



About Japanese Option

Liberal Arts Japanese Option (AA degree) offers an opportunity to learn the Japanese language and other related subjects such as Japanese Literature, Asian Art, East Asian History, Religions and Social Psychology in Asia and to acquire an Associate's degree in Japanese. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for transfer to Baccalaureate (4-year) programs in East Asian Studies and/or Japan Studies. Upon graduation, the Japanese Option at LaGuardia Community College can transfer to the East Asian Studies Major (Japanese Track) at Queens College or the Japanese Language and Culture at Hunter College to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Japanese. Some of our graduates apply for transfer to prestigious colleges and universities in East Asian Studies including NYU, Temple University Japan Campus, and Kansai Gaidai University.

The goal of the Japanese Option is to develop students' interests and prior knowledge in Japan for professional careers. We will deal with Japanese language/culture as a serious academic subject and study materials beyond your existing interest in Japanese pop culture and anime. Those who are interested in the Japanese Option should try exploring some of the following resources to identify if this program fits your interests and future career plan.

- **Why Study Japan?** by the Japan Foundation  (<https://ny.jpff.go.jp/japanese-studies/why-study-japan/>).

A series of interviews by scholars in Japan Studies.

- **Begin Japonology / Japonology Plus** by NHK : <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/tv/japonologyplus/>. In-depth stories behind Japanese life and culture through the eyes of Peter Barakan, a 45-year resident and watcher of Japan.
- **History of Japan** : Mason, R. H. P. & Caiger, J. G. (1997). *A History of Japan*. Tokyo, Japan: Tuttle Publishing. (ISBN: 9780804820974). A short chronology of Japan.
- **The Rise of Modern Japan** by Mark Ravina (audiobook) : <https://www.audible.com/pd/The-Rise-of-Modern-Japan-Audiobook/B09KZFCCXS>. A lecture on the post-war economics of the modern Japan.
- **Modern Japan: A Very Short Introduction** : Goto-Jones, C. (2009). Cambridge, Mass.: Oxford University Press.

Find More Information

You can find more information about the Japanese Option at the following places:

-  **Blog:** <https://chrysanthemum.commons.gc.cuny.edu>
-  **Discord:** <https://discord.gg/breXYw7ScD>

Visit the ELA Department (B-234) for general inquiries. Several academic advisors

are designated to assist Japanese Option students. See the advisement website at <https://www.laguardia.edu/majors/japanese/>.

Why You Should Choose the Japanese Option

One major requirement of the Japanese Option is two years of Japanese-language study (from ELJ101 through ELJ104), with a minimum grade of B in each class. In other words, you will study Japanese throughout your time at LaGuardia. Learning a language, especially one that is typologically distant from your native language, requires sustained effort, self-discipline, and a serious time commitment. Keep this in mind when changing your major to the Japanese Option.

Once you have completed your requirements at LaGuardia, you will be able to communicate confidently in Japanese in most social settings and will have a much deeper understanding of Japanese culture, history, society, business ethics and practices, religions, ethnography, and art.



Academic curriculum

The academic curriculum is subject to change every academic year. Please refer to the College Catalog (<http://laguardia.catalog.cuny.edu/>) for the latest curriculum for the Japanese Option. The sample curriculum with the suggested course sequence is listed below.

How to change your major

Students can change their majors at the Registrar's Office (C-107) within the first three or four weeks of the semester. If you apply for a new major after the change-of-major deadline, the change will take effect the following semester. We highly recommend meeting

with the program director (see below) before submitting your Change of Major Form.

Contact

The program director of the Japanese Option (Japan Studies) is Prof. Tomonori Nagano. He is usually available in office during the day and can be reached by e-mail and Discord (Nagano-sensei#9320). Feel free to contact Prof. Nagano if you have questions about the Japanese Option or the Japan Studies Program.



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CUNY Pathways Required Core (12 credits)	
English Composition	6
ENG101 Composition I (1st sem)	3
ENG102 Writing Through Literature (2nd sem)	3
Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning	3
Choose one from (1st or 2nd sem):	3
MAT107 Mathematics and the Modern World	
MAT115 College Algebra & Trigonometry (or MAT117)	
MAT120 Elementary Statistics (or MAT119)	
Life and Physical Sciences	3
Choose one from (1st or 2nd sem):	3
SCB101 Topics in Biological Science	
SCB206 Introduction to Neuroscience	
SCC101 Topics in Chemistry	
SCC102 Chemistry of Photography	
SCP101 Topics in Physical Science	
SCP105 Life in the Universe	
SCP140 Topics in Astronomy	
CUNY Pathways Flexible Core (18 credits)	
World Cultures and Global Issues (ELJ101) (1st sem)	3
U.S. Exp. in its Diversity (Rec. ELN101) (any sem)	3
Creative Expression (any sem)	3
Individual and Society (any sem)	3
Scientific World (Rec. ELL101) (any sem)	3
Additional Core (ELJ102) (2nd sem)	3
Japanese Option Program Core (30 credits)	
Japanese Language	6
ELJ103 Intermediate Japanese 1 (3rd sem)	3
ELJ104 Intermediate Japanese 2 (4th sem)	3
Japanese Literature	3
ELJ250 Japanese Literature in Translation (2nd sem)	3
Chinese or Korean Language	3
Select one from the following: (3rd sem)	3
ELC101 Elementary Modern Chinese 1	
ELC102 Elementary Modern Chinese 2	
ELC103 Intermediate Modern Chinese 1	
ELC105 Modern Chinese for Heritage Students	
ELC201 Modern Chinese Literature (in Chinese)	
ELC202 Contemporary Chinese Literature (in Chinese)	
ELC203 Classic Chinese Literature (in Chinese)	
ELK101 Elementary Korean 1	
ELK102 Elementary Korean 2	
ELK103 Intermediate Korean 1	
ELK201 Modern Korean Literature (in Korean)	

English	3
ENG103 Research Paper (3rd sem)	3
Liberal Arts	6
LIF101 Freshman Seminar for Liberal Arts (1st sem)	3
LIB200 Humanism, Science and Technology (4th sem)	3
Humanities	3
Select one from the following: (1st or 2nd sem)	3
HUA101 Introduction to Art	
HUC106 Public Speaking	
HUC150 The Art of Film	
HUM101 Introduction to Music	
HUN195 Art in New York	
HUP101 Introduction to Philosophy	
HUP104 Ethics and Moral Issues	
HUA191 The Art of Eastern Asia	
Social Science	3
Select one from the following: (1st or 2nd sem)	3
SSA100 Introduction to Anthropology	
SSA101 Cultural Anthropology	
SSE105 International Economics	
SSE125 World Geography	
SSH105 World History from Ancient Times to 1500	
SSH106 World History from 1500 to the Present	
SSP200 Global Politics	
SSH103 Western Civil. fm Ancient to Renaissance	
SSH104 World Civil. fm Renaissance to Modern Times	
SSH110 East Asia Civilization and Societies	
SSH113 Modern Chinese History (with substitution)	
SSH114 Modern Japanese History (with substitution)	
SSH231 Afro-American History	
SSH232 Survey of Latin Amr. and Caribbean History	
SSH220 Politics of Latin America and the Caribbean	
SSH100 Introduction to Sociology	
Unrestricted Electives	3
Unrestricted electives (3rd or 4th sem)	3

- (1) The CUNY Pathways Flexible Core consists of six three-credit courses. Students must take at least one course from each of the five areas and no more than two courses in any discipline.
- (2) Students without any previous instruction in Japanese should take Elementary Japanese 1 (ELJ101) and Elementary Japanese 2 (ELJ102) as part of Flexible Core for the LA Japanese Option.
- (3) One Flexible Core course must be Urban Study (such as ELN101)
- (4) One Chinese or Korean language course depending on the placement score. Students taking ELC 101 and ELK 101 as electives in the Japanese option will receive credit for those courses without taking ELC102 or ELK102.
- (5) Students who wish to transfer to Queens College are advised to take HUA191 The Art of Eastern Asia, which will count toward the EAS major at QC (=Art History 114: Survey of Asian Art)
- (6) Students who wish to transfer to Queens College are advised to take SSH110 East Asia Civilization and Society, which will count toward the EAS major at QC (=History 112: Introduction to East Asian History)