end of level 5 (at first attempt for semester 2 modules), in accordance with the University's general regulations for undergraduate awards and confirmed at the semester 2 examination board
6. No concerns under the *Fitness to Study Policy* that would prevent you from studying abroad
7. No breaches of the York St John *Student Disciplinary Policy*
8. Successful completion of study abroad application process leading to acceptance by a host institution.

Students who do not pass one or more semester two modules may be able to change programme or suspend study and reapply for study abroad the following year, once the conditions for progression according to the University's general regulations for undergraduate awards have been met for level 5 modules during the summer resit period.

Progression from level 4: If you do not meet the Study Abroad requirements specified above and fail the 0 credits module 'LAL4016M Proceed to Study Abroad', but you have met the general University progression standards to progress to level 5 and have passed the level 4 language module LAJ4002M or LAJ4004M, you will be transferred to level 5 of BA (Hons) Intercultural Communication and Linguistics with Japanese. If you have not passed the level 4 language module LAJ4002M or LAJ4004M, but you have met the general University progression standard, it will usually be possible to transfer through the Change of Programme procedure to a course which does not require a pass in this language module, most likely BA (Hons) English Language and Linguistics.

Progression from level 5: If you do not meet the Study Abroad requirements specified above and fail the 0 credits module 'LAL5024M Proceed to Study Abroad', but you have met the general University progression standards to progress to level 6 and have passed the level 5 language module LAJ5002M, you will be transferred to level 6 of BA (Hons) Intercultural Communication and Linguistics with Japanese. If you have not passed the level 5 language module LAJ5002M, but you have met the general University progression standard, it will usually be possible to transfer through the Change of Programme procedure to a course

which does not require a pass in this language module, most likely BA (Hons) English Language and Linguistics.

Progression to level 6 at the end of the Year Abroad is determined by the pass/fail module LAL5017M Reflective Report. In the exceptional case of a student not completing the Year Abroad, progression to level 6 is not possible on this programme. In this exceptional case, you would transfer to BA (Hons) Intercultural Communication and Linguistics with Japanese

In special circumstances where the students are not able to study abroad due to external factors (e.g. virus pandemic, war, political conflict), students will be consulted and may be able stay on this programme without going to study abroad.

Late result modules

Indicate any module codes where the result of the first attempt is not known in time for the June School Assessment Panels (or equivalent level progression point for non-standard entry points).

- LAL5017M *Reflective Report*

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.jpf.go.jp/e/urawa/e_rsorcs/dl/jfs2015_pamphlet_eng.pdf)

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