

THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN JAPANESE STUDIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Department of Applied Japanese Studies
Division of Japanese Studies
Graduate School of Humanities
The University of Osaka

[October 2025 ADMISSION]

1. FIELDS OF RESEARCH AND NUMBER OF APPLICANTS TO BE ACCEPTED

- (1) Fields of research: Japanese language, culture or a closely related field
- (2) Number of applicants to be accepted: up to several

2. QUALIFICATIONS

- (1) Nationality: Applicants must be foreign nationals (with the exception of permanent residents).
- (2) Age: Applicants must be at least twenty-four years of age as of September 30, 2025.
- (3) Academic background eligibility requirement: Only those from the following categories are eligible to apply:
 - ① Holders of a foreign academic degree equivalent to a master's or professional degree or those expecting to receive such a degree by September 30, 2025.
 - ② Holders of a master's or professional degree of a university in Japan or those expecting to receive such a degree by September 30, 2025.
 - ③ Those who have graduated from a university in Japan, engaged in research for at least two years at a university, research institute, or equivalent, and have been recognized, following an assessment of their research results by the Graduate School of Language and Culture, The University of Osaka, to have a level of academic competence equivalent or superior to that of a holder of Japanese master's or professional degree.
 - ④ Those who have completed 16 years of primary and secondary education overseas, or who have enrolled in courses conducted by an overseas school through correspondence education in Japan and completed 16 years of primary and secondary education overseas, engaged in research for at least two years at a university, research institute, or equivalent, and have been recognized, following an assessment of their research results by the Graduate School of Language and Culture, The University of Osaka to have a level of academic competence equivalent or superior to that of a holder of Japanese master's or professional degree.
 - ⑤ Those recognized by the Graduate School of Language and Culture, The University of Osaka to have a level of academic competence equivalent or superior to that of a holder of Japanese master's or professional degree
- (4) Recommendation: Applicants must be recommended by their affiliated university or institution or an advisor or equivalent belonging to their affiliated university or institution.
- (5) Health: Applicants must be free from any mental or physical condition that might interfere with their studies.
- (6) Language: Applicants must be proficient in either English or Japanese.
- (7) Registration: Applicants must be able to complete the entrance procedure by the appointed date.

* Admission will be cancelled if applicants fail to graduate from their university by September 30, 2025.

3. SCHOOL FEE

- (1) Enrollment Fee: 282,000 yen
 - (2) Tuition Fee: 535,800 yen (First semester: 267,900 yen, Second semester: 267,900 yen)
- * The amounts described above are valid for the academic year of 2024. In case these fees are revised, at the time of entrance or during enrollment, the newly revised fees are to be applied from the date of revision.
- * Japanese Government Scholarship Student are exempt from the enrollment fee and the tuition fee.

4. SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE

- (1) Selection will be made on the basis of the submitted documents and an in-person interview (or interview by phone, internet, or email Q&A).

The interview is scheduled to be held in mid-June 2025.
- (2) Notification of acceptance / denial of admission will be sent out to applicants by mail or email on July 11.

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants must submit the following documents to the address specified in Section 10 during the application period.

[Application Period]

From April 7, 2025 (Mon) to May 9, 2025 (Fri) (Must arrive by the deadline).

Notes for Creating Application Documents:

- For documents created by the applicant, use Japanese or English and create them as much as possible using word processing software on A4-sized single-sided printing.
- For documents (1) and (3) among the application documents, download the designated format from The University of Osaka website and create them.
- For documents in languages other than Japanese and English, be sure to attach a translation in Japanese.
- Attach the designated cover page when submitting the application documents.
- If the application documents are not completely and accurately filled out, incomplete, or arrive after the submission deadline, they will not be accepted. Additionally, the application documents will not be returned.

(Original)

- (1) Application for Admission (prescribed form) 1**
- (2) A copy of the master's dissertation written by the applicant or equivalent written work presented for an academic degree 1**
Accompanied by a 6,000-character Japanese summary written by the applicant, if the original is not written in Japanese.
- (3) An abstract of the above (2) (written in Japanese or English, A4 size) 1**
- (4) Letter of recommendation(prescribed form) (NB 1) 1**
A letter of recommendation (the academic advisor's)
- (5) Photograph 1**
Photograph taken within the past 6 months; 4.5 cm x 3.5 cm; showing the upper body facing front; no hat) to be pasted on the designated place of the application form with the applicant's name and nationality written on the back,
- (6) Photocopy of the page of the applicant's passport that shows his/her name, or attested copy of applicant's family register, or certificate of citizenship 1**
- (7) Certified academic record of graduate school course attended (issued by the university) (NB 2) 1**
This certified academic record must show the grading scale applied and the grades earned by the applicant in all subjects studied in each year of attendance at university)
If the academic transcript does not show the grading scale or the semesters in which credits were earned, applicants must submit documents showing the grading scale and the semester in which credits were earned (including indication of at what stages any non-pass grade was received). Transcripts of non-degree research students, non-degree-seeking students, or students in Japanese-language school are invalid.
- (8) Certificate of the (expected) completion of studies at the graduate school of the last university attended(NB 2) 1**
- (9) Document(s) certifying language proficiency 1**
(at least one of the following: photocopy of an English language proficiency test (ex. TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS) score report; photocopy of Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students score report; photocopy of Japanese Language Proficiency Test score report, etc.)
If the applicant is not in possession of any of the above documents, an evaluation letter written and signed by a university professor is required.
- (10) Document(s) certifying high achievement of the applicant (GPA, ranking, etc.) (if any) 1**
- (11) the Receipt of Application Fee Payment(Application Fee 30,000yen) 1**
Please pay the examination fee through the payment system. For details, please refer to the attached sheet "[How to Pay the Examination Fee through the Examination Fee Payment System](#)". After payment is completed, download the Certificate of Payment of Application Fee (PDF file), print it out in A4 size, and submit it together with the other application documents. Fees shall be borne by the applicant. **[Payment period] From April 1 to May 9, 2025**
No application fee is required for those who enroll as a Japanese Government Scholarship Student. However, applicants are required to submit documents to prove that they are Japanese Government Scholarship Student.

(NB 1) In special circumstances where it is not possible to obtain the original copy of the recommendation letter, it is permissible to submit an electronic file with the recommender's handwritten signature. However, please be aware that we may contact the recommender to verify the authenticity of the document.

(NB 2) For items (7) and (8), if you are unable to submit the original documents, please provide certified copies that have been accurately replicated from the originals. These copies should be verified by your previous educational institution, embassy, notary public, or another official public institution.

(NB 3) Those who are students of The University of Osaka's Graduate School of Language and Culture Studies in Language and Society or Studies in Japanese Language and Culture program at the time of application are exempted from submitting document (9)

6. UOsaka Humanities Outstanding International Student Award

[For Applicants Planning to Enroll as Self-Financed International Students Only]

To enhance research capabilities and increase the intake of international students, the Graduate School of Letters has established the "UOsaka Humanities Outstanding International Student Award" for self-financed international students recognized as outstanding in the graduate school entrance examination.

Those selected as "UOsaka Humanities Outstanding International Students" will be eligible for the "UOsaka Humanities Outstanding International Student Award (officially known as The University of Osaka Tuition Exemption System for Outstanding Self-Financed International Students)," which grants a full exemption from tuition fees throughout the enrollment period (limited to the standard 3-year duration of the doctoral program).

The selection for the "Applied Japanese Studies Course in the Doctoral Program" is an entrance examination specifically designated for "UOsaka Humanities Outstanding International Students." Those who wish to benefit from this system must pass this examination. Applicants recognized as outstanding self-financed international students deserving of the award will be admitted within the allocated quota, and the award's tuition exemption will be applied.

In addition, the Graduate School of Letters expects "UOsaka Humanities Outstanding International Students" to play a leadership role in research and plans to implement initiatives centered around these outstanding students.

Applicants wishing to apply for this system should refer to the attached document "Regarding the Tuition Exemption System for Outstanding Self-Financed International Students," confirm their eligibility, and check the designated box in the application form.

7. Security Export Control

At our university, based on the "Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act," we have established the "The University of Osaka Security Export Control Regulations" and conduct strict reviews on the export of goods and the provision of technology (including the acceptance of individuals). Please be aware that if the regulations apply, even if you pass the entrance examination, you may not be allowed to enroll, or there may be restrictions such as not being able to receive the desired education or conduct research. For more details, please refer to our website.

- (Japanese) https://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/ja/research/secur_exp/outline

- (English) https://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/research/secur_exp/outline

8. Handling of Personal Information

(1) The personal information such as name, address, and other details submitted at the time of application will be used for entrance examination operations such as "selection of entrants (application processing, conducting selection tests)," "announcement of successful candidates," and "enrollment procedures." Additionally, information about successful candidates may be used after the announcement of results to guide them about educational programs available after enrollment. For enrolled students, personal information will also be used for "academic affairs (student registration management, academic guidance)," "student support (health management, tuition fee exemption and scholarship applications, career support, etc.)," and "tuition fee collection operations."

(2) Personal information such as examination scores used for the selection of entrants will be utilized for the aggregation and analysis of entrance examination results and for the investigation and research of selection methods.

(3) Personal information obtained in (1) and (2) may also be used for "improvement of selection methods and university education" and "university management and operations (various surveys and analyses, project planning, etc.)." However, the results will not be published in a way that identifies individuals.

(4) In conducting the above operations and enrollment procedures, some operations may be outsourced to external contractors. In such cases, a contract will be made with the external contractor to ensure the appropriate handling of personal information, and the contractor will be provided with all or part of the personal information submitted.

9. NOTICES

Accepted students are advised to study the Japanese language and have some knowledge of the Japanese climate, customs, manners, university education and conditions in general before coming to Japan.

10. ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Student Support Section, Mino Office,
Graduate School of Humanities, The University of Osaka
3-5-10 Semba Higashi, Mino-shi, Osaka, 562-8678 Japan
Email: jinbun-minoh-shien@office.osaka-u.ac.jp
(Telephone inquiries will not be accepted.)