Asian Languages/Civilizations (Japanese), MA

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Asian Languages and Civilizations (Japanese)

The Asian languages faculty in the School of International Letters and Cultures offer a graduate program leading to an MA in Asian languages and civilizations with a concentration in Japanese. In addition to preparing some students for further academic training, the program helps to prepare students for jobs relating to Japan (in fields such as law, business, journalism and translation) and for entrance into professional schools. Students who see higher-level understanding of the language and culture Japan as a valuable asset to a professional career are an ideal fit for this program, as are students who want to pursue doctoral studies in the same or a closely related field.

At a Glance

• College/School: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
• Location: Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis, or
30 credit hours including the required applied project course (JPN 593)

The plan of study for the Master of Arts includes a minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate-level work and a thesis, as approved by the candidate's supervisory committee, or 27 credit hours of coursework and three credit hours of applied project. The plan must include a 500-level bibliography and research methods course offered by the department. When approved by the candidate's supervisory committee, nine hours of advanced-level work in another language or in closely related courses may be included in the plan.
Students who are primarily interested in teaching at the secondary or community college levels may select a plan of study with an area of study in language pedagogy. Students seeking a master's degree in Asian languages and civilization should consult their Graduate College representative. In keeping with the idea of in-situ experience as a key ingredient for advanced intellectual understanding, all degree candidates must have spent at least nine continuous months in a Japanese language environment within four years of entering the program.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in Japanese or a related field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00="A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00="A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. personal statement
4. resume
5. writing sample
6. three letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

The writing sample should represent the applicant's thinking and writing skills on a topic connected with Japanese culture. The personal statement should highlight the applicant's motivations and skills and indicate why they are interested in the Japanese graduate program. Candidates for the program should present the equivalent of an undergraduate major in Japanese upon entrance to the program. Those who lack this
background but who show strong potential and meet the Graduate College admission requirements may be admitted to a graduate program on a conditional basis, pending removal of specified deficiencies. These deficiencies must be completed in addition to the regular plan of study for the master’s degree.

Students should see the School of International Letters and Cultures website for more information.

**Contact Information**

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