

School of Foreign Studies

Educational Objectives

In line with the Educational Objectives of Osaka University, the School of Foreign Studies aims to develop individuals with the following academic expertise and skills and to meet its educational principle to “promote education and research, both theoretical and practical, on languages and cultures where they are spoken, with a view to nurturing individuals with broad-based advanced knowledge and deep critical thinking necessary to play an active role in the international arena, and the ability to develop a profound understanding of foreign affairs through languages.”

Advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

- Acquire profound knowledge and skills in one’s major language.
- Acquire comprehensive and specialized academic expertise in one’s major language, and the culture and society where the language is spoken, and the skills to apply the expertise to problem-solving.

Broad-based knowledge and critical thinking

- Acquire broad-based knowledge of various global events, in addition to knowledge of the region where one’s major language is spoken.
- Develop the ability to analyze various events from a multifaceted viewpoint based on an understanding of the methodology of disciplines relating to area studies.

International mindset

- Develop an understanding of different societies and cultures based on the knowledge gained from the study of different languages relating to one’s major language and the region where the language is spoken.
- Develop the ability to play an active role in the international arena with high-level English proficiency.
- Develop the ability to understand foreign cultures from a relative perspective and interact with people of different countries and regions beyond the language and cultural barriers.

Design prowess

- Develop the ability to identify social problems that affect the region where one’s major language is spoken and various other regions in the world and devise approaches to solutions to such problems from a multifaceted perspective.
- Develop the ability to work in collaboration with a diverse range of specialists in various regions in order to identify and solve social problems that affect the region where one’s major language is spoken and various other regions in the world.

The School of Foreign Studies upholds the slogans of “Culture Through Language, Language Through Culture” and “Let Language Be Your Wings To The World,” and strives to nurture competent individuals with high-level language proficiency as well as the ability to contribute to society with academic expertise that is crucial to developing a profound understanding of cultures and societies around the world.

Degree Awarding Policy (Diploma Policy)

Under the Diploma Policy of Osaka University, the School of Foreign Studies confers a Bachelor's Degree in Arts in Language and Culture on individuals who have been enrolled in the School of Foreign Studies for the stipulated period, earned the number of credits specified in the Regulations of the School of Foreign Studies, and achieved the following objectives, in line with its educational principle to “promote education and research, both theoretical and practical, on languages and cultures where they are spoken, with a view to nurturing individuals with broad-based advanced knowledge and deep critical thinking necessary to play an active role in the international arena, and the ability to develop a profound understanding of foreign affairs through languages.”

Advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise

- Acquire high-level proficiency in one's major language.
Achieve the proficiency level in all the four skills – listening, reading, speaking and writing – set for each major.
- Acquire comprehensive and specialized academic expertise in languages as well as cultures and societies around the world where the languages are spoken, through the process of studying lecture-based and seminar-based subjects in one's major and other languages and writing a bachelor's thesis.

Broad-based knowledge and critical thinking

- Acquire broad-based advanced knowledge and deep critical thinking necessary to play an active role in the international arena through the study of one's major and related subjects.

International mindset

- Acquire the ability to understand foreign cultures from a relative perspective and interact with people of different countries and regions beyond the language and cultural barriers through the study of one's major and related subjects.

Design prowess

- Acquire the ability to identify social problems that affect the region where one's major language is spoken and various other regions in the world and devise approaches to solutions to such problems from a multifaceted perspective through the study of one's major and related subjects.
- Acquire the ability to work in collaboration with a diverse range of specialists in various regions in order to identify and solve social problems that affect the region where one's major language is spoken and various other regions in the world through the study of one's major and related subjects.

In line with the Curriculum Policy of Osaka University, the School of Foreign Studies designs its curriculum to guide students to develop high-level proficiency in English and one's major language in the first and second years, and acquire comprehensive and specialized knowledge in diverse cultures around the world based on the language proficiency in the third and fourth years.

Principles of Curriculum Design

The degree program, "Study of Foreign Languages," is taught in two stages: the first and second years, and the third and fourth years. In the first and second years, students study Liberal Arts education subjects offered mainly by the Center for Education in Liberal Arts and Sciences, in parallel with Academic Major education subjects to develop high-level proficiency in one's major language and introductory subjects to learn about the region where the language is spoken. Starting from the latter part of the second year, students study advanced Liberal Arts education subjects along with the Second Foreign Language subject taught as a Global Literacy education subject. In the third and fourth years, students study Academic Major education subjects to acquire comprehensive and specialized knowledge in diverse cultures around the world based on the proficiency in one's major language.

Contents and Methods of Education

- Academic Major education is designed to develop high-level language proficiency through a systematic four-year study. In the first and second years, students study required subjects in their major languages, which are taught in a small-group setting and include classes given by native speakers. Knowledge gained during these earlier years constitutes the basis for subsequent study at the School of Foreign Studies. Students are guided to fully master the four skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking – through practical training sessions.
→ Advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise + international mindset
- During the first and second years of Academic Major education, students are required to earn at least 10 credits in five subjects per year. To enhance language education and ensure the objectivity and transparency of educational goals in compliance with social standards, the School of Foreign Studies sets proficiency goals to be achieved in the four skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking – for each major and year, and specifies these goals in the syllabus of each subject. → Advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise + international mindset
- In the second year of Academic Major education, students study introductory subjects to acquire basic knowledge crucial to developing comprehensive expertise in languages, literature, cultures and societies around the world. Most of these subjects are lecture-based. → Advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise + international mindset + design prowess
- In the third and fourth years of Academic Major education, students study advanced major-language subjects. Most of these subjects are seminar-based. Students also study various major subjects (lecture-based and seminar-based) to acquire comprehensive expertise in languages, literature, cultures and societies around the world. → Advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise + international mindset
- From the second year to the fourth year, students study subjects relating to their major-language subjects, such as subjects common to all the majors of the School of Foreign Studies, to acquire broad-based advanced knowledge and deep critical thinking. → Broad-based knowledge and critical thinking + international mindset

- In the final, fourth year, students are required to write and submit a bachelor's thesis as the culmination of four years' language study, leveraging the comprehensive and specialized academic expertise in cultures and societies around the world acquired through the study. → Advanced specialized knowledge and outstanding academic expertise + design prowess
- General education subjects to study during the first year include “A Door to Academia,” basic Liberal Arts education subjects, informatics education subjects, professional basic education subjects, and Health and Sports education subjects. → Broad-based knowledge and critical thinking
- “Integrated English,” a Global Literacy education subject, is offered face-to-face to help students fully master the four skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking. “Practical English” is designed to enhance English proficiency using the e-learning method. → International mindset
- Subjects to study from the second year include “Second Foreign Language” (to be selected from among nine languages) and “Foreign Language for Research”. The School of Foreign Studies offers a unique variety of languages, including English, to choose from. These subjects are seminar-based and practical training-based. → International mindset

Academic Performance Evaluation Method

The method of evaluating academic performance varies depending on the nature of the subject. Specific evaluation methods are shown below.

- Practical training-based subjects: The evaluation is based on objective data such as the results of quizzes, weekly assignments and regular examinations.
- Lecture-based and seminar-based subjects: The evaluation is based on the assessment of reports, presentations and regular examinations.

In any of the subjects, the evaluation is made by assessing the achievement of learning goals specified in the syllabus of each subject from a multifaceted and comprehensive viewpoint.