



Japan Studies | M.A. Requirements 2012-2013 (entering class)

CONCENTRATION

Students concentrating in Japan Studies must take at least 4 courses within this program.

ASIAN STUDIES

Students also must fulfill the general requirements for the field of Asian Studies, that is, an additional 2 Asian Studies courses, outside of Japan Studies.

Students in Japan Studies also have the option of pursuing a specialization in the [International Relations of Asia \(AsiaIR\)](#).

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

All candidates for the M.A. degree must complete a concentration in the field of International Economics by taking 4-6 economics courses at SAIS. Students can also pursue a [specialization](#) within International Economics by taking additional course work.

CORE COURSES

All SAIS students must pass 2 core exams and/or courses. Japan Studies concentrators must pass Comparative National Systems as one of their core requirements prior to the start of their third semester. If the remaining core is not completed by the start of the final semester, the student must enroll in a core class.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Japan Studies MA candidates must pass exams to demonstrate proficiency in Japanese. All non-native English speakers are required to pass an English placement exam upon entering SAIS. Native Japanese speakers must pass proficiency in a second language which can include English.

CAPSTONE

Japan Studies MA concentrators must complete ONE of the following capstones:

1. Japan Studies Oral Exam. The exam provides students with the opportunity to cap their academic experience at SAIS through discourse with their professors that highlights the findings of their studies and research, particularly the US-Japan Yearbook project. Students will be expected to suggest policy implications for Japan, the US, and the world of the issues discussed. At least two Japan Studies professors will administer the exam.

Discussion will focus initially on the specific findings of the student in the Yearbook Project and then branch into broader policy areas. The exam will be graded on a pass-fail basis. Makeup oral exams for students who fail must be scheduled within three weeks of the exam, with the students preparing a three-page paper addressing the areas or issues deemed insufficient by the examiners. Those who fail the makeup exam will not graduate in that term.

2. MA Oral Exam (to compete for honors—if eligible)

A total of 16 courses taken for credit are required for an MA degree.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BY ACADEMIC YEAR (AY)

[AY 2011-2012 Entering Class](#)

[AY 2010-2011 Entering Class](#)

[AY 2009-2010 Entering Class](#)

[DEGREE AUDIT \(CHECKLIST\) BY ACADEMIC YEAR \(AY\)](#)

[AY 2011-2012](#)

[AY 2010-2011](#)

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