



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Japanese Language & Literature

Andras Molnar '09

Japanese language and literature



Q: How did you choose your major?

A: I came to Connecticut College wanting to major in Japanese and economics. My interest in Japanese

language and culture quickly dominated my studies and I chose to pursue the Japanese language and literature major only.

Q: What are your relationships like with your professors?

A: The dedication of my professors to students goes far beyond the classroom. Professor Kobayashi comes to Knowlton international dining hall every day to have lunch with her students and converse only in Japanese. Every lunch is an opportunity to study Japanese informally and to build a strong relationship with my professor.

Q: Did you study in Japan?

A: I studied in Kyoto at Doshisha University, where I took language and culture courses. I also helped staff an entirely Japanese student-run environmental summit, an experience that allowed me to meet and interact with students and rely only on my Japanese language skills.

Q: Did you have an internship related to your major?

A: I interned with the Japanese Education News Agency. The articles that I wrote for the organization about education in the United States and Japan (written in Japanese) were actually published and distributed throughout Japan. Now I am using some of what I learned during my internship to do an independent study on Korean minority representations in Japanese culture.

Overview

As a Japanese language and literature major, you will be in a language-focused environment from the moment you set foot on campus. Our first- and second-year language courses are taught on an intensive basis and you will also take a variety of courses in areas such as literature, history, film, government and art history. By the time you leave Connecticut College, you'll have achieved advanced fluency in spoken Japanese along with an understanding of the cultural contexts shaping the language and a solid grounding in the Japanese literary tradition.

Personalized Learning

Be prepared for intense and highly individualized interaction with your professors. You'll find that you will have the constant attention of our faculty as you work through the Japanese language and literature major, from our rigorous yearlong elementary Japanese course, to the cultural immersion activities of the study-abroad programs available to juniors, to working under the close supervision of a thesis adviser in your senior year.

Student Organizations

On campus, you'll have the opportunity to participate in the student advisory board for the department of East Asian languages and cultures, as well as Connecticut College's Asian/Asian-American student organization. You'll also be able to practice your language skills with your peers over meals at the foreign language table in the Knowlton international dining hall. Some majors choose to reside in Knowlton international residence hall, where students explore many different cultures and languages in a cooperative environment. All students on campus may participate in cultural events sponsored by the East Asian language and cultures department. Examples of recent events include a Japanese drum concert, a concert by a Shakuhachi master and a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.

Study Abroad and Internships

Beyond the campus, there are abundant opportunities for study and internships abroad, including those through the College's Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA) as well as the Travel Research and Immersion Program (TRIP). In recent years, the East Asian languages and cultures department has incorporated a short TRIP into several language

courses. Past TRIP participants have been able to experience life with a Japanese family while exploring some of that country's most important cultural and historic landmarks. You will also have the opportunity to study at institutions such as Sophia University in Tokyo, Columbia University's Kyoto Center of Japanese studies and the Associated Kyoto Program at Nanzan University. We encourage our students to apply for international programs such as the Freeman-ASIA Awards and the Gilman International Scholarship.

Beyond Connecticut College

For more than two decades, Connecticut College has prepared Japanese language and literature majors for careers and advanced degrees in Japan and around the globe. Your skills in Japanese will allow you to experience another culture through its linguistic characteristics and concepts while opening doors for positions in government, international relations, information technology, business, finance, tourism, entertainment, human rights, international law, translation, teaching and more. As Asian nations become more central to America's political and economic policies, graduates with language proficiency and in-depth knowledge about Japan will have a distinct advantage when it comes to preparing for our new global realities.

Faculty

Hisae Kobayashi, *Senior Lecturer in Japanese; Chair of East Asian Languages and Cultures Department; Coordinator of the Japanese Language Program*
B.A., Tsuda College, Tokyo; M.A., University of Evansville, Indiana
Language pedagogy; Japanese language

Sayumi Takahashi, *Assistant Professor of Japanese*
B.A., Princeton University; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania
Modern Japanese literature; Japanese film and visual culture in transnational contexts; Asian-American literature; gender studies; pre-modern poetics and literati culture; multimedia and word/image studies

Selected Courses

Intensive Elementary Japanese; Intermediate Japanese; Advanced Japanese; Beyond "The Orient": Critical Approaches to East Asian Literature and Film; Contemporary Texts, Spoken Discourse; Afterlives and Apocalypses: Post-War Japanese Cinema; Advanced Seminar in East Asian Culture

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers more than 47 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

What can you do with a major in Japanese language and literature?

Ryan N. Kelley '07

M.A. candidate in Japanese political science and technical Japanese/engineering at the University of Washington.

Worked as a translator for Japanese artist Takashi Murakami. Spent junior year at Doshisha University in Kyoto and two summers interpreting at Harvard University for Japanese students studying American social welfare institutions.

Liza Colby '05

Working as a marketing copy editor for Feld Entertainment. Also a freelance copywriter who has done work for Toyota as well as a popular online gaming Web site.

Received an M.A. in advertising from Boston University. Interned at Kaiju Big Battel, a Japanese fantasy monster wrestling company.

David Simpson '04

Working toward M.S. in acupuncture and herbal medicine at the Tri-State College of Acupuncture.

Taught English in Japan for three years and created an online classroom called the Osaka English Library. After graduation, went to Berkeley, Calif., and worked on a project with a Connecticut College professor to set better wages for home healthcare workers.

For more information, visit
www.conncoll.edu/academics/