Advanced-level courses in
Classical Japanese, contemporary
language and culture, and readings
in modern Japanese
Associated with
Department of East Asian Studies
Program in East Asian Studies
Princeton in Ishikawa
Princeton in Asia
International Internship Program
(OIP)

Reach Us

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6 levels of instruction in modern Japanese
14 courses within the curriculum
5 full-time instructors

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Updated August 30, 2023
The Japanese Language Program offers courses up to the sixth-year level in modern Japanese. The recommended path for beginners is to start with JPN 101/102, take JPN 105/107 with the Princeton in Ishikawa (PII) program during the following summer, and then to continue to take JPN 301/302, which meets the language requirement for the Japanese Language minor. Completing two years of Japanese (up to JPN 107) satisfies the University foreign language requirement.

The program’s upper-level courses in particular focus on students’ individual needs, including weekly or bi-weekly individual sessions. Students determine their own topics, choose their own reading materials, movies and TV dramas, practice keigo (honorific language) in a formal or business setting.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
Through collaboration with local and online communities, the Japanese Language Program at Princeton provides students with opportunities to explore Japanese language and culture both in and out of the classroom.

Opportunities for building connections through Japanese language include weekly Japanese table, online exchange with university students from around the world, and, for upper-level students in particular, various projects with members of the Japanese-speaking community of the Princeton area. Other opportunities for cultural exchange include calligraphy workshops, an annual speech contest, and student-hosted activities, such as movie and game nights and sushi parties.

STUDY ABROAD IN JAPAN
All Japanese Language Program students are encouraged to study abroad. Recommended Japanese language programs:
- Princeton in Ishikawa (see below)
- Hokkaido International Foundation’s (HIF) Homestay and Study Program
- International Christian University (ICU), Tokyo
- Inter-University Center (IUC), Yokohama *
- Kyoto Center for Japanese Studies (KCJS) *
* Offers semester and yearlong programs

FULL DESCRIPTION
oip.princeton.edu

PRINCETON IN ISHIKAWA
PII is an eight-week intensive Japanese language program offering second and third-year Japanese courses in Kanazawa, Ishikawa prefecture, one of the most beautiful and historic cities in all of Japan. Participants who successfully complete the program receive credit for two courses, the equivalent of one year of Japanese language study from Princeton University. Placed with local Japanese families while on program, students have the unique opportunity to practice and improve their communication skills, as well as to experience firsthand the Japanese way of life. Generous need and merit-based financial aid are offered to interested parties who qualify through the Office of the Dean of the College and the Program in East Asian Studies.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
Students who complete the language program successfully may be eligible to return to Ishikawa the following summer to work in a paid internship position. Ishikawa prefecture annually offers three internships to former PII students. Those selected for this program serve as interns at major companies in the Ishikawa region.

FULL DESCRIPTION
pii.princeton.edu

MODERN JAPANESE COURSES

Elementary Japanese (JPN 101/102)
An introduction to modern Japanese, stressing oral-aural facility but including an introduction to written Japanese.

Intermediate Japanese (JPN 105/107)
Continued study of modern Japanese by consistent review and reinforcement of major grammatical points and more advanced vocabulary and grammar.

Advanced Japanese (JPN 301/302)
Further reading in modern written Japanese with subsidiary grammatical and oral-aural training.

Integrative Advanced Japanese (JPN 305/306)
Designed to enhance reading, writing, and oral skills of students who need class work to achieve proficiency.

Readings in Modern Japanese (JPN/EAS 401/402)
This course series is targeted to students whose Japanese proficiency is at an advanced or superior level. While reading is under focus, speaking, listening, and writing are intensively practiced.

Contemporary Japanese Language and Culture (JPN 407/408)
This course series emphasizes continued development of the four skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) used in academic or professional settings.

CLASSICAL JAPANESE COURSES*

Introduction to Classical Japanese (JPN 403)
Introduction to the fundamentals of classic Japanese grammar. This course trains students to read premodern Japanese historical and literary texts.

Readings in Classical Japanese (JPN 404)
Close reading of selected premodern Japanese texts from Nara to Meiji.

*For more information, contact Keiko Ono