

Careers for Japanese Majors/Diploma of Languages in Japanese

There are a great many career fields which relate to studies in Japanese. In choosing your career path, it is important to reflect on the skills you have learned through your major, the ones you prefer using and the careers which are most strongly related.

Skills, knowledge and abilities acquired in the Japanese major

- *Skills to communicate effectively in Japanese in various social and professional contexts*
- *Asia literacy - a sound understanding of cultural and social practices in Japan, one of the major trading partners of Australia*
- *Skills to communicate appropriately with people with various cultural backgrounds which enable balanced interpretation of various social and professional practices in the global scene*

Career fields which build on the skills and knowledge acquired through a Japanese major

The table below lists a range of careers which make use of studies in Japanese. The list is not definitive; language skills can complement almost any occupational field and create specific opportunities.

Find information on work experience, skills development, entering the workforce and understanding the job market on the Careers Students web page:

<http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/students>

The table also provides some information about 'next steps' ie what you might need to do to start a career in the particular field, specifically whether the career field can be entered directly following Bachelor studies, or whether graduate study is required.

A word about post-Bachelor employment

There are two employment types for post-Bachelor graduates:

- General employment positions suitable for new graduates
- Graduate Employment Programs

Graduate Employment Programs are offered by some employers – generally large commercial organisations and government. Graduate Employment Program positions are jobs that include a substantial component of training and development. Recruitment for these programs takes place early in the year (around March-May). Final year tertiary students and recent grads can apply. For some of the career areas discussed, Graduate Employment programs are available. Where this is the case, graduate study may not be required.

For more information on Graduate Employment Programs:

<http://www.careers.unimelb.edu.au/students/>

Career options generally fall into two categories – those where language is the core activity, and those where language skill is paired with another skill.

‘A knowledge of one or more foreign languages can be useful in a wide range of careers. For some jobs, such as translating, interpreting and language teaching, language skills are the main requirement. For other jobs a combination of languages and other qualifications, knowledge or skills may be needed. For example, people with languages plus IT, law, finance or sales skills are much sought-after.’

(Omniglot – Language Learning: <http://www.omniglot.com/language/careers.htm>)

Language as ‘core business’ – specialist language occupations

These options would be available to advanced stream students.

| Role | Employers | Next Steps |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Translating | Business/multinational companies Media Freelance Government NGO/NPO | Master of Translation Training in programs provided by private institutions |
| Interpreting | Business/multinational Companies Media Freelance Government NGO/NPO | Master of Translation Training in programs provided by private institutions |
| Teaching Japanese | Private institutions Primary/Secondary schools | No specific requirements, though qualifications assist Graduate Diploma in Japanese as a Second/Foreign Language OR Master of Teaching |
| Teaching Japanese Studies | Higher Education | Master of Applied Linguistics ; MA or PhD Japanese Studies; |

Careers which make use of language in conjunction with another skill

Note that language skill can be used to complement almost any other skill to suggest career possibilities. Below are some examples only.

| Role | Companion studies | Employers | Next Steps |
|--|--|--|---|
| Diplomacy/international relations <i>Beginners to advanced</i> | Politics and International studies/Asian Studies | Government Intergovernmental bodies NGO/NPO Business/multinational companies | Graduate Employment Programs (mainly Australian Government) OR Graduate Studies - Master of International Relations |
| Academia/research <i>Advanced</i> | Any field | University Research Centres | Honours Masters by research PhD |
| Librarian – Japanese collection librarian <i>Advanced</i> | Arts Japanese Studies | Libraries | Graduate Diploma/Masters (Information Management/Library Studies) |
| International business, in-country business, import-export in Australia <i>Beginners to advanced</i> | Business Marketing Commerce Economics | Commercial businesses (e.g. fashion, food, manufacturing, agriculture) Trading companies | Graduate employment OR Graduate Studies- International Business |
| Translation software, language engineering <i>Advanced</i> | IT/Computer Science Linguistics | Software companies IT Venture business | Degree in Computational Linguistics or Computer Science |
| Tourism – in Australia, in Japan <i>Intermediate to Advanced</i> | Arts Commerce | Tourism operators Hotel Restaurants Transport (eg. Airline industry) | Graduate employment OR Graduate Studies eg Business, Tourism Management |
| TESOL | English App Linguistics Education | Teaching in Japan JET program, private colleges Teaching in Japan - Schools Universities Teaching in Australia Universities, Colleges | Some may require CELTA MA in TESOL Master of Education in TESOL (generally |

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|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | and language schools | required but some private colleges may not require) |
| Cultural exchange (project and program management roles) <i>Beginners to advanced</i> | Arts | Cultural exchange associations, industry groups eg | Graduate study in various areas may be appropriate eg Marketing, Arts Management |
| Law <i>Advanced</i> | Law | Law firms Companies | Graduate studies in Law – JD OR Graduate entry to undergraduate Law courses |
| Policy and Public sector Administration <i>Beginners to advanced</i> | Law Political Science | Consulate and embassy Government Consultant | Graduate Employment Programs (mainly Australian Government) OR Graduate Studies – Public Policy, EMA, Law |
| Defence and National Security <i>Advanced</i> | | Defence force | Defence Academy |

Where can I find out more?

Other discussions about careers using languages:

Careers in Languages: <http://lrc.wfu.edu/careersinlanguages/>

Omniglot: <http://www.omniglot.com/links/careers.htm>

Career View – Victoria University of

Wellington: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/careers/resources/career_publications/career_view/asian_and_european_languages.pdf (Asian and European Languages)

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/careers/resources/career_publications/career_view/linguistics.pdf (Linguistics and Applied Language Studies)

Career options:

<http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/students>

Graduate study at The University of Melbourne:

<http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/courses/graduate>

<http://graduate.arts.unimelb.edu.au/>

<http://government.unimelb.edu.au/>

Researching courses which are not offered at Melbourne: www.myfuture.edu.au