

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
Bachelor of Arts Programmes in Japanese Culture (minor),
Japanese Language (minor) and Japanese Studies (major)
CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

These programmes comprise nine different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. The majority of the courses are 6-credit courses, though there are also 9-credit courses. A range of 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) is the norm for a 6-credit course. Students must complete 180-270 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) for a 9-credit course. Contact hours are in a range of 24-36 hours for a 6-credit course. Contact hours are in a range of 24-30 hours for a 9-credit course because in these courses students study approved topics of their choice in depth under the guidance of a supervisor. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be not more than 8,000 Japanese characters or 6,000 English words for a 6-credit course; and not more than 10,000 Japanese characters or 10,000 English words for a 9-credit course, unless otherwise specified. All courses are assessed by 100% continuous assessment. The categories of Japanese courses are as follows:

1. Introductory courses (6 credits)

These first-year language courses emphasize the acquisition of the Japanese language in the four areas of competence (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with a particular emphasis on communicative skills. Classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups and laboratory groups are usually also arranged separately on a regular basis. The non-language course (JAPN1011) introduces students to an interdisciplinary approach to Japan studies and showcases the best of contemporary international scholarship on Japan. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, which includes in-class tests, regular assignments, and online reading and listening. In terms of written output students are expected to write short passages consisting of not more than 200 Japanese characters.

2. Small group courses (6 credits)

These second, third, and fourth-year language courses build on the first-year, introductory language courses, thus they emphasize the learning of Japanese at an intermediate and advanced level, grammatically as well as in culture-specific issues which are gradually introduced into the curriculum. Students develop further their proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in Japanese. As in the first-year language courses, classes are conducted in small groups in order to ensure a high degree of interactivity between students and teachers. Conversation groups and laboratory groups are also arranged separately on a regular basis. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, including regular assignments, tests, essays, small projects, portfolios, and/or short oral presentations. In terms of written output students are expected to write essays consisting of not more than 1,000 Japanese characters in total as a part of their coursework.

3. Survey courses (6 credits)

These courses focus on Japanese culture and language through the exploration of specific topics, such as society, literature, media, films, history, politics, linguistics, popular music, and history, etc. They are taught predominantly by lectures (24 hours) and tutorials/seminars (6-8 hours), or by lectures only. Guest speakers are occasionally invited to give presentations on particular topics. Assessment methods are left up to individual teachers who are encouraged to introduce assessment tasks which are appropriate to the stated learning outcomes of the courses. Assessment tasks will normally include in-class tests, oral presentations, as well as the writing of essays, reports, and projects. In terms of written output, students are expected to write essays totalling not more than 8,000 Japanese characters or 6,000 English words as part of their coursework. There are two types of survey courses, those taught in Japanese and those taught in English.

4. Translation courses (6 credits)

These courses focus on problems arising from transferring concepts and ideas from Japanese into Chinese or English and/or vice versa. These courses are taught through a combination of lectures and tutorials modes, which include class debates and problem-solving discussions. The medium of instruction is Japanese supplemented with English and Chinese where necessary. Assessment includes coursework and final test. The former may consist of class presentations, in-class tests, various regular assignments, oral presentations and projects. In terms of written output, students are expected to translate passages totalling not more than 5,000 Japanese characters in the second year and not more than 8,000 Japanese characters in the third year into Chinese or English as a part of their coursework.

5. Workshop courses (6 credits)

These courses aim at enriching the students' foreign language and culture knowledge through group work and the application of practical skills. These tutorial-based courses include business writing courses, conversation courses, and reading courses in the target language. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework, which can include in-class tests, regular assignments, online reading and listening, essays, reading assignments, projects, and oral presentations. Written output varies; in the case of a business writing course, for instance, students are expected to write a business letter consisting of not more than 200 Japanese characters as a part of their coursework.

6. Project courses (9 credits)

This type of course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge of Japanese language, society and culture to a project commissioned by a Japanese business organization. Through this project, students gain real life experience in dealing with Japanese organizations at a managerial level, while perfecting their communication and interpersonal skills. The course coordinator will normally meet with the students once a week to discuss their projects and any other issues. Upon completion of their projects, students make use of various theoretical frameworks to analyze the problems encountered during their tasks and write these up in the form of an essay. Assessment is based on 100% coursework, which includes a project proposal, progress report, project

portfolio, presentation to the host organization, and an extended essay totalling not more than 10,000 English words.

7. Research courses: Capstone (6 credits)

These courses provide capstone experience and aim at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interests under the one-on-one supervision of a teacher. Students study in-depth an approved topic of their choice in either English or Japanese. The supervisor will meet with the student once a fortnight to discuss the progress of his/her research and other relevant issues. Students are required to submit an essay or a written project of not more than 10,000 words in English, or 10,000 characters in Japanese and are also required to attend an oral examination arranged by the School.

8. Experiential Learning courses: Capstone (6 credits)

These courses aim at providing students with opportunities to develop their abilities in intercultural communication as well as for their sensitivity to Japanese culture to be enhanced, thus providing them with the capability to solve problems in a manner appropriate to the cultural context in which they are operating. Experiential learning could take the form of workplace learning, service learning, field trip to Japan, or internship at a Japan-related organization, and joint programmes with Japanese partner institutions. Assessment is based on 100% coursework, which includes portfolio and a reflective report (totaling no more than 6,000 words in English) based on their experiences.

9. Seminar Courses (6 credits)

These small-group seminar courses are designed for students in their third or fourth year. These courses explore aspects of Japanese history, film, literature, culture and society at an advanced level. Teaching and learning activities include 24-36 hours of seminars and are designed to encourage active learning, a high degree of interaction among students, discussion and debate, as well as articulation of ideas, opinions and evidence. Students may be introduced to original texts written in Japanese, although the class will be conducted in English. Assessment is based upon 100% coursework and may include essays, in class presentations, small projects totaling no more than 6,000 words in English.

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