



DURATION OF STUDIES

1.5 years (3 semesters)

LANGUAGES OF INSTRUCTION

French, Japanese

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

www.unige.ch/conditions/MA

ADMISSION CONDITIONS

A Bachelor of Arts with at least 60 credits in the given discipline, or an equivalent degree. Additional courses may be required depending on prior studies.

Master's Programme

JAPANESE STUDIES

This Master's programme, run by the University of Geneva, is the only cross-disciplinary programme of its kind in French-speaking Switzerland. The course, which is taught in French and Japanese, aims to deepen students' knowledge of the Japanese language, its history - including Kanbun and classical Japanese - and its contemporary use, through press articles, translations and oral and written practice. Applicants must have a Bachelor's in Japanese studies or an equivalent degree with at least 60 credits in Japanese studies, in the Japanese language, its history (kanbun, classical Japanese, history of the language) and contemporary uses (reading the press, translation, oral and written expression). Students also get the opportunity to study a number of subjects in more detail, such as the history, contemporary society, linguistics and cultural production (cinema, literature, history of art, etc.), which cover other countries in the East Asia region as well.

In addition to improving their Japanese language skills (the target level is JLPT1 certification), students get to learn research methods and must write a thesis using primary sources in Japanese.

The programme is taught by around a dozen teachers who specialise in complementary fields ranging from didactics and Japanese sociolinguistics to history, anthropology, the history of religion, film studies and gender studies. Students also have access to one of the largest and most comprehensive libraries in French-speaking Switzerland, with reviews, databases and around 15,000 books all in a variety of languages - including Japanese, French and English - and in a range of fields.

The Japanese Studies Unit also offers all Master's students the chance to spend time studying in Japan at one of the University of Geneva's 12 partner universities.

www.unige.ch/lettres/japonais

STUDY PROGRAMME

3 semesters (max. 6 semesters) | 90 ECTS credits

Chosen discipline (36 credits)

3 teaching modules.

2 elective modules (24 credits)

Dissertation (30 credits)

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

www.unige.ch/calendar

LEVEL OF FRENCH REQUIRED BY UNIGE

Eliminatory general test and additional written test for non-Francophones, with the exception of the following cases:

www.unige.ch/frenchexam

MOBILITY

Encouraged to go to a Japanese university during the Master's program for one year (12 partnerships).

www.unige.ch/exchange

PROFESSIONAL PROSPECTS

Unlike other fields of study, Arts degrees are not geared toward a specific career and graduates generally need to gain additional experience on the job.

Job opportunities may be found in the following areas: teaching, journalism, radio, television, publishing, libraries, documentation centres, archives, bookshops, museums, heritage protection organisations, international organisations, diplomacy, private companies, banks, administration, staff management, tourism, public relations, cultural activities, art dealerships, galleries, research, etc.

TUITION FEES

500 CHF per semester

REGISTRATION

Deadline for candidates that hold a foreign bachelor's degree: 28 February 2026

(30 April 2026 for candidates that hold a Swiss bachelor's degree at the start of the next academic year AND, according to their nationality, are not subject to a visa for entry into Switzerland for more than 90 days, according to Swiss government requirements and regardless of their current place of residence, or for candidates holding a Swiss residence permit that is valid beyond 30 April.)

www.unige.ch/enrolment

CONTACTS FOR STUDIES

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

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ACADEMIC ADVISORS

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Master Admissions, post-graduate studies, applicants without a Swiss school-leaving diploma, advanced standing

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