

Japanese Language

The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures offers a PhD program in Japanese Language. The department only admits students into the PhD program.

As a rule, students wishing to enter the graduate program should have completed an undergraduate program comparable to the undergraduate major in this department. Students who do not have BA or MA degrees in East Asian Languages and Cultures (or Japanese) or in similar fields can be considered for admission. If admitted, these students are often required to make up deficiencies in their course work. This can result in a lengthening of the normative time to degree (seven years).

The department only admits students into the PhD program. You must indicate that a PhD is your degree goal on the application materials. Students who have not completed an MA degree before beginning study at Berkeley will have to complete the requirements for the MA before proceeding to the PhD program. After completion of the MA requirements (coursework and thesis), students are evaluated for permission to proceed to the PhD portion of the program. Students who have completed an MA degree before beginning study at Berkeley may apply for admission directly to the PhD program. After one year in the PhD program, such students will be evaluated before being permitted to continue in the program.

UC Berkeley graduate students from other disciplines who are considering transferring into the degree program in Japanese language undergo the same faculty review as first-time applicants. However, they do not complete the Graduate Application. Students in this category should contact the department graduate assistant (eadc-advising@berkeley.edu) for instructions.

The length of time needed to complete an advanced degree in the department depends on financial considerations, the extent of the student's earlier preparation, and other factors. Under optimum conditions, the MA can be earned in two years and the PhD in an additional four to five years.

Step by Step. To learn how best to prepare for study at the graduate level in the humanities and the social sciences, current undergraduates may find useful Step by Step (<http://stepbystep.berkeley.edu/>), a resource for UC Berkeley students to enrich their undergraduate academic experience and to prepare for graduate school.

Admission to the University

Applying for Graduate Admission

Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. A complete list of graduate academic departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/programs/list/>).

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application can be found on the Graduate Division website (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/>).

Admission Requirements

The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and
3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division's Admissions Requirements page (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/requirements/>). It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study and degree. Department contact information can be found here (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2023-24/graduate/degree-programs/>).

Where to apply?

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

Admission to the Program

Applications are reviewed and ranked by the entire faculty. The faculty makes its selection on the basis of academic records and on whether or not the applicant's academic goals can be met by the department's programs. Those chosen are recommended to the Graduate Division, which sets the number of students the department can admit, makes a final review of the applications, and issues an official letter of admission to the student. The number of students the department can admit is usually very small and standards for admission are highly competitive.

The graduate application is submitted electronically; the online application (http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/grad_app.shtml/) becomes available in September for admission effective the following year. See the Graduate Division (<http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/prospective/>) website for details. All applicants must use the online application.

Transcripts. Applicants will submit unofficial transcripts, GRE scores, and other admissions materials online as part of the application. Admitted students will be required to submit two copies of all official transcripts in envelopes sealed by the issuing institutions at a later date.

Letters of Recommendation. Three letters of recommendation are required. As part of the application you will have to submit the names and contact information for the letter writers. Letters in languages other than English should be translated into English, but the original letter, in the original language, must be included. The department recommends that letters of recommendation come from faculty members who can comment on the applicant's intellectual capacity, analytical skills, ability to write English, and general aptitude for scholarly work. Letters from nonacademic referees are rarely helpful. All letters must be submitted online by the recommenders no later than two weeks after the application deadline to ensure that they are included in the review process.

Academic Writing Sample. A writing sample in English must be included with the online application. The writing sample is intended to gauge an applicant's academic writing ability, and should be a paper that the student feels best represents the quality of his/her work. An ideal writing

sample will be around 20 pages on a topic related to East Asian studies, but a paper on another topic or of a different length may be acceptable.

GRE Test Scores. The GRE is currently required.

Applicants from Abroad. International applicants are urged to examine closely the requirements for certification and translation of records and TOEFL requirements provided in the graduate application and the information on legal residency and fees.

Application to Degree Programs

All prospective graduate students must apply for the PhD program. The department does not offer terminal MA degrees; instead, an MA degree may be earned while progressing toward the PhD.

Normative Time Requirements

Normative Time to Advancement: The total normative time to advancement is **five** years.

Normative Time in Candidacy: The total time in candidacy is **two** years.

Total Normative Time: The total normative time of the program is **seven** years.

PhD Curriculum

Courses Required

EA LANG 200	Proseminar: Approaches to East Asian Studies	4
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Graduate Seminars:

Three JAPAN seminars (four units each) for a letter grade before proceeding to the PhD.

Two JAPAN seminars and one seminar outside your area in a cognate discipline for a letter grade (four units each) after proceeding to the PhD.

Language Requirements

Japanese MA

Fluency in modern and classical Japanese. The classical Japanese requirement must be satisfied by completion of a classical Japanese seminar taken for four units for a letter grade. Students entering the program without having taken an introduction to classical Japanese elsewhere are expected to take J120 as well.

Japanese PhD

Reading competence in a language other than Japanese relevant to the program, chosen in consultation with the Primary Advisor. Competence will normally be demonstrated by three years of language study at Berkeley or its equivalent. (Coursework must be taken for a letter-grade.) Native speakers of a language other than English do not automatically fulfill the language requirement; the language must be appropriate to advanced research in the program.

MA Requirements

- EA LANG 200, "Proseminar: Approaches to East Asian Studies" is required, normally in the first year.
- A minimum of three graduate seminars (four units each) in the Japanese language field in the department will be required, for a letter grade. EA LANG 200 will not count toward the three required

seminars. The department also encourages students to take a "Materials and Methods" seminar as part of the MA program.

- 8 additional units, in consultation with the primary adviser.

All courses required for the degree must be finished by the last day of the semester in which the student expects the degree to be conferred.

Students will have the option of taking additional seminars beyond the three required for the MA degree for two units, in which case no seminar paper is required. Each EALC seminar is structured with a 4 unit norm and 2 unit option.

Students who will need to acquire a second language from scratch to satisfy PhD requirements (q.v.) will be advised to begin work on that language as early as possible.

MA Thesis

An MA thesis, usually based on a previous research paper and limited to 50 pages, is required. If the MA thesis involves a translation, the translation may be added as an appendix, which will not count toward the page limit.

Mechanism for Continuation or Termination at the MA Level

A review of graduate students will take place in the middle and at the end of their first year and annually thereafter, and conveyed to the students in writing.

PhD Requirements

Two JAPAN graduate seminars for four units and for a letter grade in the department are required after completion of the MA, as well as at least one course outside the department in a cognate discipline, also for four units and for a letter grade.

Qualifying Examination

The following will be required:

- Three written examinations on fields within the department.
- One written examination on a field outside the department.
- Oral examination.

The purpose of the qualifying examination is to ensure that the student possesses adequate breadth and depth of preparation needed to conduct dissertation research and teach. The student will normally choose reading lists in consultation with examiners and then meet regularly to discuss those readings with them. The written examinations will be based on those readings and discussions. The oral examination that follows is not meant to be a separate field of inquiry; instead, it is designed to pursue issues raised in the written segments.

The oral examination will take place one week after completion of the last written examination. It will last three hours and be attended by all four members of the qualifying examination committee. It will be devoted to further investigation of issues raised in the written examinations.

Dissertation

A dissertation is required. Students should meet with their dissertation chairs to decide on appropriate timelines for research abroad and the completion of individual chapters. Students are not required to defend the dissertation once the dissertation committee has decided the dissertation is finished.

Japanese Language

Expand all course descriptions [+] Collapse all course descriptions [-]

JAPAN C225 Readings in Japanese Buddhist Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021

This seminar serves as an introduction to a broad range of Japanese Buddhist literature belonging to different historical periods and genres, including liturgical texts; monastic records, rules, and ritual manuals; doctrinal treatises; biographies of monks; and histories of Buddhism in Japan. Students are required to do all the readings in the original languages, which are classical Chinese (Kanbun) and classical Japanese. It will also serve as a tools and methods course, covering basic reference works and secondary scholarship in the field of Japanese Buddhism. The content of the course will be adjusted from semester to semester to accommodate the needs and interests of the students. Readings in Japanese Buddhist Texts: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C225

Readings in Japanese Buddhist Texts: Read Less [-]

JAPAN 230 Seminar in Classical Japanese Poetry 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2021

Topics run from Japan's earliest extant poetic anthologies in Chinese (Kaifuso) or Japanese (Man'yoshu) to medieval linked verse (renga) and Edo haikai.

Seminar in Classical Japanese Poetry: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Two semesters of classical Japanese

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Seminar in Classical Japanese Poetry: Read Less [-]

JAPAN C231 Japanese Studies: Past, Present... and Future? 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Spring 2014

Offers an overview of the history and current state of the field in Japanese studies, with faculty presentations, selected readings, and orientation sessions with East Asian Library staff to acquaint participants with relevant resources for research. Requirements will include completion of course readings and preparation of a research prospectus.

Japanese Studies: Past, Present... and Future?: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: HISTORY C231

Japanese Studies: Past, Present... and Future?: Read Less [-]

JAPAN 232 Japanese Bibliography 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2016, Spring 2010

An introduction to research tools for Japanese studies. The course gives primary consideration to literary sources but also presents an overview of basic texts and web sites dealing with bibliographical citation, lexicography, history, religion, fine arts, geography, personal names, biographies, genealogies, and calendrical calculation. Internet access is required.

Japanese Bibliography: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Reading ability in modern Japanese; classical Japanese helpful but not required

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Japanese Bibliography: Read Less [-]

JAPAN 234 Seminar in Classical Japanese Drama 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2013, Fall 2004

Topics may include examples from the Noh, Kyogen, Joruri, or Kabuki theaters.

Seminar in Classical Japanese Drama: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Two semesters of classical Japanese

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Seminar in Classical Japanese Drama: Read Less [-]

JAPAN 240 Seminar in Classical Japanese Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Topics may include works of Heian fiction such as The Tale of Genji (Genji monogatari) and memoirs such as The Pillow Book (Makura no soshi).

Seminar in Classical Japanese Texts: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Two semesters of classical Japanese

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Seminar in Classical Japanese Texts: Read Less [-]

JAPAN 255 Seminar in Prewar Japanese Literature 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Reading and critical evaluation of selected texts in prewar (roughly the 1860s through the 1940s) Japanese literature and literary and cultural criticism. Texts change with each offering of the course.

Seminar in Prewar Japanese Literature: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Seminar in Prewar Japanese Literature: Read Less [-]

JAPAN 259 Seminar in Postwar Japanese Literature 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2021, Spring 2018

Reading and critical evaluation of selected texts in postwar (roughly the 1940s through the present) Japanese literature and literary and cultural criticism. Texts change with each offering of the course.

Seminar in Postwar Japanese Literature: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and permission of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Seminar in Postwar Japanese Literature: Read Less [-]

JAPAN 298 Directed Study for Graduate Students 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Spring 2022

Special tutorial or seminar on selected topics not covered by available courses or seminars.

Directed Study for Graduate Students: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

3 weeks - 5-60 hours of independent study per week

6 weeks - 2.5-30 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-28 hours of independent study per week

10 weeks - 1.5-20 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Directed Study for Graduate Students: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

JAPAN 299 Thesis Preparation and Related Research 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Thesis Preparation and Related Research: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of thesis supervisor and graduate adviser

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-35 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-28 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Thesis Preparation and Related Research: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

JAPAN 601 Individual Study for Master's Students 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Individual study for the comprehensive or language requirements in consultation with the graduate adviser. Units may not be used to meet either unit or residence requirements for a master's degree.

Individual Study for Master's Students: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of graduate adviser

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-20 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-15 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Master's Students: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

JAPAN 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Individual study in consultation with the major field adviser, intended to provide an opportunity for qualified students to prepare for various examinations required of candidates for the Ph.D.

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-20 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-15 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: Read Less [\[-\]](#)