

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.

More information on many of these career fields is available at:

<http://www.careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online-tools> (Career Research - Career Links - Arts)

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.html>

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	MA in Translation Training in programs provided by private institutions
Interpreting	Business/multinational Companies Media Freelance Government NGO/NPO	MA in 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	MA 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 - 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

		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://irc.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)

Professional Associations:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options

(Career Exploration – Professional Associations by Degree - Arts)

Graduate study at 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