

Interested in this Committee Interdisciplinary Major?

Current Students: Visit us in Curtin Hall, Room 897, call us at 414-229-5650, or email quinna@uwm.edu

Not a UWM Student yet? Call our Admissions Counselor at 414-229-7711 or email let-sci@uwm.edu

web: uwm.edu/japanese



Why Study Japanese?

The value of obtaining fluency in Japanese language and culture has never been greater. Japan and East Asia have economic, diplomatic, and cultural influence across the globe. Consider the following:

- Japan is the fourth largest trading partner of the U.S.
- It has the third largest economy in the world.
- Japan is a crucial strategic ally of the U.S. in a region that is only expected to increase in importance throughout the next century. The importance of this region is highlighted by the well-publicized shift in diplomatic policy known as the “pivot” to East Asia.
- Japanese cultural output in film, literature, art, and new media has an outsized global reach.

Graduates from UWM’s Japanese Program have gone on to a wide variety of work related to Japan. A submajor in Japanese language and culture can be the first step towards a career in teaching (either Japanese in the U.S. or English in Japan), translation, interpretation, government relations, social services, the travel or hospitality industry, business, technology, finance, or sales. A Japanese submajor also pairs well with majors in other fields such as engineering and computer science for students looking to enter a technical field in Japan, including software development or product engineering. Japanese linguistic and culture fluency provides added value to graduates looking for employment with Japanese companies.

Japanese at UWM

The Japanese Program at UWM offers a variety of courses that enable students to acquire both linguistic proficiency as well as the cultural knowledge necessary to better understand Japan. Students develop their written and spoken Japanese to a high level, develop a command of Japanese business norms and etiquette, and gain a solid

grounding in Japanese cultural history. Many students further develop their linguistic and cultural expertise through participation in one of UWM’s study abroad programs. Graduates of the UWM Japanese Program have gone on to utilize their linguistic and cultural fluency in work and internships in business, government, and education and are located in Southeast Wisconsin, across the United States, and abroad in Japan.

Program Requirements

The program requires completion of 30 credits in approved Japanese and related courses. Students must complete the fifth- through eighth-semester Japanese language courses as the core language component of the program. In addition, the required culture-related courses are taught in Japanese.

Courses

Of the 30 credits required for the program, at least 15 of them must be at the 300-level or above and taken in residence at UWM. A minimum of 18 out of the 30 credits must be 300-level or above. Students must achieve a GPA of at least 2.5, both in major courses taken at UWM as well as transfer work. The following courses are required:

Course #	Course Title
Japan 301	Fifth Semester Japanese
Japan 302	Sixth Semester Japanese
Japan 401	Seventh Semester Japanese
Japan 402	Eighth Semester Japanese
Japan 500	Research and Research Writing in Japanese

These language courses have prerequisites which may be satisfied via a placement test or successful completion of lower-level Japanese language courses. These lower-level language courses do not count

“Japanese Table” meets once a week giving students the opportunity to further their conversation skills and advance their cultural knowledge.

towards the submajor. Students whose placement test scores indicate they are able to start beyond fifth-semester Japanese can discuss with their advisor which courses may be substituted in order to complete the required 30 credits.

Students must also select one of the following:

Course #	Course Title
Japan 330	Japanese Language and Culture
Japan 331	Reading Japanese Short Stories
Japan 351	Japanese Performance Traditions
Japan 361	Translating Japanese Media
Japan 441	Business Japanese

The remaining 9 credits are chosen from this list; at least 1 course must be taken outside of the Japan curricular area.

Course #	Course Title
Anthro 325	Japanese Culture and Society
ArtHist 383	Japanese Art and Architecture
ArtHist 482	Topics in Non-Western Art History: "Japanese Architecture"
English 316	World Cinema: "Japanese Cinema"
Hist 394	History of Japan to 1600
Hist 395	History of Japan since 1600
Hist 397	Postwar Japan
Japan 100	Introduction to Japanese Literature
Japan 110	Japanese Popular Culture
Japan 200	Japanese Culture and Its Effect on Language
Japan 220	Introduction to Japanese Food Studies
Japan 231	Extensive Reading in Japanese
Japan 232	Japanese Conversation
Japan 271	Learning Kanji
Japan 310	Enhanced Knowledge & Skills for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test
Japan 340	Japanese Language through Media I
Japan 489	Internship in Japanese
Japan 297/497	Study Abroad
Japan 699	Independent Study

Japanese Minor

A minor in Japanese is available for 18 credits. Students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in language courses including third- through sixth-semester Japanese. Students who test beyond third-semester Japanese as a starting point may discuss the availability of retroactive credits with their advisor. Those students would then take additional elective credits to complete the minor.

Study Abroad

Students are strongly encouraged to study abroad. Up to 12 credits from study abroad will be accepted for

the program. UWM's Center for International Education works with students to match them to an appropriate program, navigate the application process, identify potential financial aid sources and become educated on travel logistics and requirements. A number of options exist for study in Japan:



Chiba University.

Near Tokyo, Chiba University has about 11,000 undergraduates

and 3,500 graduate students. This is an immersion program, and UWM students take classes with exchange students from all over the world and local Japanese students. Chiba's fall semester runs from October through February, so UWM students attending only the fall semester at Chiba will not be able to return to Milwaukee in time for spring semester at UWM. Students who can only spend one semester in Japan can explore options to finish their degree while abroad.

Japan Center for Michigan Universities. JCMU is located on the shore of Lake Biwa in the City of Hikone, Shiga Prefecture. Hikone is a rural town of about 100,000 people located 45 minutes from the closest metropolitan area. It is a friendly and scenic locale but has few people who speak English, limited shopping and little nightlife. Students will be in class primarily with other U.S. students and will be expected to uphold U.S. university standards while also following Japanese expectations of attendance, behavior, and punctuality.

Nanzan University. Nanzan is among the rolling hills overlooking metropolitan Nagoya, a center of international trade, industry, and culture and home to over 7 million people. UWM students take classes at The Center for Japanese Studies (CJS) and with a wide cross-section of people from other countries and cultures, but not Japanese students. UWM can only send the equivalent of two full-year students on this exchange so the application is competitive. Interested students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Seijo University. Located in the wooded, residential southwest section of Tokyo, Seijo is a private institution of 4,500 students. Seijo's academic calendar is similar to Chiba's in that their fall semester runs into February; UWM students would not be able to return in time for a spring semester at UWM. There are very few students from the U.S.; most exchange students come from other parts of Asia and non-native English speaking countries. With limited opportunities to speak English, this is a true immersion.

For more information about study abroad, visit: studyabroad.uwm.edu.

Internships in Japan

Finding an internship in Japan can be challenging. Students hoping to do an internship should start planning early in coordination with their advisor and should expect the competition to be quite strong.

Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships are available on a competitive basis to students in the Japanese program.



This sample four-year plan shows just one possible pathway to earning a degree with the Japanese submajor in four years. This plan **does not** replace the advice of your advisor, and students are cautioned to meet regularly with their advisor to create a personalized plan that matches their particular circumstances. This plan also follows the degree requirements for students who began their college education in Fall of 2013 or later. If you started college prior to Fall of 2013, your degree requirements may be different.

Degree Requirements (brief summary):

1. English Proficiency and UWM Oral and Written Communication (OWC) GER - English 102 (fulfills Part A) and one OWC-Part B course.
2. Math Proficiency, UWM Quantitative Literacy (QL) GER, and Formal Reasoning – two courses can satisfy all three requirements. Some courses have prerequisites, however, so a student may end up taking more than two total classes depending on his/her placement test scores. Students will usually take Math 103 or 105 AND three credits in either a 200-level or above math course, Philosophy 211, or an approved Letters & Science statistics course.
3. Foreign Language – 4 semesters of a single Foreign Language (or 3 semesters of one language and 2 semesters of another language) (May be satisfied through 4 years of a single Foreign Language in high school.)
4. L&S Humanities (HU) – 12 credits
5. L&S Social Sciences (SS) – 12 credits
6. L&S Natural Science (NS) – 12 credits including one laboratory
7. L&S International (Int'l) – 9 credits usually accomplished in conjunction with Humanities and/or Social Science courses or study abroad
8. UWM Arts GER – 3 credits
9. UWM Cultural Diversity GER – 3 credits usually accomplished in conjunction with a Humanities or Social Science course
10. 120 credits including 90 credits in L&S and with 36 of the 90 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered above 300) courses
11. Complete the Japanese major requirements
 - 30 credits with at least 18 at the 300-level or above (15 of the 18 completed at UWM)
 - Japan 301, 302, 401, 402, 500
 - One of Japan 330, 331, 351, 361, 441
 - At least 9 credits of electives chosen from:
 - » Anthro 325; ArtHist 383, 482; English 316; Hist 394, 395, 397; Japan 100, 110, 200, 220, 231, 232, 271, 297, 310, 340, 489, 497, 699

Sample Four Year Plan:

There are hundreds of courses that satisfy various requirements and courses can count towards more than one requirement. For example, History 395 can count towards the major and as an international course. (This sample assumes no high school Foreign Language was taken and that the student placed into

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	English 101	English 102 (OWC-A)
	Math 103 or 105 (QL-A)	Arts GER
	Japan 101	Japan 102
	L&S Humanities, not Japanese	L&S Natural Science with lab
	L&S Social Science	QL-B GER
Year 2	L&S Social Science	Formal Reasoning
	Japan 201 (Int'l)	Japan 202 (Int'l)
	Japan elective (HU)	L&S Humanities/Cultural Diversity, not Japanese
	L&S Natural Science	L&S Natural Science
	OWC-B GER	Elective
Year 3	Japan 330, 331, 351, 361 or 441	L&S Social Science
	Japan elective	Japan elective
	Japan 301	Japan 302
	L&S Social Science	L&S upper-level
	L&S Natural Science	L&S Humanities
Year 4	Japan 401	Japan 402
	Upper-level Japan elective	Japan 500
	Upper-level Japan elective	L&S upper-level
	L&S upper-level	L&S upper-level
	Elective	Elective