Japan Studies at the University of Pittsburgh

Japan Studies at the University of Pittsburgh is committed to the advancement and dissemination of knowledge about the history, society, culture, political economy, and arts of Japan.

With 18 Japan specialists on the faculty, the University of Pittsburgh provides training and area studies through a variety of course and degree offerings. It encourages multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research through student scholarships and faculty grants; and it facilitates the exchange of ideas and information through seminars, conferences, and outreach activities for members of both academic and local communities.

These activities are administered by the Asian Studies Center, which is part of Pitt’s University Center for International Studies. The University of Pittsburgh is a leading national and international center of Asia-focused research in the humanities and social sciences and has been designated a National Resource Center for East Asian Studies since 1988 (one of only 20 in the country) by the U.S. Department of Education. This honor identifies the center as being among the best in the country in teaching, research and public service.

More than 3,500 students enroll annually in about 100 courses that focus on Asia in the humanities and social sciences.

Academic Programs and Degrees

Japan Studies at the University of Pittsburgh includes both the social sciences and humanities. Courses at both and undergraduate and graduate levels cover a broad range of disciplines including: anthropology, language, cinema, economics, history, religious studies, sociology, international studies, theatre, and art history.

Undergraduate and graduate certificates can be earned by fulfilling requirements in Japanese language and area studies courses related to Japan. A certificate is an additional academic credential that can be earned while working toward a degree.

An interdisciplinary MA degree in East Asian Studies is offered through the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures. For more information please contact Paula Locante at plocante@pitt.edu or go to www.pitt.edu/~deall/

Japanese Language Program

The Japanese Language Program offers a five-year sequence of language courses, as well as classical Japanese. Oral communication skills are emphasized throughout, with increasing attention to training in reading and writing skills. Evening courses in Japanese are also offered.
during the academic year, while intensive courses over ten weeks in the summer provide the equivalent of a full year of college-level Japanese.

Scholarships and Fellowships

Each year the Asian Studies Center awards undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships to students who are pursuing a degree or certificate in Japanese studies, and for the purpose of studying abroad in Japan. These include awards established through endowments from the Japan Iron and Steel Federation and twelve Mitsubishi companies, as well as fellowships funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Study Abroad

Students are encouraged to undertake study abroad in Japan as part of their academic training. The university participates in a consortium that sponsors a year-in-Japan program at Konan University in Kobe, and maintains exchange agreements with Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Kansai Gaidai University near Osaka, and Kitakyushu University in northern Kyushu. Students may also apply for permission to study at other Japanese institutions.

Library Resources

The East Asian Library at Pitt ranks 13th in size among university East Asian Libraries in the United States and has one of the largest Japanese language collections in the country. Its Japan collection ranks 22nd in the country in size and has special strengths in the social sciences and humanities. In addition, the main university library (Hillman Library) maintains a sizable collection of materials on Japan in English and other languages and a strong collection of Japanese cinema and documentary films. The Library subscribes to a wide range of current periodicals from Japan. The East Asian Library is located on the second floor of Hillman Library.

The Library’s Japan Information Center functions as an information gateway between the United States and Japan and provides users with information on a broad range of subjects from Japanese culture to Japanese government policies.

HIROYUKI GOOD
Japanese Studies Librarian
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Japan Studies Faculty

Japan Studies faculty represent specialists in eight departments (Anthropology, Classics, East Asian Languages and Literatures, Economics, History, History of Art and Architecture, Religious Studies, Sociology) and two professional schools (Education, Public and International Affairs).

The topics of faculty research range from education and anthropology to economic history, aging, welfare, intellectual history, and film. Two emeritus members of the faculty, L. Keith Brown and J. Thomas Rimer, have been honored by the government of Japan with the Order of the Sacred Treasure for their significant contributions to Japan Studies.

For the most up-to-date information on Japan Studies Faculty, visit the Asian Studies Center website: www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc/academics/faculty

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Photo by Blue Lotus

Gaidai University near Osaka, and Kitakyushu University in northern Kyushu. Students may also apply for permission to study at other Japanese institutions.

LINKS

JAPAN STUDIES
www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc/academics/

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS
www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc/funding/

DEPT. OF EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
http://www.deall.pitt.edu/

EAST ASIAN LIBRARY
http://www.library.pitt.edu/east-asian-library

JAPAN INFORMATION CENTER
http://www.library.pitt.edu/eal-jis

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