

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024-25: MPhil in Japanese Studies



### Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	21 months

### About the course

The MPhil in Japanese Studies is a two-year course offered jointly by the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA) and the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies that combines intensive language courses, three courses about Japan, research methods courses and a 30,000-word thesis. Native speakers of Japanese take two additional courses about Japan.

The MPhil in Japanese Studies is designed as a two-year, six-term taught course that comprises advanced research training focusing on developing language skills and on deepening your understanding of contemporary Japan.

It acts either as a foundation for those intending to seek employment working in Japan or with Japan, or as a preparation for further research on Japan on a doctoral programme at Oxford or elsewhere. It is taught by full-time members of the Nissan (within the Oxford School of Global Area Studies) and the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and all the courses are designed for master's-level students.

The department does not teach Japanese for beginners but rather aims to develop your existing language skill to the level at which you can use it to conduct research about Japan. The department's courses aim to take you from a minimum of JLPT Level 3 up to and beyond Level 1.

### Course structure

In total, there are eight components to the MPhil in Japanese Studies course.

#### Year one

During your first year, you will undertake

- one core course on research methods
- two option courses (see list below)
- a Japanese language course (or a further option course if you have native-speaker level competence in Japanese).

#### Year two

During your second year, you will undertake:

- one or more research methods courses in the appropriate department
- one option course (see list below)
- one advanced Japanese language course (or a further option course if you have native-speaker level competence in Japanese)
- a dissertation of 30,000 words.

### Option courses

You will choose your option courses about Japan from the following list. Please note that not all options may be offered every year:

- Classical Japanese Language (There are prerequisites to study this option)
- Classical Japanese Literature
- Classical Japanese Texts (There are prerequisites to study this option)
- Critical Approaches to Religion in Transnational Japan
- Economy and Business of Japan
- Japanese Linguistics (The History and Structure of Japanese)(There are prerequisites to study this option)
- Japanese Politics: Domestic Institutions and International Relations
- Japanese Social Anthropology
- Modern Japanese Literature
- Modern Transnational History of Japan
- Sociology of Japanese Society
- Texts in Japanese Linguistics (There are prerequisites to study this option)
- Texts in Modern Japanese Literature
- Women, Media, Technology, Consumption and Idea of Happiness in 20th century Japan

The option courses about Japan have been designed for students at graduate level and most students studying them will be on the MSc or MPhil course. Some courses may also be taken by students who are studying elsewhere in the university. For example, the course on Japanese Politics is an option for both students in Japanese studies and students on the MPhil in Politics (Comparative Government).

### **Handwriting as a competence standard**

Mastering the ability to handwrite in Japanese has been identified as a competence standard for an assessment for an optional component of this course. This means that students will be required to produce handwritten work for assessment and it will not be possible to complete the assessment for that optional component in an alternative format.

### **Supervision**

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies.

You should try to see your supervisor two or three times each term.

### **Assessment**

A range of assessment methods is used:

- the research methods course is assessed on the basis of projects and tasks set in the course of teaching;
- the language course is assessed through a combination of tests and quizzes set during the year and a final examination;
- the courses about Japan are assessed by a written examination in English in the chosen subjects; and
- a thesis.

Progression to the second year is conditional on satisfactory performance in the first year.

### **Changes to this course**

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after you commence your course. These might include significant changes made necessary by any pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

## Costs

### Annual fees for entry in 2024-25

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£13,450
Overseas	£26,640

### Information about course fees

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>).

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

### Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, please note that, depending on your choice of research topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants from your department and/or college to help you cover some of these expenses. Standard travel insurance can be provided by the University. However, students may be required to pay any additional insurance premiums associated with travel to areas with an increased level of risk, and should factor this into their planning for fieldwork.

## Living costs

In addition to your course fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for 2024-25 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

### Likely living costs for one month

	Lower range	Upper range
<b>Food</b>	£315	£495
<b>Accommodation</b>	£745	£925
<b>Personal items</b>	£190	£320
<b>Social activities</b>	£40	£95
<b>Study costs</b>	£35	£85
<b>Other</b>	£20	£35
<b>Total</b>	£1,345	£1,955

### Likely living costs for nine months

	Lower range	Upper range
<b>Food</b>	£2,835	£4,445
<b>Accommodation</b>	£6,705	£8,325
<b>Personal items</b>	£1,710	£2,880
<b>Social activities</b>	£360	£855
<b>Study costs</b>	£315	£765
<b>Other</b>	£180	£315
<b>Total</b>	£12,105	£17,595

### Likely living costs for twelve months

	Lower range	Upper range
<b>Food</b>	£3,780	£5,940
<b>Accommodation</b>	£8,940	£11,100
<b>Personal items</b>	£2,280	£3,840
<b>Social activities</b>	£480	£1,140
<b>Study costs</b>	£420	£1,020
<b>Other</b>	£240	£420
<b>Total</b>	£16,140	£23,460

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2024-25, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 5% or more each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at [www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts](http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts).

## Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of this document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email ([graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk)) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask>).