

Graduate School of Language and Culture

Educational Objectives

In line with the Educational Objectives of Osaka University, the Graduate School of Language and Culture conducts research and education, both theoretical and practical, on languages and cultures where they are spoken, with a view to nurturing individuals with advanced literacy in languages and cultures that allows one to quickly meet the needs of today's globalized, information-driven society, and the ability to present the knowledge gained through the process of developing the literacy to the world.

Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

The Graduate School of Language and Culture guides students to acquire cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise in languages and cultures.

The Graduate School consists of the following three departments. The Department of Studies in Language and Culture studies the formation of languages and cultures, as well as their essential nature, from an interdisciplinary, universal and theoretical perspective.

The Department of Studies in Language and Society conducts education and research, both theoretical and practical, on world languages, and societies and cultures where the languages are spoken. The Department of Studies in Japanese Language and Culture promotes research and education to explore the organic connection between the Japanese language/culture and the world's languages/cultures and societies in the changing global environment.

Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Students are guided to acquire advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking in fields not limited to existing disciplines, and develop the ability to think from multifaceted and comprehensive viewpoints and conduct multi-angle evaluations.

Sophisticated international mindset

As society becomes increasingly globalized and information-driven, a correct understanding of and respect for different languages and cultures is critical for forging mutual understanding among the world's regions and peoples in the political, economic and educational areas. Aware of the needs of such society, the Graduate School of Language and Culture guides students to acquire high-level language proficiency that enables them to establish meaningful communications with people with diverse backgrounds beyond differences in language and culture.

Advanced design prowess

Students are guided to develop the ability to identify a diverse range of fundamental and complex problems concerning language and culture, and devise approaches to solutions to such problems, as well as the ability to develop insights into the formation of language and culture and present the insights using various information tools.

The Graduate School of Language and Culture nurtures leaders in various fields of society through the master's and doctoral degree education, leveraging the characteristics of its three departments.

Completion Approval/Degree Awarding Policies (Diploma Policies)

Under the Diploma Policies of Osaka University, the Graduate School of Language and Culture confers a Master's Degree in Arts in Language and Culture or in Arts in Japanese Studies and a Doctoral Degree in Philosophy in Language and Culture or in Philosophy in Japanese Studies on individuals who have: acquired advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise in language and culture, broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking, design prowess and an international mindset as stated below; earned the stipulated number of credits; and passed a master's thesis/doctoral dissertation review and final examination.

Cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

Master's degree program

Acquire cutting-edge, advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise in languages and cultures.

Doctoral degree program

Acquire advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise in languages and cultures and develop the ability to conduct advanced research, to the extent necessary to enable one to work as a researcher or highly skilled professional.

Advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking

Acquire broad-based, interdisciplinary, advanced broad-based knowledge and deep critical thinking concerning various linguistic and cultural matters of Japan and international society, not limited to existing disciplines.

Sophisticated international mindset

Develop a deep interest in today's globalized and information-driven society from the viewpoint of linguistic and cultural research, and foster a correct understanding of and respect for different languages and cultures.

Acquire high-level language proficiency that enables one to communicate smoothly with people with diverse backgrounds beyond differences in language and culture.

Advanced design prowess

Master's degree program

Develop the ability to identify a diverse range of fundamental and complex problems in the field of specialty concerning languages and cultures and devise approaches to solutions to such problems by collecting needed data and literature appropriately.

Doctoral degree program

Develop the ability to conduct original and cutting-edge research on an individual theme in the field of specialty concerning languages and cultures, by building on a variety of preceding research results.

Upon meeting the abovementioned objectives, master's students are conferred a Master's Degree in Arts in Language and Culture or in Arts in Japanese Studies, and doctoral students are conferred a Doctoral Degree in Philosophy in Language and Culture or in Philosophy in Japanese Studies.

Teaching and Learning Policies (Curriculum Policies)

In line with the Curriculum Policies of Osaka University, the Graduate School of Language and Culture guides students to acquire knowledge and skills specified in the Diploma Policies by offering a diverse range of subjects systematically and providing guidance to write a master's thesis/doctoral dissertation.

< Principles of Curriculum Design >

The Graduate School of Language and Culture provides interdisciplinary and international research guidance through advanced Liberal Arts education subjects to develop the ability to discover interdisciplinary research themes, and advanced Global Literacy education subjects to develop the ability to conduct research based on global knowledge, in addition to Academic Major education subjects in languages and cultures offered by the three departments.

The Department of Studies in Language and Culture features three specialized fields, which focus on, respectively: Interdisciplinary Cultural Formations, Culture and Representation; Sociolinguistic and Communication Sciences, Second Language Education; Theoretical Linguistics, Historical Linguistics, Digital Humanities, Language and Cognitive Sciences. Students can study subjects in a diverse range of fields, beyond their specialties, and conduct interdisciplinary research. While each student is given research guidance by two supervisors, the Graduate School of Language and Culture has adopted a group guidance system that allows students to seek guidance from any of the instructors in their department.

The master's degree program of the Studies in Language and Society offers a variety of subjects in four subject sets: Wide-area Language Studies, Advanced Studies of Area Languages and Cultures, Studies of Composite Fields, and Related Research Languages, in addition to subjects in 24 major languages. Each master's student is given research guidance by two supervisors specialized in the student's major language. Each doctoral student receives research guidance from three supervisors, who are not necessarily specialized in the student's major language.

The master's degree program of the Department of Studies in Japanese Language and Culture offers Academic Major education subjects in three branches: Linguistics & Japanese Language Studies, Teaching Japanese as a Second Language, and Japanese Culture Studies. In each of these branches, general theory subjects are taught involving all the academic staff of the department to guide students to foster the fundamental knowledge required to conduct research from a broad perspective. To give research guidance, two supervisors are assigned to a master's student, and three to a doctoral student.

< Contents and Methods of Education >

Academic Major education subjects are taught in various forms, such as lectures, seminars and practical training, to suit the purpose of each subject, while incorporating student-initiated problem-solving learning. Master's students are also required to earn two credits each in advanced Liberal Arts and advanced Global Literacy education subjects.

< Academic Performance Evaluation Method >

The academic performance of students is evaluated by the methods specified in the syllabus, including written and oral examinations and research reports, as well as master's thesis/doctoral dissertation review.