

Department of Japanese Language & Literature

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About the Program

The Department of Japanese Language and Literature at Kyung Hee University is dedicated to fostering a comprehensive understanding of Japan through its language, literature, and culture. Our curriculum connects the study of Japanese linguistics with broader cultural, historical, and social contexts, enabling students to explore Japan's intellectual traditions as well as its contemporary society.

Students gain balanced expertise in language proficiency, literary and cultural analysis, and media studies. With this solid foundation, our graduates are prepared to pursue careers in academia, education, translation and interpretation, cultural and media industries, and international business.

History and Vision

Founded in 1981 as part of the College of Humanities, the Department of Japanese Language and Literature has grown into a leading center of Japanese studies in Korea. The program emphasizes both linguistic mastery and cultural literacy, providing students with the tools to engage in advanced academic inquiry as well as practical application.

Our vision is to cultivate global citizens who can contribute to cultural exchange, interdisciplinary research, and mutual understanding between Korea and Japan, as well as in the broader East Asian and international communities.

Curriculum Structure

The curriculum is designed to build proficiency step by step, while also broadening students' academic perspectives. Courses are offered across four categories :

- Japanese Language Acquisition – Foundational instruction through interactive communication and systematic language training
- Integrated Language Practice – Enhancement of written and spoken skills through composition, conversation, and grammar-focused courses
- Advanced Cultural Studies – Exploration of Japanese culture, film, literature, and media from both historical and contemporary perspectives
- Comprehensive Japanese Studies – In-depth courses in linguistics, literature, history, philosophy, and society

Through this well-rounded program, students not only achieve fluency in Japanese but also develop critical perspectives on cultural and global issues.

| Degree Requirements |

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts(B.A.) in Japanese Language and Literature must complete the following coursework in addition to the general education program required by Kyung Hee University.

Major Requirements

- Single Major : A total of 64 credits/12 credits of required major courses and 52 credits of elective major courses.
 - Double Major : A total of 39 credits/12 credits of required major courses and 27 credits of elective major courses.
 - Minor : A total of 21 credits/12 credits of required major courses and 9 credits of elective major courses.
- The total number of credits required for graduation is 130 credits(for students admitted before 2019) or 120 credits(for students admitted from 2020 onward).

In addition, the following language proficiency is required for graduation

Additional Graduation Requirements

- Attain a score of 700 or higher on the Japanese Proficiency Test(JPT) or achieve Level N1 on the Japanese Language Proficiency Test(JLPT)(applies to students admitted in 2007 or later).
- * The graduation thesis can be substituted with the final project from a 'Capstone Design' course offered by the Department of Japanese Language and Literature(applies to students admitted in 2016 or later).

| Courses |

Year 1

Japanese Contemporary Society and Culture, Elementary Japanese Conversation I-II, Elementary Japanese I-II, Japanese Film Appreciation and Criticism, Field Training in Japanese Language

Year 2

Understanding of Japanese Linguistics, Flow of Modern and Contemporary Japanese Literature, Intermediate Japanese Conversation I-II, Japanese Composition I-II, Japanese Language and Kanji, Japanese Expression and Grammar, Japanese Language and Culture, Flow of Classical Japanese Literature, Japanese History and Culture, Japanese Animation Studies

Year 3

Understanding of Traditional Japanese Culture, Japanese-Korean Translation and Interpretation Practice, Advanced Japanese Seminar, Practice in Japanese Expressions, Japanese Leadership Studies, Japanese Popular Culture, East Asian Media Studies, Japanese Literary Texts, Capstone Design : Japanese Cultural Contents Production, Japanese Literature and East Asia, Japanese-Korean Literary Translation and Publication Practice, Reading Japanese Myths, Japanese Language and Future Technology, Capstone Design : Next-generation Japanese Content Production, Teaching Certification Courses, Teaching Methodology in Japanese Language, Curriculum and Teaching Materials in Japanese Language, Methodology of Foreign Language Education

Year 4

Graduation Thesis(Japanese Major), Japanese Document Writing, Japanese Communication, Japanese Cultural Contents, Japanese History and Thought, Contrastive Study of Japanese Language, Current Japanese(Contemporary Japanese Issues & Language), Major Training(Japanese Language & Culture Department)

| Careers and Graduate Destinations |

Graduates of the Department of Japanese Language pursue diverse and rewarding career paths. Many work as Japanese language teachers, translators and interpreters, or as editors, reporters, and journalists in newspapers, magazines, and broadcasting companies. Others build careers in the fields of publishing, cultural industries, film and media, or international business and trade.

In addition, a significant number of graduates continue their academic journey by entering graduate programs in Japanese language, literature, cultural studies, and related disciplines, both in Korea and abroad, preparing to become scholars, researchers, and experts contributing to global academic and cultural exchange.

| Faculty |

___ Chang-Soo Lee, Ph.D. Kyung Hee University, 2003, Professor, Japanese Ancient Literature, echance@khu.ac.kr

___ Ji-Youn Son, Ph.D. Nagoya University, 2004, Professor, Modern and Contemporary Japanese Literature, sonson@khu.ac.kr

___ Te-Gyung Kim, Ph.D. The University of Tokyo, 2010, Vice Professor, Contemporary Japanese Culture, kimtk@khu.ac.kr

___ Teshima Takahiro, Ph.D. The University of Tokyo, 2012, Assistant Professor, History of Heian Period, teshima@khu.ac.kr