

MA in Japanese Studies



The interdisciplinary Master's Degree in Japanese Studies is a program of study which can be completed in two to five terms of full time study depending on the student's Japanese language proficiency at the time of entrance. Students have the option of pursuing the degree part time.

The degree requirements are configured to provide the students with advanced proficiency in Japanese language in combination with a broad, multi-disciplinary understanding of Japan, as well as training in graduate-level research and writing. The requirements are structured to provide maximum flexibility for students to pursue their own interests within Japanese Studies.

The sections below outline the major degree requirements that need to be completed prior to the awarding of the MA degree in Japanese Studies. (For admission requirements, please use the navigation links to the top right of this page and go to the **Admission Information** section for further details.)

Please click on the each section title to display more detailed information about each topic. Once you are done, the section may be closed by clicking again on the section title.

Prospective MA Students: Start with **Admission Information** and **Application Materials** pages for more details on applying to the MA program. If you have further questions, contact an MA Program Advisor by email at ii-gradadvising@umich.edu or call the International Institute Graduate Academic Services Office at 734.763.4528.

Current U-M Students--with a uniq name--may schedule an advising appointment [here](#).

– Required Credit Hours

Students must complete at least 24 credit hours of course work to receive the degree. Only courses approved for graduate credit may be used to fulfill this requirement. Courses used to meet the Japanese language requirement (see next section below), may not be counted toward the minimum credit hours requirement. The 24 credit hours must include courses which meet the minimum Core Courses, Distribution, and Research/Writing Requirements (see below for details).

Students are free to take additional courses beyond the minimum credit hours, or elective courses that do not fulfill degree requirements as long as they are making adequate progress toward the completion of degree requirements.

– Japanese Language Proficiency

Students must attain Japanese language proficiency equivalent to third year level taught at the University of Michigan. Students may meet this requirement by successfully completing ASIANLAN 326 (Third Year Japanese II) with a grade of B or better, or by placement into a fourth-year Japanese class (ASIANLAN 425, 429, or 439) through a placement examination. Third year proficiency at the University of Michigan is approximately equivalent to the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Proficiency Test (nihongo noryoku shiken) Level N-2.

Credit hours used to fulfill the language requirement do not count toward the minimum credit hours required for the degree. Students are strongly encouraged to continue language study throughout the program beyond the minimum requirement.

In addition to language courses offered during the academic year, opportunities are available to enroll in intensive language programs during the summer. These intensive summer programs cover one academic year of language in 6-10 weeks of intensive study. Many qualified programs are offered in the United States and in Japan.

– Core Courses



Students must complete six (6) core courses totaling at least 18 credit hours. To qualify as a core course, the course's primary focus must be on Japan. Core courses must be selected to meet both the Distribution Requirement (see below) and the Research/Writing Requirement (see below). Students have the option of replacing up to two core courses with approved Cognate Courses (see below).

Distribution Requirement

Students must take courses from at least three (3) disciplines for at least three (3) credit hours each. A list of appropriate disciplines is given below:

- Anthropology
- Buddhist Studies/Religion/Philosophy
- Business/Engineering
- Economics
- History
- History of Art/Art & Design
- Japanese Literature
- Japanese Culture
- Law
- Music/Theater/Dance/Film
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology

Research/Writing Requirement

Students must complete four (4) core courses for at least 12 credit hours with a substantial research and writing component. Usually this means completing a term paper of substantial length which requires independent research beyond the required readings for class sessions.

– Cognate Courses



With the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies, up to two (2) core courses may be replaced by a cognate course. A cognate course is a course that is primarily theoretical and/or methodological in nature but relevant to Japanese Studies and to the student's particular program of study. Cognate course may not be used to fulfill the Distribution Requirement or the Research/Writing Requirement.

Business MA and MBA



Joint Degree Program in Japanese Studies and Business

The partnership between the Center for Japanese Studies and the **Stephen M. Ross School of Business** combines an opportunity to develop expertise in Japanese language, society, and economy with state-of-the-art training from one of the nation's best business schools. This program prepares business leaders to meet the challenges of an increasingly complex global economy.

Application

Applicants interested in the MA/MBA in Japanese Studies and Business program must file separate applications, pay application fees to both schools, and be admitted by both schools. Each program makes an independent decision on its application using its own criteria; only applicants admitted to both programs may enroll in the joint degree program.

For admission to the MBA program, please see the **Admission Information** on the Ross School website, or contact them at rossmba@umich.edu. Applicants must indicate on both applications that they are applying for this specific dual degree program (please make sure the correct box is checked on the MBA application; please indicate on the Rackham online application that you are applying to another school).

Applicants must take the GMAT for admission to the Ross School and may take the GMAT or the GRE for admissions to the Center for Japanese Studies. All applications to the Center for Japanese Studies must be received by **January 10**. Applicants should contact the Ross School for the appropriate deadline.

This joint degree program may use any of the day, evening, or weekend MBA tracks, though it is most commonly combined with the day MBA track. Applicants should be aware that Japanese Studies courses are mostly offered on weekdays with few options for evenings and none in the weekend. Japanese language courses are offered only during weekday daytime.

This joint degree program is not open to students who have earned either the MBA or MA in Japanese Studies degree. Students registered in the first year of either program may apply.

Registration

This joint degree program is designed to be completed in three years and both degrees are awarded simultaneously. Students should plan their program in close consultation with the Student Advisor at the Ross School of Business, and the Director of Graduate Studies at the Center for Japanese Studies.

Students may begin their studies in either school; however, because of the sequenced nature of core courses in the MBA program, most students will find it advantageous to start with year one in the Ross Business School. During year two, students will complete courses in the Center for Japanese Studies. In year three, courses may be taken in both schools.

Each school will apply its own admission deferral standards to students who elect to take the first year in the other school. Students who wish to begin with Japanese Studies should see a counselor in the Ross Business School to arrange an appropriate plan of study. No course work completed prior to admission may be counted toward the MBA requirements of the joint degree program. No transfer of credit from other institutions will be accepted for any part of this program.

Requirements

Students admitted to this joint degree program must satisfy the following degree requirements:

The 57 credit hours required for the MBA degree including:

- The roughly 30 credit hours of the MBA core curriculum (no credit is awarded for Business Administration core courses successfully waived; credit must be earned with Business electives);
- Roughly 15 credit hours of elective in Business Administration;
- 12 credit hours of transferable electives from Rackham;
- MBA communication requirement

The required Center for Japanese Studies courses, including;

- 24 credit hours of Japanese Studies courses, which includes Core Courses, Distribution, and Research/Writing requirements;
- Japanese Language Requirements: successful completion of Third-Year Japanese II (ASIANLAN 326) with a grade of B or better, or placement into fourth-year Japanese by placement examination administered by the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. Students whose language competence is beyond third year level will be encouraged to continue language training throughout the program. Please consult with the Student Services Coordinator in the Center for Japanese Studies or the Japanese Language Coordinator in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures to determine an appropriate course plan after language has been assessed.

The total credit hours for the joint degree program must be at least 69.

Law (MA and JD)



Dual Degree Program in Japanese Studies and Law

This program takes advantage of a long and distinguished history of Japanese law studies at the University of Michigan, and offers a unique opportunity to participate in a closely supervised program tailored to individual professional plans. Graduates of this program offer the professional community cross-cultural, transnational expertise in law.

Admission

Applicants interested in the MA/JD in Japanese Studies and Law must file separate applications, pay application fees to both schools, and be admitted by both schools. Each program makes an independent evaluation of the application using its own criteria. Only those applicants admitted to both programs may pursue the dual degree program.

Please indicate on the Rackham online application that you are also submitting an application to the Law School. For more information on Law School admission, please contact the **Law School Admission Office**. Applicants must take the LSAT for admission to the Law School and may take the LSAT or the GRE for admissions to the Center for Japanese Studies. All applications to the Center for Japanese Studies must be received by January 10. Applicants should contact the Law School Admission Office for the appropriate deadline.

This dual degree program is not open to students who have earned either the JD or MA in Japanese Studies degree. Students registered in the first year of either program may apply.

Registration

All requirements for this joint-degree program can be completed in three to four years of concurrent enrollment, with the two degrees awarded simultaneously. Students should plan their program in close consultation with the appropriate advisors and faculty of the Law School and the Director of Graduate Studies at the Center for Japanese Studies.

JD Requirements

Credit Hours

The minimum requirement for the JD is 82 total credits toward the JD, at least 70 of which must be earned in regularly scheduled Law School courses. Up to 12 credit hours earned in Rackham courses for the MA in Japanese Studies may be counted toward the JD.

Required Courses

Students must complete the required first year law (1L) curriculum. Students must also complete Transnational Law and Introduction to Constitutional Law during their third or fourth terms enrollment in the law school. In addition, students must complete courses that meet the professional responsibility and upper-writing requirements.

Rackham/Japanese Studies Requirements**Credit Hours**

The minimum requirement for the MA is 24 credit hours of courses approved for graduate credit. Up to 6 credit hours of appropriate Law courses may be counted in the 24 credit hours requirement with prior approval of the CJS Director of Graduate Studies.

Japanese Language Proficiency

Students must meet the Japanese language proficiency requirement. Credit hours required to meet the language proficiency requirement do not count toward the credit hours for either degree.

Course Requirements

Students must meet the Core Courses, Distribution, and Research/Writing requirements of the MA degree.

Self-Initiated (MA and...)



Dual degree in Japanese Studies and another U-M graduate degree program

The Center for Japanese Studies welcomes students who wish to combine interdisciplinary training in Japanese Studies with another master's degree, professional degree or graduate certificate at the University of Michigan. Any existing graduate degree or certificate except MBA and JD degrees which have a pre-established dual/joint degree program can be combined with the Japanese



Studies MA degree. In recent years, students have combined the Japanese Studies MA degree with degrees in information/library science, public policy, health sciences, and engineering, and graduate certificates in museum studies and women's studies among others.

Students enrolled in the self-initiated dual degree program complete all requirements of both degree programs and receive two separate degrees. The two degrees may or may not be awarded simultaneously.

Important note: Enrollment in a PhD program following the completion of the Japanese Studies MA is considered **sequential** and not a self-initiated dual degree. Students typically apply to the PhD program in the second year of the MA and complete the MA degree in May or August prior to beginning the PhD program in September.

Application Process

In order to pursue a self-initiated dual degree program, students must apply to and be admitted by both degree programs. Each program requires a separate application, has its own deadline, and applies its own standards of admission. Only students who are admitted to both degree programs may become a dual degree student. Students may apply simultaneously to both degree programs, or start in one program and apply to add a second program after completing one term of study in the first program. Students interested in adding a Graduate Certificate program must first enroll in and complete one term of a graduate degree program. If you are applying simultaneously to two programs as a new student to UM, you will complete two separate admission applications as a new student, one for each degree, and must meet all admission requirements and deadlines for each program. Please be sure to indicate on both applications that you are applying to another program.

Students who are interested in pursuing a self-initiated dual degree are encouraged to contact the CJS Academic Services Coordinator at ii-gradadvising@umich.edu early in the process for consultation.

CUGS (Concurrent Undergraduate-Graduate Study)



The Center for Japanese Studies welcomes application from LSA undergraduates with a strong commitment to Japanese Studies and an excellent academic record to apply to the Master of Arts in Japanese Studies as a Concurrent Undergraduate/Graduate Studies (CUGS) student. The CUGS program enables the student to enroll simultaneously in LSA and the Rackham Graduate School and to apply a maximum of 15 credits toward both an undergraduate degree and a graduate degree. Admission to CUGS is limited and depends heavily on the student having exhausted the undergraduate resources of his or her department so that graduate study is the appropriate and logical next step in the student's program.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply as a CUGS student, undergraduates must meet the following requirements:

- Currently enrolled as an undergraduate in the College of LS&A. (Note: students in the undergraduate dual degree programs are not eligible for CUGS.)
- Earned at least 90 credits toward an undergraduate degree.
- Satisfied the distribution requirements.
- Overall grade point average of at least 3.7.

Application Process

Interested students should contact the CJS Academic Services Coordinator for an initial consultation. The application process involves getting recommendation and/or approval from the CJS Admissions and Fellowships Committee, the chair of the undergraduate department/program, and the LSA Dean's Office. After securing these approvals, the student then completes the admission application for Rackham Graduate School.

More Information

For more information or questions about the CUGS program, please contact the CJS Academic Services Coordinator at cjsadmissions@umich.edu.

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