

Get into **JAPANESE!**

Why Study Japanese?

A Fascinating Culture

Japan has a rich history and many long-held cultural traditions, as well as incredible pop culture, contemporary art, and a unique lifestyle. Japanese food, fashion, technology, art and more have fascinated people across the world for centuries.

Great food like **sushi and ramen**
Anime, manga and video games
Tea ceremony
Kimono and Harajuku fashion
Noh and Kabuki theatre
...and much more!



The language of anime, manga and games

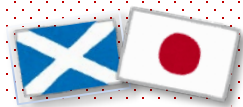
Japan is known for its beloved pop culture. Studying Japanese allows you to combine your studies with hobbies such as anime (Japanese cartoons), manga (comics) and video games. Learning Japanese lets you enjoy these media in their source language. You can also use them as a tool for studying, or use them as a launchpad for a future career. Many Japanese-speaking people go on to work for game companies or publishers.

A unique and beautiful writing system.

You probably see Japanese writing every day – written on people's clothing, on restaurant signs, and in art. Learning Japanese writing is not only fun, but it also helps unleash your artistic side.



Discover Japan in Scotland



Japan and Scotland enjoy a close friendship and mutual interest in each other's cultures. There are lots of opportunities for Scottish students to experience Japanese culture outside of the classroom:

- 🌸 National Museums Scotland has the largest Japanese collection in the UK outside London.
- 🌸 Japanese Matsuri for Glasgow holds regular festivals.
- 🌸 Scotland Loves Anime has been one of the UK's major Japanese animation festivals since 2010.

Japanese and Pathways to the Future

Learning Japanese can open up exciting opportunities. Many Japanese companies have offices and factories in the UK, in fields such as cars, energy, manufacturing, and fashion.

The strong links between Japan and the UK mean that knowing Japanese is a helpful skill – whether for **future jobs, travel, or simply connecting with people around the world.**

Economic Links Between Japan and the United Kingdom

- ✿ Japan is the world's **fifth largest economy.**
- ✿ **1000 Japanese companies with offices in the UK** (as of 2025).
Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-japan-economic-partnership-to-propel-growth>
- ✿ **Japanese companies in Scotland** such as manufacturing and energy.
- ✿ The United Kingdom is a member of the **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)** and has also announced the Economic 2+2 partnership with Japan.

How Japanese Can Help You in the Job Market

- ✿ Many Japanese companies in the UK seek to employ **bilingual Japanese-English speakers.**
- ✿ **Japanese is an unusual, memorable and impressive skill** on any job applicant's CV, whether the organisation is Japanese or not.
- ✿ Employers understand that knowledge of a second language demonstrates **communication skills, discipline, awareness of different cultures and cognitive ability.**

Study in Japan Scholarships



There are many scholarships available for students hoping to study in Japan, such as those offered by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology or the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation. Scholarships are for both students who want to specialise in Japanese language or students who want to pursue different academic specialisms in Japan.

Work in Japan

The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme

The JET Programme accepts thousands of applicants from all over the world each year to come to Japan and work as Assistant Language Teachers, Coordinators for International Relations, or Sports Exchange Advisors.

The programme is administered by the Japanese government and places successful applicants throughout Japan.

Find out more:

<https://www.jet-uk.org>





Messages from Senpai

先輩からのメッセージ



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

We asked people who had studied Japanese in Scotland about the impact of Japanese and their lives and careers.

Gavin Lawson, (MSc in East Asian Studies at the University of Edinburgh and a graduate of MA Japanese at the University of Edinburgh)



Studying Japanese has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

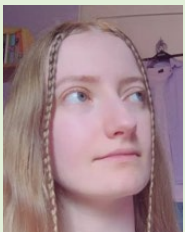
I gained language skills I needed to communicate confidently but also immersed me in the rich culture of Japan. One of the highlights of my degree was the incredible opportunity to live and study in Tokyo, where I was able to put my language skills into practice every day while experiencing Japanese life first-hand; the experience has truly shaped who I am today. I cannot recommend learning Japanese more highly; from the sense of accomplishment when holding your first conversation to the thrill of experiencing Japan, it's an experience I'll carry with me forever.

Mari Murray, (PhD student in Japanese Studies at the University of Edinburgh and a graduate of MA Japanese at the University of Edinburgh)



If you had told me when I started studying Japanese that I would later live in Japan for over four years, embark on a Japanese Studies PhD programme and work as a freelance translator on some of my personal favourite pieces of media, I wouldn't have believed it – but it's all true. Studying Japanese has been challenging, rewarding and most of all fun. Because I started learning Japanese and made the choice to persevere with it, I've had all sorts of experiences that have helped make me who I am today.

Katherine Heller, (PhD student in Translation Studies at the University of Edinburgh and a graduate of MA Japanese at the University of Edinburgh)



Studying Japanese has afforded me all sorts of exciting opportunities. For instance, the chance to study abroad in Sapporo allowed me to improve all aspects of my Japanese language skills, learn about many different aspects of Japanese culture and become a more independent and confident student and person. My Japanese studies have since lead me to study for a masters degree in translation studies and work as a translator and subtitler. I am now pursuing a PhD in translation studies - something made possible by the fantastic experience I had studying Japanese as an undergraduate student.

Adam Clark, (PhD Linguistics, MChS Chinese Studies, MA Japanese, all obtained at the University of Edinburgh)



The opportunity to study Japanese at the University of Edinburgh was a truly valuable and rewarding experience that opened many doors for me, both academically and professionally. My Japanese degree programme developed not only my language competency in Japanese, but also raised my intercultural awareness. As well as the nurturing environment fostered by the teaching staff within the department, the opportunity to study abroad in Japan allowed me a chance to further hone my language skills and experience first-hand the culture that I was interested in. Based on my time as a student of Japanese at the University of Edinburgh, I went on to further language study, eventually culminating in a PhD in linguistics. Professionally, I have worked in both academia and the private and public sectors. My career trajectory would not have been possible were it not for the groundwork laid during my time as a student of Japanese at the University of Edinburgh.

How to get started studying Japanese

📱 e-Sgoil courses (<https://www.e-sgoil.com/offers/japanese-2024-25/>)

Online courses with a professional teacher for pupils in Scotland.

New courses available from October 2025. Ask your teacher for more details!



📱 Self-study

See our list of helpful websites below!

📱 University / higher education

Lots of universities in Scotland and the rest of the UK offer Japanese courses, as either a full degree or as an optional class.

📱 Japanese clubs

If your school doesn't have a club, why not ask them to set one up?

The Japan Foundation, London can support your school.

📱 Private tutoring

Japan Foundation apps/websites for studying

Challenge with Erin



An app for young people studying beginner-level vocabulary and expressions.

<https://www.apperin.jp/go.jp>



Japanese in Anime and Manga



Learn about the kind of Japanese used in Japanese anime and manga!

<https://anime-manga.jp/>



Hirogaru



Learn about Japanese language and culture through bilingual articles and videos.

<https://hirogaru-nihongo.jp/en/>



Japanese e-Learning Minato



Online Japanese Language Learning Platform

<https://minato-jf.jp/>



Irodori

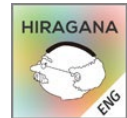


Textbook for basic Japanese communication skills.

<https://www.irodori.jp/go.jp/en/>



Hiragana Memory Hint



Apps for learning Japanese writing.

iOS <https://nihongo-e-na.com/ios/eng/id738.html>

Android <https://nihongo-e-na.com/android/eng/id739.html>



JAPAN FOUNDATION

The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 by special legislation in the Japanese Diet to work in the fields of Japanese Language Education, Arts and Culture, and Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange. There are offices based all over the world.

The London office runs many cultural events, seminars, workshops, funding programmes and more in the United Kingdom.

日本語を頑張って
勉強しましょう!



This leaflet was made by
The University of Edinburgh and
The Japan Foundation, London
for the
Bring Japan to Your Classroom!
– Touring Schools in Scotland –
project.