Global Japanese Literary and Cultural Studies (Global-J)

Information Session - November 4, 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 Application Period

- MA (April & September entry): **November 3 at 10am ～November 17 at 5pm, 2026**
- PhD (April & September entry): **November 3 at 10am ～November 17 at 5pm, 2026**
- PhD (September entry): **June 1 at 10am ～ June 8 at 5pm, 2027**

Global-J MA Program

Admissions Process
(MA April & September entry)

- 1st Stage: Document Screening
  1st stage results announced on **January 21, 10 am (2027)**
- 2nd Stage: Individual Interviews on **January 27 - 30 (2027)**
- Final results announced on **February 1, 5pm (2027)**

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

  （ 日本前近代文学・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: November Application (PhD April & September entry)

- 1st Stage: Document Screening
  1st stage results announced on **January 21, 10 am (20277**
- 2nd Stage: Individual Interviews on **January 27 - 30 (2027)**
- Final results announced on **February 1, 5pm (2027)**

Admissions Process: June Application (PhD September entry)

- 1st Stage: Document Screening
  1st stage results announced on **July 8, 10am (2027)**
- 2nd Stage: Individual Interviews on **July 16-17 (2027)**
- Final results announced on **July 22, 10am (2027)**

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/

For Further Questions…

Contact:

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