

DISCOVER  
YOUR  
JAPAN!



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY'S  
**Modern Japanese  
Studies Program**

Intensive Japanese Course and Bachelor's Degree



# WHY HOKKAIDO?

Hokkaido is the northernmost region of Japan, consisting of one large island and over 500 surrounding islands. Dotting the center of the main island are mountain ranges and impressive volcanoes surrounded by sweeping coastal plains.

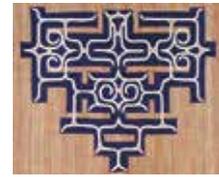
The islands' total land mass is 83,000km<sup>2</sup> which makes up 22% of the total land mass of Japan. Hokkaido is known for its amazing food, natural beauty, world-class skiing resorts and unique history.

Hokkaido University is right in the center of Sapporo, Japan's fifth-largest city with a population of 1.97 million.

You will never be short of options when it comes to eating out with friends, taking in Sapporo's vibrant cultural scene, or going out for a night on the town. Sapporo has something for everyone.



Today, Hokkaido has a population of 5.3 million people, but the region was only fully incorporated into Japan in the mid-nineteenth century. Hokkaido is the home of the indigenous Ainu people. As a place where various cultures meet, Hokkaido is an ideal location to consider issues of cultural diversity and multiculturalism in Japan, Asia and beyond.



© Rumiko Fujitani, 2013.  
 Traditional Ainu pattern for Attus clothing.

## HOKKAIDO CLIMATE

\*average daily temperatures

**SPRING** Pleasant temperatures with an abundance of colors

**SUMMER** Warm days full of sunshine with temperate mornings and evenings



## EVENTS IN SAPPORO

Keiryu Koinobori (Jozankei Hot Spring Area)	Sapporo Lilac Festival (Odori Park)	Hokkaido Shrine Festival (throughout the city)	Toyohira River Fireworks (Toyohira River)	Sapporo City Jazz (Odori Park and Sapporo Art Park)	Dai-Don-De Street Performance Carnival
Academic year (first semester) begins	Golden Week	YOSAKOI Soran Festival (Odori Park)	Pacific Music Festival (Sapporo Art Park)	Sapporo Summer Festival (Odori Park)	Sapporo Autumn Festival (Odori Park)
Bachelor's Degree program entry	University Festival			University Foundation Day (August 14)	Summer Vacation
				Classes end early August	

## ACADEMIC CALENDER

# WHY HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY?

Established  
**1876** 



Sapporo  
Campus Size 

**180ha**

Equivalent to over 400 football fields

Total Number of  
Students

**Approx.  
18,100** 

11,500 undergraduate and  
6,600 postgraduate

Number of  
International  
Students

**Approx.  
2,100** 

From 100 countries and regions

Hokkaido University is one of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious universities in Japan. Boasting the largest number of faculties of Japan's national universities, we cover almost all areas of the humanities and social and natural sciences and we are a leader in research activities in Japan and the world. Hokkaido University alumni include a Nobel laureate, business leaders, research pioneers, artists and writers.

Our graduates benefit from the University's determination to develop curious minds that are ready to embrace challenges and acquire knowledge, reveal new global perspectives and find solutions which change society for the better.

We offer a broad-based educational experience, world-class research facilities, and all the attractions of living in the cosmopolitan city of Sapporo.

The atmosphere is warm and welcoming, our campuses clean and safe, and we are located in a breathtakingly beautiful setting.

**Do you want to study in the most beautiful campus in Japan? In one of the most desirable cities in Japan? And have an amazing international student experience?- Then Hokkaido University is for you.**

**AUTUMN** All the beautiful colors of Autumn

**WINTER** Refreshing and invigorating days with sun and powdery snow



Second semester begins  
Intensive Japanese Course entry

New Year Break (2 weeks)

Classes restart early January

Classes end early  
February

Winter Vacation  
Graduation ceremony



# WHY MJSP?

## MJSP at a Glance



**Degree Title:** Bachelor's Degree (in the field of Japanese Studies)

**Program Length:** 4 years (4.5 years including the Intensive Japanese Course)

**Starting Date:** October (Intensive Japanese Course + Bachelor's Degree) or April (Bachelor's Degree only)

### Characteristics:

- 1) Intensive study of the Japanese language – you should be completely fluent on graduation;
- 2) The study of Japan in four main academic disciplines – history, cultural studies, sociology and political economy;
- 3) Co-learning with Japanese students – you will take many classes with your Japanese peers;
- 4) A flexible curriculum that allows you to discover your Japan from the unique and multicultural vantage point of Japan's northernmost island.

### Intensive Japanese Course

The Modern Japanese Studies Program offers one of the most rigorous Japanese language training programs of any four-year Bachelor's Degree. You do not need to have any prior experience of studying the Japanese language to apply for MJSP, but mastering the language sufficiently to study history, culture, society and political economy in Japanese is a requirement to graduate from MJSP.

The Intensive Japanese Course ensures students have enough Japanese language ability on entry to the Bachelor's Degree.

People who already have intermediate level Japanese may apply for exemption from the Intensive Japanese Course. Their Japanese language ability will be assessed in a Japanese interview taken as part of the entrance exams.

### Bachelor's Degree

There are two modules to choose from: **History/Culture** and **Society/Political Economy**. One module becomes your major ; the other is your minor. You start by taking Japanese language courses alongside humanities and social sciences courses in English.

Once you have sufficient Japanese, you may take courses in Japanese in the faculties of Law, Humanities and Human Sciences, Education, and Economics & Business. This truly bilingual degree program is the ultimate preparation for an international career related to Japan.



## Message from the MJSP Faculty



Dr. SASADA Hironori

People from all around the world come to study on MJSP. The international atmosphere is a fascinating learning experience in itself. We are all joined, however, by our common, deep interest in Japan. There is no better place to learn about Japan than actually in Japan.

Our ambitious and defining educational aim is for all MJSP students to be able to take regular university classes in the Japanese language alongside their Japanese peers. We share our curriculum in English with Nitobe College, an international education program for students in other faculties. Extensive educational integration with the Japanese student population from the first year of the degree program is another key philosophy of MJSP.

INTENSIVE JAPANESE COURSE 6 months (October - March)	BACHELOR'S DEGREE			
	1st year (April-)	2nd year (April-)	3rd year (April-)	4th year (April-)
<b>Japanese Language</b>				
Beginner's Japanese				Applied Japanese
<b>Japanese language</b> (beginners to intermediate)	<b>Japanese language</b> (intermediate to advanced)	<b>Applied Japanese</b> (content-based courses using intermediate level Japanese)	<b>Applied Japanese</b> (Academic Japanese)	<b>Applied Japanese</b> (Business Japanese)
<b>Japanese Studies (History, Culture, Society, Political Economy)</b>				
In English	Major/Minor Module Subjects			In Japanese
An introduction to study skills and modern Japan	<b>Introduction to Japanese Studies I: History</b> <b>Introduction to Japanese Studies II: Culture</b> <b>Introduction to Japanese Studies III: Society</b> <b>Introduction to Japanese Studies IV: Political Economy</b> <b>Multiculturalism in Hokkaido and Japan</b> <b>Aspects of Japan:</b> Courses provided by MJSP and other faculties in English	<b>Japanese History I-III</b> <b>Japanese Culture I-III</b> <b>Japanese Society I-III</b> <b>Japanese Political Economy I-III</b>  <small>*I - Japan and the World            *II - Advanced Readings            *III - Japanese(History, Culture, Society, Political Economy) in Japanese</small>	You will choose your major from <b>History/Culture Module</b> or <b>Society/Political Economy Module</b> . The other one becomes your minor. The subjects will be taught in Japanese in faculties of Law, Humanities and Human Sciences, Education, and Economics & Business.	
<b>Optional and Other Subjects</b>				
In English		In Japanese		
<b>General education seminars:</b> Courses in English based on the research of English-speaking faculty <b>Intercultural exchange seminars:</b> Group-based learning with Japanese students in Japanese		Internship at a company (Optional) Study abroad at one of Hokkaido University's partner universities (Optional)		
<b>Liberal Arts Courses/Foundation Courses</b> Optional courses taught in Japanese in other faculties (for example, in the sciences) <b>Modern Japanese Studies Workshop, etc.</b>				
<b>Individual Research</b>				
English and/or Japanese				
<b>Academic Writing</b>	<b>Project Study I</b>	<b>Project Study II</b>	<b>Project Study III</b>	

This is for students enrolled in 2021. Subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the curriculum, visit the MJSP website.



About one sixth of the total credits required to complete MJSP are categorized as Project Study.

Each year you can design your own research project suitable for your interests and career aims.

- In Year 1 (Academic Writing) learn how to structure and reference academic essays.
- In Year 2 (Project Study I) make an oral presentation about your research in Japanese for the first time.
- In Year 3 (Project Study II) be creative and showcase your growing expertise in Japan through a longer piece of research.
- In Year 4 (Project Study III [Graduation Thesis]) undertake a extended piece of academic research.

Receive one-on-one or small group supervision from a professor assigned to you as your supervisor based on your interests.

### Examples of Project Study III Titles

#### ■ History/Culture Module

- The Second Craft Beer Wave: Interplay and Clash of Legislation and Innovation in the Japanese Beer Market
- MAINTAINING STATE POWER THROUGH EDUCATION – The case of Japanese elementary school readers between 1933 and 1941
- A Historical Recount of a Century in Eurasia : Waning Japanese Influence in the Face of the Chinese Push
- Outlook for Ainu Language Revitalization

#### ■ Society/Political Economy Module

- Stay punk!! Stay free!! Subcultural identity, resistance and Covid-19 in northern Japan  
 Read the paper here → [https://doi.org/10.1386/punk\\_00056\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1386/punk_00056_1)
- The Commodification of Intimacy in Aiseki : A New Way of Creating Intimate Connections or Singles in Japan
- Contagious, Criminal, and Undeserving : Constructions of Foreignness on Japanese Twitter
- Factors behind the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement – An analysis from a liberal and a realist perspective
- Introducing Japanese food products to India -Nissin's winning strategy in the Indian Market-



# MJSP CORE FACULTY

I research the political economy of Japan and East Asia, particularly the Japanese economy from the Meiji period to after WWII. I am currently researching trade policies and government protection of the agricultural sector.

I lived in the United States for 15 years and have taught at the University of Washington. I encourage students to get actively involved in class discussion.



Society/  
Political Economy  
Module

**SASADA  
Hironori**

My research currently focuses on food, health and illness in Japan. I have a range of interests including gender, intimacy, employment, risk, emotion, and well-being which inform my classes.

In class I encourage active discussion and student involvement based on lecture content, assigned readings and multi-media.



Society/  
Political Economy  
Module

**EMMA  
COOK**

My research focuses on the history and development of the Japanese language, for example, through analysis of debates in the Imperial Diet and prewar Japanese language textbooks.

I am from Sendai. I speak using the Sendai dialect that I learned from my grandmother. I have worked as a Japanese teacher in Bangkok, Taipei and Okinawa.



History/Culture  
Module

Japanese  
Language

**ITO  
Takayuki**

My research focus is on rural Japan. My research interests include the practice and transmission of traditions in contemporary Japan, regional revitalization and demographic decline and alternative lifestyles in rural areas. Recently, I have also conducted ethnographic research into hip hop practitioners in Hokkaido. Furthermore, I have started a research project on transnational mobility of Japanese contemporary artists in Europe.



History/Culture  
Module

**SUSANNE  
KLIEM**

I believe that learning should not be confined to the classroom. I encourage students to explore their environment to reflect on issues we discuss in class.

I am a historian specializing in modern Japanese finance. I have published about the origins of the Bank of Japan, gold standard adoption, and the nature of Japanese financial imperialism in the colonies, spheres of influence and occupied territories before and during WWII. My latest project sheds light on the workings of exchange banks in Asia after 1873. From now on, I also plan to write about the treatment of financial matters in the press, mostly political cartoons published in satirical journals.



History/Culture  
Module

**Michael  
SCHILTZ**

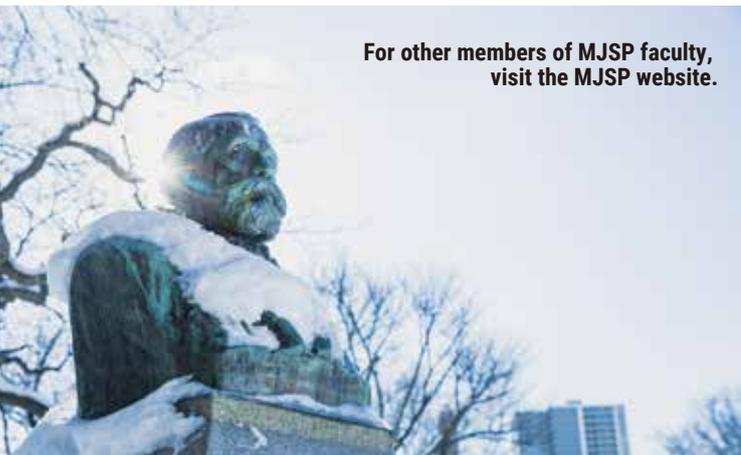
My research is about the movement of settler colonists following the collapse of the Japanese empire. In my class we look at how former settler colonists made the transition from empire to nation-state and the ways this influenced Japanese society after 1945. I also like to use a comparative approach by thinking about forced and coerced migration in Northeast Asia in a global context.



History/Culture  
Module

**Jonathan  
BULL**

As a teacher I encourage active learning through class discussion, group work and independent study. I look forward to meeting you!



As a linguistic anthropologist and cultural semiotician, I am broadly interested in the meaning of communication and sociality: how ideas and assumptions about language, media, interaction, voice, and so forth, shape everyday habits, institutional practices, and political processes. I have written on themes such as anonymity, solitude, characterization, voice acting, affect, and popular history.



History/Culture  
Module

**NOZAWA  
Shunsuke**

I teach classes on diverse topics, ranging from popular culture to politics of language, from anthropology of Japan to academic writing and methods. My classes are mostly discussion-based, and I am looking forward to working with students to create meaningful learning experience together.

## GUEST LECTURES

The Modern Japanese Studies Program Lecture Series is a series of guest lectures given by researchers from outside the university, or other people whose professional experience is relevant to Japanese Studies.

The lectures aim to broaden students' interests in the many aspects of Japanese Studies.

There are also MJSP Workshops, in which the guest lecturers lead seminars or local field trips.

Roland Kelts delivers a guest lecture titled "Anime, Manga, Sushi & Cosplay: how Japan Enchants the West" as part of the MJSP lecture series.



# HOW TO APPLY

## Entry Requirements

- a) Individuals who have citizenship other than Japanese are eligible to apply. Individuals who have Japanese permanent resident status are not eligible to apply.
- b) 12 completed years of education in a foreign country or at an approved international school in Japan OR will hold a high school qualification deemed to be equivalent by the time of entrance.
- c) Mother tongue English OR four years or more of secondary education (at junior or senior high school, etc.) with English as the primary language of instruction OR English ability of IELTS(Academic Module) 6.5, TOEFL-iBT 79, TOEFL-PBT 550 or higher.
- d) Japanese ability: none for Intensive Japanese Course entry; intermediate Japanese for Bachelor's Degree entry (determined by a Japanese interview taken as part of the entrance exam); clear evidence of aptitude in foreign languages is strongly preferred.
- e) A high school academic record that would enable you to attend a leading research-intensive university in your own country.

The detailed list of entry requirements is available in the Application Guidelines published on the Modern Japanese Studies Program website.



## Steps to Entry

\*As of January 2021

- 1 **Connect with us**  
Read carefully all the information on our website. Feel free to ask questions using "Contact Us" form.
- 2 **Confirm your possible start date**  
Applicants with intermediate Japanese can apply for April(Bachelor's Degree) entry. Exemption from the Intensive Japanese Course requires passing the Japanese interview. All other applicants apply for October (Intensive Japanese Course) entry.
- 3 **Apply**  
Submit your application online in October/November (1st call for applications) OR February (2nd call for applications) and send the required documents by post to arrive by early to mid-December(1st call) or mid-March (2nd call). Check the Application Guidelines for the exact deadlines, which are strictly enforced. There is a ¥5,000 application fee.
- 4 **Interviews**  
Interviews are held in January (1st call) and April (2nd call) via Skype.
- 5 **Accept your offer**  
Students who are offered a place must accept the offer by March (1st call) or June (2nd call).  
Number of Students: 20 per year
- 6 **Get ready for departure!**  
We will be in touch with a pre-departure kit to ensure you are in the know regarding such things as how to obtain a visa, accommodation placements and much more.



For more details visit: [www.oia.hokudai.ac.jp/mjssp](http://www.oia.hokudai.ac.jp/mjssp)

## Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fees for Intensive Japanese Course is ¥181,200 (6 months) and for Bachelor's degree program is ¥535,800 a year. However, we provide considerable financial support to offset the cost of your education (See the table below). Students who have not received fee waivers during the second to fourth years may apply for the university's tuition reduction program(25% 50%, or 100%). \*Correct as of January 2021

<b>Intensive Japanese Course</b>	We are planning to waive the <b>enrollment fee</b> for the Intensive Japanese Course. *The course tuition fee is ¥181,200.
<b>1st Year</b>	We are planning to waive the entire <b>enrollment and tuition fees</b> in the Modern Japanese Studies Program.
<b>2nd-4th Year</b>	In the second year and thereafter, <b>100% or 50% of the tuition fees</b> will be waived for selected students based on academic performance. * Waivers will not be available to all students.

# STUDENT LIFE



Wearing Kimono to celebrate Coming-of-Age Day.

Graduation Picture of Class of 2020



Becoming friends with Japanese students through club activities.



With over 250 university clubs and societies to join, there will be something to suit everyone's interest. Join one of the teams that dances in the Yosakoi Soran Festival, play in the university orchestra, go skiing in Niseko or learn a Japanese martial art. You will find that joining a club is a fascinating insight into Japanese life and culture, as well as a great place to make Japanese friends.

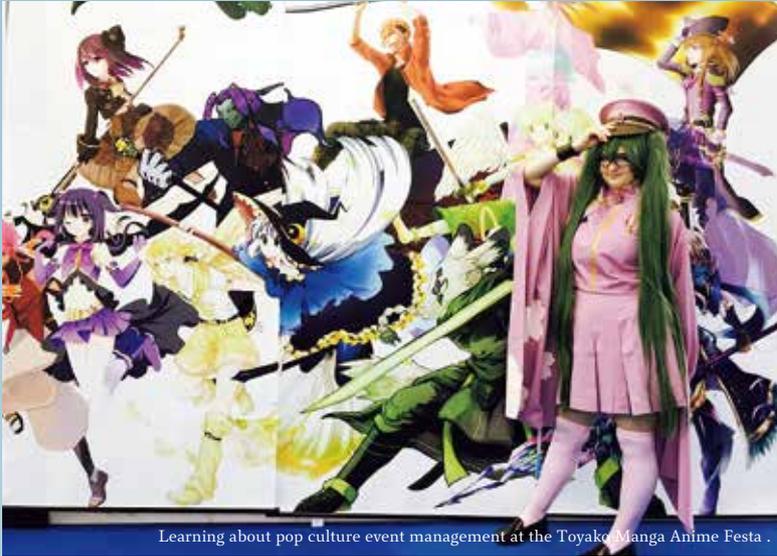
## Extra-curricular Activities



## Student Support

Our staff will help you adapt to life in Japanese society. Things may not always go smoothly, but the International Student Support Desk and university's bilingual counseling service is always there to help you. Student Advice and Counseling Center <https://www.sacc.hokudai.ac.jp/en/>





# Cost of Living

Sapporo has an excellent standard of living at reasonable prices compared to other large cities in Japan. Your budget will depend on your lifestyle, but the table below gives a basic guide of your expected living costs while on MJSP.

Expense	Cost	Total Cost / Year	Notes
<b>Housing / Utilities</b>	¥35,000 ~ 45,000 / month	¥420,000 ~ 540,000	Budget for at least ¥40,000 per month, including bills. It may be more than this depending on your lifestyle.
<b>Study Expenses</b>	¥10,000 ~ 15,000 / month	¥120,000 ~ 180,000	Covers textbooks, photocopying, study trips and other education-related expenses.
<b>Food</b>	¥20,000 ~ 35,000 / month	¥240,000 ~ 420,000	This figure may change significantly according to personal lifestyle choices.
<b>Misc</b>	¥15,000 ~ 20,000 / month	¥180,000 ~ 240,000	Mobile phone, club activities and other optional expenditure.
<b>Total ¥960,000 ~ 1,380,000 (Estimated living expenses per year)</b>			

MJSP students generally spend their first year in Japan living in student dormitories. The approximate rent is ¥25,000-¥30,000 per month (not including electricity, heating and water bills). Thereafter, students will find their own accommodation in Sapporo. Monthly rents are about ¥30,000-¥40,000 per month (although this may vary according to size and location).

# Accommodation



# DISCOVER YOUR JAPAN!

## MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI

Gunjan  
 Sharma



India

Management Analysis  
 Program, School of Business  
 Administration,  
 Hitotsubashi University  
 Business School



My experience of studying on MJSP has been extremely fruitful. Although I knew Japanese even before enrolling into the program, it was definitely worth taking Japanese classes as they had so much to offer. Also, the flexibility in the curriculum allowed me to explore different academic areas freely in addition to the core subjects, which was the best part for me since I was still figuring out the field I was truly interested in. Moreover, the professors were supportive throughout, as they guided me regularly and in great detail during Project Study as well as when I was preparing for graduate school. MJSP helped me cultivate various skills and boost my confidence, which will be valuable assets in my life ahead.

As a fully bilingual Japanese studies course in Japan, MJSP offers students many unique opportunities. As well as (obviously) improving my Japanese language skills exponentially, I have been able to experience life – both academic and social – in a way that would not have been possible if I had studied elsewhere. As well as meeting new people from Japan and all over the world, MJSP’s ‘project study’ course allowed me to discover and explore new interests in depth; an experience which has inspired me to continue on to post-graduate study. My third-year project study paper even got published, so you never know what you might achieve if you join MJSP!

James  
 Dewi  
 Letson



United Kingdom

Graduate School of  
 Humanities and Human Sciences,  
 Hokkaido University



Before starting my studies at Hokudai, I was not quite sure what to expect as I had never been to Japan before – however, I fell in love with Sapporo starting from the first week. MJSP’s wide variety of courses and great teachers have helped me to learn a lot about my strengths and interests: because of this, I especially enjoyed doing independent research. After four fruitful years at MJSP, I have reached a high level of Japanese, made friends with people from all over the world and learned to see my own country from a completely different perspective. I will continue my studies at Hokudai’s graduate school to learn more about EU and Japanese relations and international policy.

Juliana  
 Hanna  
 Maria  
 Porkkala



Finland



I remember what I felt between being accepted to MJSP and leaving Finland to go to Japan for the first time. I was excited, but I also couldn’t clearly imagine what my life would be like in Sapporo for four years, and I didn’t know what to expect from such a big change in my life. However, now that I look back on the four years I have spent in MJSP, I realize how much I have grown as a person, and how much Japan has let me grow in the right direction. My passion for all aspects of Japan has led to my high interest in Japanese history and religions, and this is thanks to the wide range of classes MJSP has to offer. I have grown to understand my language skills and my capabilities as an aspiring academic, and I have really challenged myself in the program and rewarded myself with new qualities I have found. My years in Japan aren’t over after MJSP - this is just the beginning - and coming to Hokkaido University was definitely the right choice.

Netta  
 Julia  
 Hongisto



Finland

Public Policy School,  
 International Policy Programme,  
 Hokkaido University



# CAREER PATHS

In the twenty-first century, Asia will increasingly take center stage in global affairs. Japan is the world's number three economy and is a regional leader in business, technology and innovation. Your bilingual and multicultural education on MJSP provides the skills for various career paths.

**Help shape the Asian century!**



## Graduates' Paths

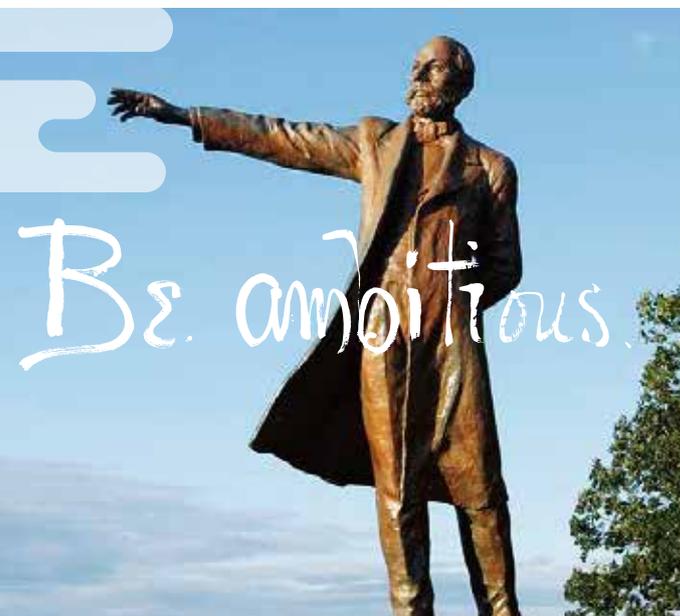
(Class of 2019 & 2020)

### 【Place of Employment】

- AlphaSights •Asahi Diamond Industrial Co., Ltd. •Duck Creek Technologies
- FAST RETAILING CO., LTD. •Hokkaido Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd
- IBM Japan •Lift Inc. •Mitsui O.S.K. Lines •NC Network Co., Ltd.
- North Pacific Bank, Ltd. •PTS Consulting Japan KK •Randstad K.K.
- Real Made Corporation •SCS-Invictus Holdings Pte. Ltd. (Singapore)
- TOYOTA TSUSHO CORPORATION •Zenken

### 【Graduate School】

- Hokkaido University Graduate School of Humanities and Human Sciences
- Hokkaido University Accounting School
- Sophia University Graduate School of Global Studies
- Master's Program of Education at University of Tsukuba
- University of Ottawa Department of History (Master's Degree)



“Be Ambitious” is the motto of Hokkaido University. These are the words of Dr William Clark, the first vice-president of Sapporo Agricultural College.

As a Hokkaido University graduate you will join the tens of thousands of other alumni who have turned an education at the university into a successful career. We will do what we can to help you on your way toward realizing your ambitions.

### Research/ Education

Pursue postgraduate studies and a research career relating to Japan, or become a teacher in Japan or your home country.

### Business

Work for a Japanese company that actively recruits Japan-literate international staff, or an international company with operations in Japan.

### Journalism/ Tourism

People around the world want and need to know what is happening in Japan and Asia. You will be ideally qualified to show them.

### Translation/ Interpreting

Bilingualism opens up many opportunities, from subtitling films to simultaneous interpretation at conferences.

### Discover Your Own Path

With the insights and inspiration gained from your years in Japan, put into action your own vision for really making a difference.

# CONTACT

## MODERN JAPANESE STUDIES PROGRAM

Institute for the Advancement of Higher Education  
Hokkaido University  
Kita 17, Nishi 8, Kita-ku, Sapporo, 060-0817

### Modern Japanese Studies Program Office

☎ +81-(0)11-706-8048 • 8049  
✉ [mjsp@oia.hokudai.ac.jp](mailto:mjsp@oia.hokudai.ac.jp)

### Admission Center (for Admission Inquiry)

☎ +81-(0)11-706-8045  
✉ [adm-mjsp@academic.hokudai.ac.jp](mailto:adm-mjsp@academic.hokudai.ac.jp)

**f** Hokkaido University's Modern Japanese Studies Program

**📷** [mjsp.hokkaido](https://www.instagram.com/mjsp.hokkaido)

**🐦** [@MJSP\\_Hokkaido](https://twitter.com/MJSP_Hokkaido)

**📺** [www.youtube.com/HokkaidoUniv](https://www.youtube.com/HokkaidoUniv)



[www.oia.hokudai.ac.jp/mjsp](http://www.oia.hokudai.ac.jp/mjsp)



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