

# Global Japanese Literary and Cultural Studies (Global-J)

Information Session – May 18, 2026

Graduate School of Letters, Arts and Sciences  
Waseda University



# Program Concept: MA & PhD

- Advanced scholarly training in Japanese literary and cultural studies.
- **Coursework in English and Japanese**, covering a wide range of Japanese Studies.
- Research on **original sources in Japanese**.
- Class discussion and writing assignments **in English and Japanese**.

# AY2026 & 2027 Application Periods

- PhD (September 2026 entry): **June 1 - June 8 (2026)**
- MA (April & September 2027 entry): **November 3 - 17 (2026)**
- PhD (April & September 2027 entry): **November 3 - 17 (2026)**

# Global-J MA Program

# AY2027 Admissions Process (MA April & September entry)

- 1st Stage: Document Screening  
1st stage results announced on January 21 (2027)
- 2nd Stage: Individual Interviews on January 27 - 30 (2027)
- Final results announced on February 1 (2027)

**\*The Application Guidelines for the AY2027 intake will be released in late July 2026.**

# MA Graduation Requirements

- Earn 32 credits (14 compulsory) over two years of residence.
- Research, write, and successfully defend an original MA thesis in English.

# MA Advising Teams

- Prof. Hitomi YOSHIO & Prof. Kristopher REEVES

( 日本近現代文学・ジェンダー研究・翻訳 ) ( 平安文学・思想史・詩・比較文化 )

- Prof. Shiho TAKAI & Prof. Pau PITARCH

( 古典文学・芸能・翻案 ) ( 日本近代文学・メディア研究・物語論 )

# MA Curriculum: Compulsory Courses

- Thesis Guidance Seminar (4 semesters, 8 credits)
- Research Methods (1 sem., 2 cr.)
- Critical Approaches to Japanese Studies (1 sem., 2 cr.)
- Readings in Classical Japanese (1 sem., 2 cr.)

# MA Curriculum: Elective Courses (2 cr.)

- Special Topics in Japanese Literature and Culture I-IV
- Introduction to Kanbun
- Contemporary Japanese Fiction in English Translation
- Japan's Living Theater
- Women's Coming-of-Age Narratives
- Global Genre Fiction
- Storytelling and Media
- Adaptations of Classical Japanese Literature

# MA Curriculum: Other Courses

- Courses from other Graduate School of Letters, Arts and Sciences graduate programs.
- Courses from other Waseda University graduate programs.
- Courses from other affiliated Universities.

# FAQ : Statement of Purpose (MA)

In **1,000 words (in English)**, explain your fields of academic interest, what scholarly questions you find intriguing, how have your education/training/experiences prepared you to pursue them, why you want to conduct your project specifically at Global-J, etc.

# FAQ : Writing Samples (MA)

1-2 academic papers in English.

**4,000+ words** total.

If submitting 2 papers, one may be in Japanese:

English: at least 2,000 words

Japanese: at least 4,000 characters (+abstract in English)

# FAQ : Additional Information (MA)

Can include third-language proficiency, work experience, creative projects, etc.

# FAQ : Japanese Language Proficiency (MA)

Upon entering the program, students are expected to work hands-on with a wide variety of texts belonging to different genres, in the original Japanese, from the premodern, early modern, and modern eras. While there is no cut off for score-levels, we expect students to have at least a **JLPT N2 level or EJU 220 level** upon admission.

# FAQ : MA Admission Statistics

	志願者	合格者
2021	19	8
2022	15	7
2023	27	7
2024	16	8
2025	30	7
2026	22	7

# Global-J PhD Program

# Admissions Process: June Application (PhD September 2026 entry)

- 1st Stage: Document Screening  
1st stage results announced on July 9, 10am (2026)
- 2nd Stage: Individual Interviews on July 10-11 (2026)
- Final results announced on July 16, 10am (2026)

# Admissions Process: November Application (PhD April & September 2027 entry)

- 1st Stage: Document Screening  
1st stage results announced on January 21 (2027)
- 2nd Stage: Individual Interviews on January 27 - 30 (2027)
- Final results announced on February 1 (2027)

**\*The Application Guidelines for the AY2027 intake will be released in late July 2026.**

# Language Requirements (PhD): Japanese

Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) [N1]

*or*

Examination for Japanese University Admission for  
International Students (EJU) [260+]

*or*

Evaluation Report from a Japanese-Language Teacher.

# Language Requirements (PhD): English

TOEFL (iBT) 100 and above

*or*

IELTS (Academic) / Computer-delivered IELTS (Academic)  
Band 7 and above

**Other tests/certificates are not accepted.**

# Opportunities for International Development

- Double Degree Program Offered in Partnership with Columbia University
- UCLA-Waseda Research Fellowship Program
- International Symposium Workshop  
ex) The University of British Columbia, Columbia University, Peking University, Stanford University, UCLA, etc.

# Example Timeline

- 1st year: Coursework, research for thesis, apply and prepare for peer-reviewed article and international conference
- 2nd year: Publish a peer-reviewed article, present at an international conference, take part in symposium workshop, participate in UCLA-Waseda Research Fellowship Program
- 3rd year: Prepare thesis, Double Degree Program available

# PhD Graduation Requirements

**Research, write, and successfully defend an original PhD dissertation in English or Japanese.** If the thesis is written in English, one chapter (or equivalent article-length piece) must be written in Japanese; if thesis is written in Japanese, one chapter (or equivalent article-length piece) must be written in English.

Publish at least one **peer-reviewed article** in a scholarly journal.

Present at least once in an **international conference**.

# PhD Advising Teams

- Prof. Richi SAKAKIBARA & Prof. Hirokazu TOEDA
- Prof. Hidenori JINNO & Prof. Michael EMMERICH (UCLA)
- Prof. Kimiko KŌNO & Prof. David LURIE (Columbia)
- Prof. Ryūichi KODAMA & Prof. Satoko SHIMAZAKI (UCLA)
- Prof. Hitomi YOSHIO & Prof. Pau PITARCH
- Prof. Shiho TAKAI & Prof. Kristopher REEVES

# FAQ : Research Plan (PhD)

In **6,000 words**, explain what materials you intend to research, what questions you want to ask, how your work fits into the existing scholarship on the matter, etc, **in English**.

Attach a **1,000-character abstract** of your Research Plan **in Japanese**.

# FAQ : Writing Sample (PhD)

Writing sample (research paper + abstract), written in either English or Japanese.

If in English: **12,000 words** max. (+ ~1,500-character Japanese abstract)

If in Japanese: **20,000 characters** max. (+ ~900-word English abstract)

# FAQ : Eligibility

No age limit.

BA in Japanese Studies NOT required.

# FAQ : Funding

<https://www.waseda.jp/inst/scholarship/>

# Full Admissions Information

[https://www.waseda.jp/flas/glas/en/  
applicants/admissions/](https://www.waseda.jp/flas/glas/en/applicants/admissions/)

**For Further Questions...**

**Contact:**

**[global-j@list.waseda.jp](mailto:global-j@list.waseda.jp)**