

S O K E N D A I

School of Cultural and Social Studies

SOKENDAI (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)

2021

Department of Japanese Studies



National Institutes for the Humanities

**INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER
FOR JAPANESE STUDIES**

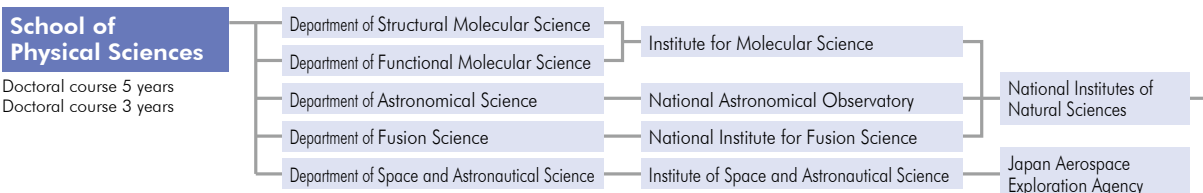
The Graduate University for Advanced Studies

School of Cultural and Social Studies



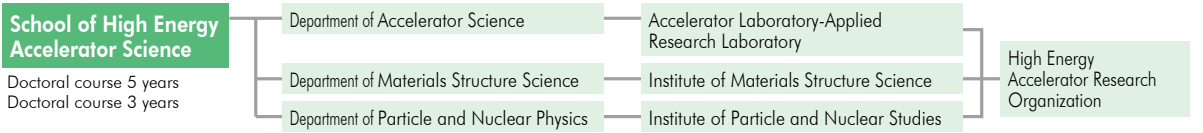
School of Physical Sciences

Doctoral course 5 years
Doctoral course 3 years



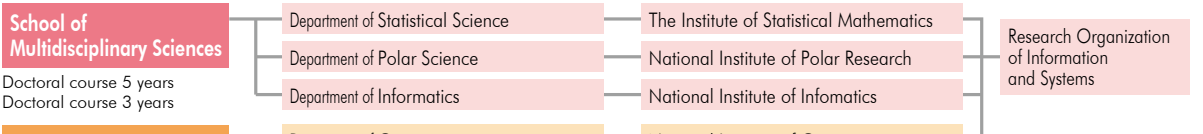
School of High Energy Accelerator Science

Doctoral course 5 years
Doctoral course 3 years



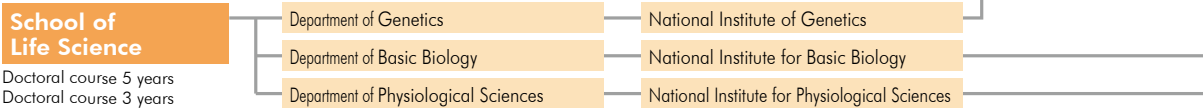
School of Multidisciplinary Sciences

Doctoral course 5 years
Doctoral course 3 years



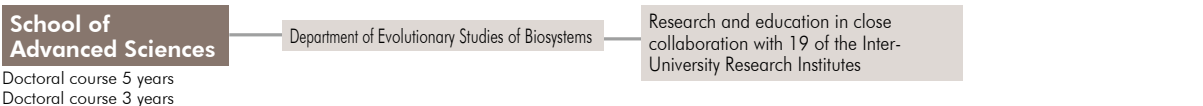
School of Life Science

Doctoral course 5 years
Doctoral course 3 years

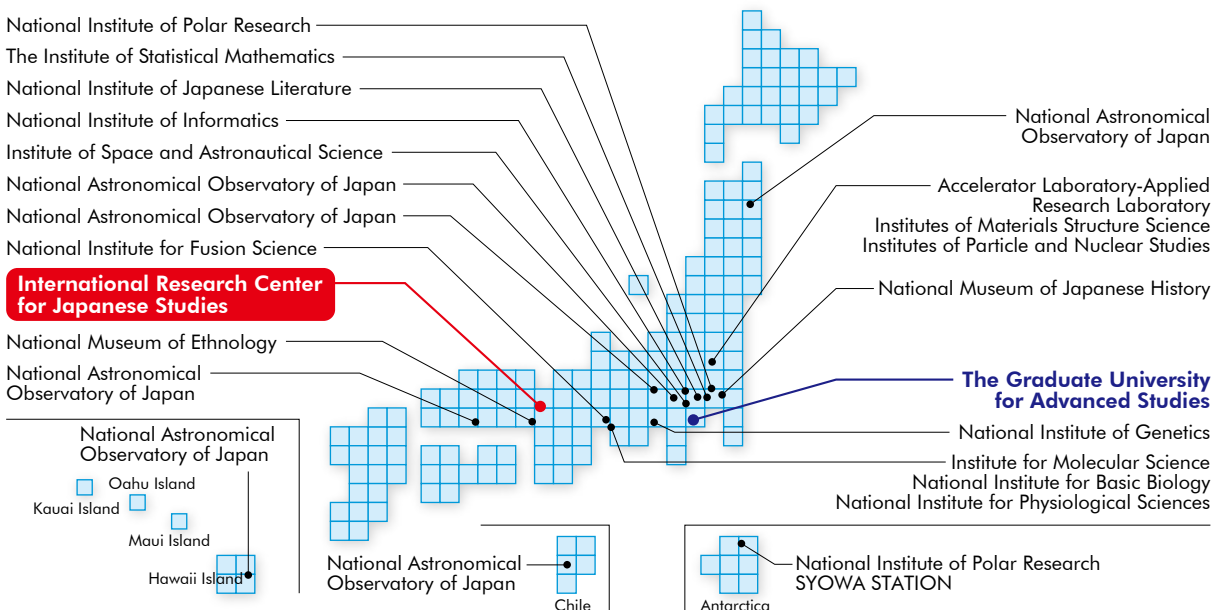


School of Advanced Sciences

Doctoral course 5 years
Doctoral course 3 years



Location of the Inter-University Research Institutes



Messages from the Director-General and Chair

Director-General of Nichibunken



Director-General
INOUE Shōichi

The International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) is the institutional home of the Department of Japanese Studies within the School of Cultural and Social Studies of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies (Sokendai). Nichibunken was established to further interdisciplinary research on Japanese culture from an international perspective and also to facilitate and promote research cooperation with overseas scholars. In addition to deepening the study of Japan in the humanities, social sciences, and related fields, Nichibunken also collects and makes available information and materials pertaining to Japanese studies.

Supported by the presence of distinguished senior scholars and a rich research environment, education and research on Japanese culture at Nichibunken aims to nurture young scholars—both from Japan and other countries—through its international and interdisciplinary graduate courses and research programs. The Department of Japanese Studies also seeks actively to admit promising young scholars from abroad as part of this endeavor.

In order to fulfill its mission of international and interdisciplinary study, Nichibunken is administratively organized under a single chair, allowing for a curriculum that makes possible multifaceted perspectives on Japanese studies and a uniquely flexible teaching and research organization. Nichibunken has also established an environment conducive to team research projects that include scholars from other institutions working in various fields. Postgraduate scholars who seek to continue their research at Nichibunken are encouraged to make full use of its well-endowed teaching and research environment to complete their doctoral degree.

Department of Japanese Studies



Chair
Frederik CRYNS

The Department of Japanese Studies offers a highly interdisciplinary research environment. This is reflected in the list of teaching staff. Each member of the faculty brings a different perspective to the study of Japanese culture. The faculty members are experts in their fields, but also have the ability to work across a variety of other research fields. Graduate students entering the department will be able to develop their research skills from a broad perspective under the guidance of not only their supervisor but also other faculty members. Moreover, through team research meetings, symposia, seminars, and research projects, students are exposed to the academic activities of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken), which is the parent institution of our department. In doing so, students will develop an interdisciplinary spirit and cultivate their abilities to expand the frontiers of Japanese studies.

Besides its interdisciplinary nature, Nichibunken's activities are also international in scope. Apart from organising and taking part in academic events abroad, every year we invite several leading international researchers to our Center. Interaction with these researchers enriches the research life of the graduate students and provides them with fresh ideas for their doctoral theses. Furthermore, there are opportunities for exchange with students from other departments of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies, such as the National Museum of Japanese History, the National Museum of Japanese Literature, and the National Museum of Ethnology.

In this international and interdisciplinary research environment, the mission of the department is to nurture future researchers who will be active in the academic world at home and abroad. We welcome students who aspire to conduct original research with a global perspective.

Department of Japanese Studies: Overview

Organization

The Department of Japanese Studies is organized as a single administrative unit in order to facilitate the international and interdisciplinary pursuit of Japanese studies encompassing the humanities, social sciences, as well as natural sciences. A special feature of our graduate study program is that all the faculty participate in teaching and research guidance.

The department requires graduate students to take three courses—"Theory and Methodology in Japanese Studies," "Interdisciplinary Research," and "Dissertation Writing Guidance"—which set forth the theoretical and methodological basis for conducting Japanese studies in global perspective. Through these courses and directed research, we hope to foster researchers with creative and highly specialized perspectives who are equipped to undertake comprehensive approaches of a broad interdisciplinary nature crossing the lines of multiple fields of study.

Purpose

The Department of Japanese Studies supports education and research on Japanese culture and civilization in international and interdisciplinary perspective through its diverse faculty and the rich resources of its research environment and aims to nurture researchers with an international and broadminded perspective.

● Courses offered in FY 2021

	Subject	Course Description	Teaching Staff
Required	Theory and Methodology in Japanese Studies	Lectures present the latest research themes, objectives, and methodologies of each member of the Nichibunken faculty and introduce the latest developments in Japanese studies. Participants engage in research to clarify the theoretical and methodological frameworks of Japanese studies.	All members of faculty
	Interdisciplinary Research	Practice through oral presentations and question-and-answer sessions to promote the writing of an interdisciplinary thesis, thereby offering specific encouragement to a candidate's writing of the doctoral thesis.	All members of faculty
	Dissertation Writing Guidance	Individually programmed lectures, seminars, and workshops necessary for writing the thesis. The programs are implemented with the support of faculty members working in relevant fields.	Academic supervisor and associated faculty members
Elective	Practical Training in Symposium Management	Participation in planning and organizing symposiums, seminars, team research projects, and the like, held at the Department's home institute (Nichibunken).	Academic supervisor and associated faculty members

Faculty Guidance

In addition to the main academic supervisor assigned to them, graduate students in the Department of Japanese Studies receive guidance from two sub-advisors. Students are also free to consult at any time with other faculty or with the visiting scholars. Graduate students may participate in team research projects organized by the faculty, receive training in basic area research, as well as take part in seminars and other symposiums held at Nichibunken bringing together scholars from both within and outside the institute. We hope this stimulating research environment will help students complete the work for their degrees.



Graduate Student Class

Student Support

Financial Aid

To defray expenses related to survey and research activities, travel expenses, conference registration fees, copying of documents, etc., support in the form of Graduate Student Project Stipends, the short-stay Study Abroad Program Grants, etc. are provided. Students may also submit requests for help in purchasing books and other materials necessary for research and writing the dissertation.

Scholarships

The following scholarships are offered to help privately financed international students:

- Monbukagakusho Honors Scholarship for Privately-Financed International Students
 - The International Foundation for Japanese Studies scholarships
- Japanese students can apply for Japanese Student Services Organization scholarships.



Use of the Nichibunken Library



Graduate Student Room

Timeline Leading to Conferral of the Degree



Message from a Student

An Invitation to the Department of Japanese Studies

JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientist (DC2) : YE XIAOYAO

Ever since choosing to major in Japanese studies as a postgraduate student, I have constantly been thinking about how I can define this academic discipline. Early on, I was bewildered to find that professors in Japanese studies, despite all belonging to the same department, specialized in completely different fields. Discussions in one single seminar would range from ethnology and art history to the history of cultural exchange. I found this slightly confusing yet appealing, so much so that I decided to pursue my PhD at the Sokendai Department of Japanese Studies, located at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken), which is a research institute devoted to global Japanese studies.

Like a busy international airport, Nichibunken has scholars from Japan and abroad coming and going all year round. I realized that Japanese studies and airports have the same appeal: they are both cross-sectional and transboundary in nature. People in academia need to adopt a perspective that transcends monocultural frameworks, rather than focusing on the particularities and idiosyncrasies of a single country, and value the context of interchange and even friction between different cultures. Scholars come to Nichibunken from around the world and share their “luggage”—that is, their knowledge and culture—and, in turn, acquire new knowledge and culture from others.

For the most part, graduate students of the Department are at the receiving end of that exchange of knowledge and culture. It is reassuring that the Nichibunken Library has a large collection and interlibrary loan service available and that graduate students can receive support from Sokendai’s eminent professors. Through opportunities such as team research projects, basic theory and methodology of Japanese studies, and other programs and courses, students interact with senior scholars and establish their stance toward their research. I hope to use my interdisciplinary research skills and knowledge to sow the seeds of what I learned at Sokendai in different parts of the world. This will hopefully lead to cultivating and spreading Japanese studies; a discipline that somehow sounds evocative of nationalism but is actually dedicated to multifaceted cultural and historical research.

Faculty Profiles

1) Specialized Fields; 2) Current Research Themes;

Frederik CRYNS (Chair) Professor

1) Interaction between the Western world and Japan
2) I have been working on the Dutch factory in Hirado, William Adams (Miura Anjin) and Hosokawa Gracia. I am also pursuing a joint research project on “The Formation and Development of Western Perceptions of Japan”.



ARAKI Hiroshi Professor

1) Japanese literature; 2) My research focuses on *Genji monogatari*, *Konjaku monogatari*, *Tsurezuregusa*, and other classics, and I am also interested in the culture of dreams. Currently, I am engaged in a team research project titled “Solid “Impermanence”/Fragile “Impermanence”: The Transmogrification of the Classics and Future Prospects” to consider new angles for exploring the international and contemporary possibilities of classic culture. The project explores the international and contemporary possibilities of classical culture.



ISODA Michifumi Professor

1) Japanese history; 2) I am studying reforms of the *bakuhau* system of the middle to late early-modern period. Following the Tōhoku Earthquake and Tsunami I began gathering historical material about previous earthquakes and tsunami in an effort to put the information to use in disaster prevention. Recently, in cooperation with local governments, I have begun to investigate old documents concerning the *shinobi* (*ninja*) of Iga and Kōga.



ISOMAE Jun'ichi Professor

1) Religious studies; critical theory; 2) I think we can observe something of the essence of humanity in the person who commits evil acts while believing he is doing good. Isn't it true that the concept of the divine as well as the phenomenon of bias (discrimination) arise out of such workings of the mind? This is the source of my fascination with the subject of religion.



ITŌ Takayuki Professor

1) History of Chinese thought; cultural interaction in East Asia; comparative culture; 2) My research focuses on the philosophical and intellectual history of China, placing it in the context of the East Asian culture sphere including Japan and Korea. In some cases, my consideration adds global viewpoints including that of the West or a comparative or international relations perspective.



KURAMOTO Kazuhiro Professor

1) History of ancient Japan; 2) I study the aspects and significance of the rise of the ancient Japanese state and compare them with the other states of the north-east Asian world. Also, through readings of the diaries and other old records written by members of the Heian aristocracy, I endeavor to clarify the true nature of the politics, culture, society, and the religion of the Heian aristocracy.



LIU Jianhui Professor

1) History of cultural connections between Japan and China; 2) I pursue the mutual cultural influences and interventions in the modern East Asian region as a whole (including those between Japan and China), transcending one-country views of history and reappraising the region as a cultural community that together experienced the impact of Western modernization.



MATSUDA Toshihiko (Deputy Director-General) Professor

1) History of Japanese and Korean relations; 2) I am currently studying medical care and sanitation policy in Korea under Japanese rule. Particularly through the activities of the famous bacteriologist Shiga Kiyoshi, famous for discovering the dysentery bacterium, I examine relations between Japanese doctors and Korean society as well as world changes in medical research centered on the United States and how those changes were related to the Japanese empire.



ŌTSUKA Eiji Professor

1) History of the arts of manga; Manga writing theory; Yanagita Kunio studies; 2) I analyze the interplay among modes of expression in manga and adjacent media from a media mix perspective, using the example of wartime propaganda in particular. I am also interested in reassessing manga writing theory as a form of media theory.



Markus RÜTTERMANN Professor

1) Japanese medieval social history (documents in correspondence-style); semiotics; history of mentalities; history of behaviour; 2) After research on village documents (particularly those handed down to us in Sugaonoura) and on the theory of knowledge with reference to the philologist Keichū, my work now focuses on etiquette in medieval and premodern Japan, human behaviour and mentalities, specifically letter-writing. Comparative thoughts on European history also lead me to questions concerning the relation between epistemology and semiotics in cultural studies and science (for example, ethology).



SEKINO Tatsuki Professor

1) Informatics; 2) I conduct research and development for visualization and analysis of information based on time. Results of this research are made available to the public in the form of the time information system HuTime, Web applications, and basic data for dealing with dates in the Japanese calendar.



TAKII Kazuhiro (Deputy Director-General) Professor

1) Constitutional history; comparative legal history; 2) I study the formation and development of the Meiji constitutional system from the standpoint of the history of intellectual society and international relations. By approaching the history of Japan's constitution from both internal and external perspectives rather than simply as a phenomenon of one country, I hope to generate research that will have currency at an international level.



TSUBOI Hideto
Professor



1) Modern Japanese literature and cultural history; 2) My research deals with the various migrations of people (including refugees) over the Pan Pacific area between Japan and East Asia on one side and North America on the other in the pre-World War II, wartime, and postwar eras, as well as the diverse movements in literature and the arts that arose in response to the resistance and oppression that accompanied the migrations.

USHIMURA Kei
Professor



1) Comparative literature and culture; intellectual history; 2) My current research interest is in exploring the history of Japanese sports in the Meiji era, in particular track and field athletics, from the viewpoint of civilization. This approach is based on the assumption that Japan's participation in the Stockholm Olympics of 1912 provided it with an opportunity to rank alongside the "first-class" (civilized) countries of the world.

YAMADA Shōji
Professor



1) Informatics; history of cultural exchange; 2) I am engaged in the study of changes in the copyright law and their impact on culture, of the changes that occur in such traditions as Zen or popular culture when they are transmitted overseas and of the responses to them on the Japanese side, and of Digital Humanities, and other topics.

YASUI Manami
Professor



1) Japanese folklore; cultural anthropology; 2) I continue to conduct fieldwork in Japan and Micronesia in order to shed light on folk customs and human interactions as they relate to changes in practices revolving around such issues as pregnancy, childbirth, and medical care. I am also engaged in exploring how people have imagined the body and expressed it symbolically in iconography, from a perspective in which such fields as folk belief, medicine, and art overlap.

ENOMOTO Wataru
Associate Professor



1) Medieval history of international exchange; 2) My research focuses on relations between Japan and other countries from the ninth through fourteenth centuries. While Japan's interest in diplomacy was low in this period, private or unofficial relations with other countries were even more active than before or after that time. As manifestations of that activity, I take up mainly merchants engaged in overseas trade and priests who went to China to study.

KUSUNOKI Ayako
Associate Professor



1) Japanese political and diplomatic history; security studies; 2) The foundations of the security relationship between Japan and the United States were shaped in the 1950s. By examining the process in which both countries reached agreement on the provision of military bases and their management along with Japan's rearmament, my research will portray postwar times in the 1950s.

Professor ŌTSUKA, Professor KURAMOTO will retire from the Center in March 2024.

Degrees Awarded

● Degree for the Japanese Studies Course

Those who have completed the requirements for the degree in Japanese Studies will be awarded a doctoral degree.

● Number of Doctoral Degrees Awarded, by Year

Fiscal Year	1994 ~2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Coursework Doctorates	17	2	4	6	0	0	3	1	3	1	2	3	2	3	2	1	4	3	2	3	62
Thesis Doctorates	10	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	1	0	0	3	1	1	1	28
Total	27	2	4	7	1	1	3	1	3	1	3	6	6	4	2	1	7	4	3	4	90

● Past Recipients of the Doctoral Degree

Coursework Doctorates

Year of Admission	Name	Title of Thesis	Date of Award
1992	AOKI Jun	Characteristics of Medieval <i>Kesshu</i> Shown in Offerings Contained in Buddhist Images: General Study of <i>Kechien-kyomyo</i> Including Those Made by Kaikei	March 23, 1995
	WOO Jong Tae	Symbolization of Personality Integration Shown in <i>Iru-i-kontan</i> : Japan and Korea	March 21, 1996
1993	QIAN Guohong	Formation of the Image of the World: Tokugawa Japan and China	March 21, 1996
	KOBAYASHI Hiroyuki	Thought in Food: Andō Shōeki	September 30, 1996
1994	TSUDA Junko	Tradition and Transformation of <i>Kamiuta</i> : The Case of Karimata Village, Miyakojima, Okinawa	March 24, 1997
	ONAHA Maria Cecilia	History of Japanese Immigrants to Argentina: Free Immigration and the Formation of a Community of Japanese Descent	March 24, 1997
	TADA Iori	The Case of the <i>Nihon Ryoiki</i>	March 24, 1997
	KAMOTO Itsuko	Historical and Social Study of International Marriage between 1636 and 1899	September 30, 1997
1995	SUZUKI Noriko	Modern Society in Japan and Illness: Development of Medicine for Leprosy Patients	September 30, 1997
	KATŌ Yoshirō	Religious Commentaries on the Taima Mandara and Jodo Sect in the Middle Ages	March 24, 1999
	DOI Hiroshi	A Genealogy of <i>Muen-bochi</i> Cemeteries	March 24, 1999
1996	BART Gaens	The Organization of Merchant Houses in Tokugawa Japan: A Comparison with the Low Countries	March 24, 1999
	SHIN Chang-Ho	Religion and Politics in the Formation of Korean Nationalism: Analysis of Togaku, Pro-Japan Buddhism, and Protestantism	March 24, 2000
1997	ONABE Tomoko	Quest for Complete Transparency: Study of “Shaho-Shinjutsu” by Endo Takanori	September 28, 2001
	HIRAI Shōko	Historical Sociology of Home and Life Course: Historical Demographic Analysis of Agricultural Communities in the Tohoku Region in Japan’s Modern Ages	March 22, 2002
1998	ZHAN Xiaomei	Ideological and Artistic View of Tomioka Tessai’s Painting Style: Study of Approbation Comments (<i>San-bun</i>) on Paintings by Tessai	March 23, 2001
	TAKENOUCHI Emiko	Study of Instrument Players (<i>Gaku-shi</i>) in Kabuki Performance: Kamigata (Kansai district) Kabuki in Japan’s Modern Age	September 30, 2004
1999	TANG Quan	Romance Across the Sea: Personnel Exchange between China and Japan from 1684 to 1894	March 22, 2002
	OGAWA Naoko	“ <i>Tate</i> (Swordfights)” in Samurai Movies	March 24, 2004
	MATSUMURA Kaoruko	Study of <i>Funzō-e</i> : The Case of the Fukuda Kai	March 24, 2004
2000	KATAHIRA Miyuki	Japanese Gardens Conflict between the Formation of Images and Interpretation: Western Notions and Responses from Japan (1868-1940)	September 30, 2004
	MORIMOTO Kazuhiko	Historical Development of the “Family” Seen in Han-Danka: Quantitative Analysis of the <i>Shumon-Aratame-Cho</i>	March 24, 2003
2001	ITŌ Naoko	Development of Molded Images and <i>Hōgu</i> in the Religious History of Indonesia: A Comparison with Japan	September 30, 2004
	NAGAMATSU Atsushi	Study of the Beginning and Transition of Hunting in Japan from the Viewpoint of History and Folklore	March 24, 2003
2002	ULKER Bahadır Bogac	The Development of Statements on Science and Technology in the History and Transformation of the National Identity: Overview during the Two World Wars and the Following Period	September 30, 2003
	NASU Hiroo	Napoleonic Wars and International System: With Special Reference to the Ottoman Empire and Japan	March 24, 2005
	IWAI Shigeki	The Origin and Spread of Agriculture in China and Japan: Archaeo-botanical Study of Chengtoushan Site, Hunan, China	March 24, 2004
	NAKATANI Masakazu	Love Poems (<i>Renka</i>) and Related Issues in Japanese Poetry (<i>Kado</i>) and Tea Ceremony (<i>Sado</i>): Historical Development and Social Background	September 30, 2004
2003	MUTŌ Shutarō	Cooking Techniques in Prehistoric East Asia Seen in Material Culture: Cases in the Coastal Region of China and Japan in the Early Agricultural Period	March 24, 2005
	LI Wei	The Social Sciences in Modern Japan: Reconsidering East Asia	March 19, 2008
	HORI Madoka	The Use of Space in Edo-Period Daimyo Gardens: A Focus on “View” (<i>Chōbō</i>)	March 19, 2008
2004	TOYA Riina	Yone Noguchi: His Life and Work as a Writer of Dual Nationality	September 30, 2009
	SAKAI Junichirō	“Tokyo Ginza Shiseido”: Fukuhara Shinzō and the Construction of Corporate Image	September 30, 2010
2005	SAKAI Junichirō	Educational and Cultural Interchange of Qing’s International Students in Japan: Contribution of <i>Kōbun Gakuin</i>	March 19, 2008
	SAWADA Harumi	Traditional Theatre and Chikamatsu Monzaemon in Modern Japanese Culture: Academicism/Theatre Criticism/Actor’s Body	March 24, 2009
2006	NAKANO Yōhei	The Study of Shinano Miko: The Formation and Transformation of Popular Religious Specialist Groups in the Edo Period	March 24, 2010
	YOKOYAMA Teruki	The Edo Shogunate’s Policy of Encouraging <i>Bugei</i> (Martial Arts): Tokugawa Yoshimune’s Epochal Idea	March 22, 2013
2007	MEI Ding	Changes in Guding’s Thought in Manchukuo as Seen in His Translations, Works, and Publishing Activities	March 24, 2010
	KOYAMA Shuko	Taishō Shin Hanga: Birth of the Art of Modern Japanese Woodblock Print, its Structure and Development, Focusing on the Role of the Publisher	March 20, 2014
2008	NAGATO Yōhei	The Aesthetics of Sound and Image in the Films of Mizoguchi Kenji: The Audio-Visual Analysis of Narrative Structure	March 23, 2012
	SUZUKI Kenkō	<i>Shunga</i> Iconology in the Edo Period: Studies of the Background Art of Erotic Images	September 28, 2012

Degrees Awarded

2008	CHEN Ling Hong	Japan-China Theater Exchange in the Modern Age: The Impact of <i>Shinpa on Wenming-xi</i>	March 23, 2012
	TOKUNAGA Seiko	A Study of the <i>Yūzū Nembutsu Engi</i> : Religious Belief as Seen in Medieval Illustrated Tales	March 22, 2013
	OKAMOTO Kikuko	Memorial Tree-Planting in Modern Japan: Examining Honda Seiroku's Thoughts and Achievements in Forestry	March 20, 2014
2010	URUSHIZAKI Mari	Textual Approaches to Edo Nagauta Music	September 29, 2014
	HAN Lingling	The Literary Activities of Kitamura Kenjiro in Manchuria	March 24, 2015
2011	Anton Luis Capistrano SEVILLA	Exporting the Ethics of Emptiness: Applications, Limitations, and Possibilities of Watsuji Tetsurō's Ethical System	March 24, 2015
	CHIEN Chung-Hao	"Barbarian"; The understanding of Taiwanese aborigines in Modern Japan from the Writers' point of view.	March 24, 2016
2012	RONG Yuan	Activities Organized by Newspaper Companies in the Concession City of Dalian: Focusing on the <i>Manshu Nichinichishimbun</i>	March 24, 2017
	NISHIDA Shoichi	Kokutai Theorist KAKEHI Katsuhiko: His Thought and Action	September 28, 2017
2013	MITSUHIRA Yuki	Music Therapy and its Ideological Foundation in the Edo and Meiji Periods: A Study of the Reception of the Healing Qualities of Music in Chinese Nourishing Life Doctrines and western Music Therapy.	March 24, 2016
	USAMI Tomoyuki	The Society of the Northern Kyushu Region in the Yayoi Period as Seen from the Development and Changes of Settlements	March 23, 2018
	KOIZUMI Tomonori	The History of Childhood Sexuality in Early Modern and Modern Japan	March 23, 2018
	YAMAMURA Shou	A Genealogy of Understanding Yang-Ming Learning in Modern Japan	March 23, 2018
2014	SAKA Chihiro	From Old Hag in Hell to Guide to the Pure Land: An Examination of the Representation of Datsueba in Literature and Visual Imagery Together with Rituals and Worship Practices	March 22, 2019
	Gouranga Charan PRADHAN	Reception of <i>Hōjōki</i> in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century England and America: With a focus on Natsume Sōseki's English Translation of the Work	March 22, 2019
	KIMISHIMA Ayako	A Study of Kannon Statuary and Faith in Prayers for Peace	March 22, 2019
	SHUNTŌ Ken'ichi	The Humane Treatment of Animals in Postwar Japan: Social Movements for the Humane Treatment (of Dogs and Cats) and the Administration and Management of Animal Protection, 1947-2000	September 27, 2019
	ŌISHI Masumi	Japanese TV Commercials in the 1970s and 1980s: A Perspective Based on the Structure and Ordering of Image Components	September 28, 2020
2015	KATAOKA Mai	Between <i>Shōsetsu</i> and the 'Novel': With a Focus on the English Translation and the Publishing Process of Modern Japanese Novels in Post-war Japan	September 27, 2019
	TAMURA Miyuki	Disability and Gender in Modern Japanese Literature: Body, Sex, Writing	March 24, 2021
2016	SONG QI	Shinto, Confucianism and Buddhism or "Three Teachings Thought" in the Late Edo Period: An Analysis of Form and Structure	March 24, 2021

Total = 62

Thesis Doctorates

Name	Title of Thesis	Date of Award
WANG Yong	Prince Shotoku (Shōtoku Taishi) and Chinese Culture: Theory of the Reincarnation of Eshi That Changed History	September 30, 1996
SHIVANI Nandi	Socio-Technological Issues of Technology Transfer: A Specific Case Study of the Maruti-Suzuki Collaboration	March 24, 1997
MANOJ L. Shrestha	Multinational Businesses and Technology Transfer: Business Strategy of Post Echelon Structure	March 24, 1997
SUZUKI Sadami	Study of Kajii Motojirō	March 24, 1997
ITŌ Kenji	Japanese Business Management in East Asia: Globalization of Management and Transfer of "Japanese Corporate Management"	March 24, 1998
KITAGAWA Katsuhiko	Japan: Study of Trading Relations with South Africa	March 24, 1999
KOGUCHI Yasuo	Omi Imperial Court and Emissaries (Torai-jin) from Abroad: Kudara-Kishitsu-shi and Related People	March 24, 1999
TAKADA Yasutaka	Study of Life Culture and Change of Social Situations: Japan's High Economic Growth in the 20th Century	March 24, 1999
HAMAGUCHI Eshun	Principles of Japanology: Japanese People and Society as "Relatum"	September 30, 1999
HANIHARA CHOW Misuzu	Japanese Literacy in Australia: A Changing Demand over Eighty Years	September 28, 2001
KITAGAWA Junko	The Nature and Development of Chestnut (<i>Castanea Crenata</i>) and Horse Chestnut (<i>Aesculus Turbinata</i>) Culture in Japan	September 30, 2004
OKAMURA Keiji	History of Japan Manchukuo Culture Association: From Foundation to Dissolution	March 24, 2006
KAGAWA Masanobu	Studies of Changing Japanese Perception of <i>Yokai</i> : "Yōkai Goraku" from the Late Kinsei Period	September 29, 2006
YAMAGUCHI Hiroshi	An Archaeological Study of the Landscapes of Ancient Society: Digital Documentation of Historic Sites and Landscape Analysis	September 30, 2011
JIANG Yingyan	Changes in the Social Status of Tokugawa Shogunal Retainers: With Special Reference to the Trade in <i>Gokenin-kabu</i>	September 28, 2012
SHIBATA Yoriko	Paul-Louis Couchoud and Japan: His Life and the Reception of Haiku in France	March 22, 2013
NOROTA Jun'ichi	Aesthetics and Public Art Policy in the Late Tokugawa Period and the Meiji Era	March 22, 2013
AONO Masaaki	The Logic of State Shinto Established in Colonial Korea: The Shrine Policy of the Japanese Government-General of Korea in the 1930s	March 20, 2014
NEGAWA Sachio	Historical Studies about the Education of Children of Japanese Descent in Brazil during and before the World War II Period	March 20, 2014
KIM Byeongjin	The Revolutionary Syndicalist Ōsugi Sakae: His Ideas on Revolution Based on the concept of "Sei no sōzō" [Creation of Life]	March 20, 2014
Svetlana KORNEEVA	A Historico-Sociological Study of Actions to Contain Quarrels and Altercations during the Early Edo Period: Cases in the Morioka and Kaga Domains	March 20, 2014
ISHIKAWA Hajime	A Study of Funahashi Seiichi: Reappraising the "Literature of Resistance"	March 24, 2015
KADOWAKI Tomohiro	A Study of the Transmission and Enforcement of the Shogunate's National Laws in the First Half of the Early Modern Period	September 28, 2017
NAGAO Yoko	The Cultural Topography of "A Singing Town": Modernity and the Formation of Owara Kaze-no-bon	March 23, 2018
LARKING Matthew	The Pan Real Art Association as an Early Postwar Avant-Garde of Nihonga	March 23, 2018
ISHIKAWA Takumi	Research on Rare Magazines and Publishing Culture during and after the War	September 28, 2018
MATSUMIYA Takayuki	Practical Utility in Ruling the Realm and Calligraphy in Modern China: With Special Reference to Guomoruo	March 24, 2020
SHINOSAKI Atsushi	Research on International Relations and Diplomacy in Heian Japan: The Historical Significance of Intercourse with East Asia from Ancient Times to the Medieval Transition	March 24, 2021

Total = 28

Admissions Data and Postgraduate Career Tracking

● Admissions to the School of Cultural and Social Studies

Admissions in FY 2021

School	Department	Number Admitted	Selection		Admitted Students	Background			
			Applicants	Successful Applicants		Sex		International Students	Jobholders
						Male	Female		
Cultural and Social Studies	Regional Studies	3	4	2	2	2	0	1	1
	Comparative Studies	3	2	2	0	0	2	0	1
	Japanese Studies	3	8	2	2	1	1	1	0
	Japanese History	3	5	4	4	2	2	0	2
	Japanese Literature	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
	Subtotal	15	20	11	11	5	6	2	4

● Number of Students in the Department of Japanese Studies, by Nationality (As of April 1, 2021)

	Japan	China	Total
1st yr.	1	1	2
2nd yr.	2	1	3
3rd yr.	8	7	15
Total	11	9	20

● Department of Japanese Studies Graduates Places of Employment

Akita University	Kyoto Bunkyo University	Iris Co., Ltd.
Tokyo Institute of Technology	Shuchiin University	East China Normal University
Kyoto University	Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts	Teikyo University
Nara Women's University	Northeast Normal University	Kyushu University
Hiroshima University	Hakuho Women's College	Osaka University
Kochi Women's University	International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken)	Osaka City University
Miyazaki Municipal University	National Museum of Japanese History	Jiangsu University of Technology
Institute of Technologists	Japan Society for Promotion of Science	National Pingtung University
Otsu Women's University	Chulalongkorn University	Beijing Language and Culture University
Chubu University	Padjadaran University	Aichi Shukutoku University
Kyoto Women's University		and other organizations
Kyoto Seika University		

Message from an Alumnus

TAMURA Miyuki (Degree awarded in March 2021)

I entered the Department of Japanese Studies in April 2015 and received my doctoral degree in March 2021. The Department offers an environment and facilities for students to wholly devote themselves to their research, with a notable advantage of free access to the abundant research resources of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken), the Department's parent institution. To broaden their knowledge and interests, students can not only use Nichibunken's library and databases but also participate in seminars, team research projects, symposiums, and other scholarly events held at Nichibunken while learning from leading scholars in various fields. The research environment is very supportive, covering travel and participation expenses when graduate students give presentations at academic conferences or visit distant institutions to access documents or other materials. Using this support system, I participated in several academic conferences both in Japan and abroad. I was grateful that the Department had a framework that allowed students to actively engage in research activities regardless of their financial situation, and this experience inspired me to work harder.

The Department has many international students and is home to people of diverse backgrounds. Their research themes vary widely, so the atmosphere at the Department might differ from the doctoral programs of other universities, which are typically structured on a disciplinary basis. The interchange with colleagues in other disciplines can be inspiring, prompting us to come up with new ideas or recognize potentially overlooked issues. The Department provides students many opportunities for developing an interdisciplinary mindset, and this is one of its aspects of special appeal.

How to use this rich research environment is entirely up to each student. Depending on how we use our time, the time spent here can far exceed expectations. I managed to complete my dissertation with guidance from professors and support from many people. My academic pursuits from now on are sure to build on the experience I gained here.



Conferral of Degree, 2020

Admission

*For detailed information, see the Application Guidelines for the current fiscal year.

● Number Admitted

The Department of Japanese Studies admits up to 3 graduate students each year.

● Qualifications

Those who hold a master's degree or who expect to acquire a master's degree by March 2022. Those who are recognized by the Department as having the level of academic ability equal to or higher than that of a person holding a master's degree are also eligible.

● Screening

Screening consists of two stages: first, screening of the documents submitted by the applicant, including the master's degree thesis, and second, screening on the basis of an interview.

Note: Those applicants who have passed the first stage will be notified of the date and time of an interview for the second stage.

● Application Acceptance Period

Applications are accepted between November 25 (Thursday) and December 1 (Wednesday), 2021

● Second-Stage Screening (Interview): Date and Place

Date: January 24 (Monday), 2022. Emergency back-up date: January 25 (Tuesday), 2022.

Place: Conducted online.

● Requesting Application Guidelines

Requesting Application Guidelines by post from within Japan

Prepare a self-addressed and stamped (¥400) A4-size envelope (33.2 cm long, 24 cm wide;) to receive the Application Guidelines. Send your request with the prepared envelope to the following address:

Research Support Unit, Research Cooperation Section, International Research Center for Japanese Studies

3-2 Oeyama-cho, Goryo, Nishikyo-ku, Kyoto 610-1192 Japan Tel: +81-75-335-2052

Requesting Application Guidelines by e-mail:

Please send an e-mail to **the Student Section of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies** at the following address
E-mail address: gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp

Include the following five items of information in your message.

1. Postal code
2. Home address
3. Name
4. Telephone (or mobile phone) number
5. Your request for the Application Guidelines for the School of Cultural and Social Studies

*In order to receive our reply, please use your internet e-mail address and not your mobile phone's e-mail address.

*If you do not receive our reply within 3 weekdays, please contact us again.

Department of Japanese Studies Admission Policy

● Department's basic policy

The Department of Japanese Studies carries out education and instruction in Japanese studies, placing importance on originality, on empirical rigor, and on interdisciplinary and wide-ranging knowledge of related fields. In this way, the department aims to nurture researchers with diverse perspectives and world class abilities who can lead the next generation of researchers of Japanese studies.

● Student profile

The Department seeks students who have a keen interest in interdisciplinary research on Japan, based on broad perspectives, and who can go on to develop their research as independent scholars, thus contributing to the internationalization of Japanese studies.

● Basic approach to selecting applicants

In the first-stage of the screening process (document evaluation), the Department reviews the applicant's submitted MA thesis and other relevant academic papers, and then forms an overall assessment of the applicant's research proposal, and other application particulars. The MA thesis and other academic papers are evaluated in terms of composition, originality, development, and logical and empirical rigor. The desired research is evaluated in terms of originality, and the validity of the plan and their future prospects. (If applicants submit additional published papers, these will be evaluated together with the MA thesis.)

The second-stage of the screening (interview evaluation) consists of an oral examination, which focuses on the applicant's research outcomes to date, their proposed research theme as well as the applicant's presentation skills, communication skills and their future prospects. An overall assessment is then made based on the results of the first and second stage of screening.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 Is there any system for waiver of tuition fees?

There is a system for waiving tuition for students citing economic difficulties and whose academic work is deemed of a high standard. Applications for tuition waivers are offered once each semester each year and are decided on the basis of a fixed screening process.

Q2 Does the Department have a research assistant system?

The Department does employ research assistants, chosen from among current graduate students, to perform support tasks relating to research and teaching, and a system is in place for allowing RAs to perform duties beneficial to their own research in the Department. A salary is paid for the services performed as a form of financial assistance.

Q3 Where is the Department located? At Hayama? Or Kyoto?

The headquarters of the Department of Japanese Studies and the base for research guidance and dissertation writing is on the premises of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies, located in Kyoto. Some functions for all students of Sokendai, such as the entrance and degree-awarding ceremonies, are held at the Hayama campus, headquarters of Sokendai.

Q4 Is it necessary to choose an academic supervisor before applying for admission?

Yes, it is necessary to choose an academic supervisor and to consult with the supervisor about the contents of your research before applying for admission. The department administrative staff does not suggest faculty advisors, so applicants should check the faculty profiles provided in the Department brochure and at the Department website in making their choice.

Q5 Does the Department grant degrees to students residing elsewhere?

Currently many of our students are working toward their degrees while living in areas distant from the Department headquarters. It is necessary, however, to be attend in person the lecture class part of the requirements for the degree.

Q6 Is it possible to enroll in October?

The Department of Japanese studies no longer offers October enrollment.

Q7 Is it possible to apply to another department in the School of Cultural and Social Studies at the same time?

No. Dual application is permitted for study if it is in other schools at Sokendai.

Q8 Does the Department have Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (DC1, 2) fellowships (for doctoral course 1 and 2)?

As of FY 2021, the Department has 2 doctoral course fellowship students (One awarded a grant in 2019 and another in 2020).



Entrance Ceremony



Graduate Student Class

Research Activities at Nichibunken

The International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) was established on May 21, 1987 as an inter-university research institute incorporated under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Its purpose is to promote the comprehensive, international, and interdisciplinary study of Japanese culture and provide cooperation and support for the work of Japanese Studies specialists around the world. From April 2004, Nichibunken became a member of the National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU, headquartered in Tokyo). The three main pillars of Nichibunken activities are: Research (individual, basic, and team [joint] research), research cooperation, and outreach. Of these activities, those closely related to the graduate students in the Department of Japanese Studies are introduced below:

● Team Research

The pursuit of research on Japanese culture calls for the steady accumulation of the results of study in separate specialized fields related to Japan. It also calls for a place where scholars can transcend the framework of their separate disciplines and expand their insight and knowledge through exchange and collaboration. Such opportunities for team research can play a major role in promoting understanding of Japanese culture as a whole.

Exchange between researchers from Japan and those from other intellectual traditions is also considered an essential part of team research at Nichibunken. Furthermore, as we enter an era of expanding internationalization, such interaction helps the field of Japanese studies to better respond to the needs of the times.

The team research carried out at the Center is not limited to exchange of research findings. The essence of what the Center is trying to achieve is fostering of creative energy generated through the cooperative research of scholars from diverse intellectual traditions.

◆ Eighteen team research projects were organized in FY2021.

Research Categories	Title of project	Organizer
Priority	A Theory of Culture during the Ōei and Eikyō periods: Between Popular Views of History on “Kitayama Culture” and “Higashiyama Culture”	ŌHASHI Naoyoshi ENOMOTO Wataru
	Reconstructing Modern East Asian Cultural History I: Focusing on the 19th Century	LIU Jianhui
	Sports as Civilization, Sports as Culture	USHIMURA Kei
	Reconsidering the Early-Modern in the History of East Asia: In Search of a New Global History	ITŌ Takayuki
	Imaging Japan in International Cultural Transmissions: An Interdisciplinary Study of Yanagisawa Ken (Takeshi)	SHIBASAKI Atsushi KUSUNOKI Ayako
International	Imagining and Developing Images of the Body in Medicine, Art, and Folk Religion	YASUI Manami Lawrence MARCEAU
	The Japanese Colonial Empire and the Global Linkage of Knowledge	MATSUDA Toshihiko
	Avidya on a Spider’s Web: Toward the Future of the Somatic Experience under the Ecology of Social Network System	INAGA Shigemi
	Studying Nichibunken’s Collection of Inoue Tetsujiro’s Correspondence: The Rise and Fall of the Nation-State	ISOMAE Jun’ichi KARITA Shinji
	Solid “Impermanence”/Fragile “Impermanence”: The Transmogrification of the Classics and Future Prospects	ARAKI Hiroshi
	Japanese Subcultures and Diversity: The Contribution of International Japanese Studies’s Research Methods and Pedagogies to a Global Multicultural Society	ERNEST dit Alban Edmond
Foundational	Formation and Changes of Correspondence-Texts as Seen in the Principle of ‘As If’ -Transpositions: The Term <i>Monjo</i> , Its Styles, Signs, Representations, and Intentions	Markus RÜTTERMANN
	Cultural Creativity in a Shrinking Society: Individuals, Networks, Capital, and Systems	YAMADA Shōji TSUBOI Hideto UNODA Shōya
	The Scars of Post-war Japan	TAKII Kazuhiro KURAMOTO Kazuhiro
	Japanese Style Education - from the Perspective of the History of Civilizations	Frederik CRYNS
	What are Aristocrats, and What are Samurai?	ITŌ KEN Isoda Michifumi
	The Formation and Development of Western Perceptions of Japan	
	Reconstructing Honzōgaku as an East Asian Multidisciplinary Science: New Developments in Empirical Research on the Fusion of Arts and Sciences	

Research Activities at Nichibunken

● Theory and Methodology Seminars

◆ Seminars based on the following eleven basic research themes are being held in FY2021.

Title	Organizer
Perusing English Monographs on Japanese History	USHIMURA Kei
Reading Medieval Japanese Literature	ARAKI Hiroshi
Practical Korean Language (Elementary, Intermediate)	MATSUDA Toshihiko
Fundamental Research of Old Diaries	KURAMOTO Kazuhiro
French Language (Beginners)	MATSUGI Hiromi

Title	Organizer
French Language (Intermediate)	MATSUGI Hiromi
Introduction to Theory of Literature and Culture	TSUBOI Hideto
Study in Modern Historical Documents	TAKII Kazuhiro
An Introduction to Chinese Classics	ITŌ Takayuki
Introduction to the History of Modern Religious Thoughts	ISOMAE Jun'ichi
Reading Documents and Studies of Japanese Political and Diplomatic History	KUSUNOKI Ayako

● Research Cooperation

The regular research-related events held at Nichibunken shown below are provided to facilitate exchange among scholars of Japanese studies from all over the world. Graduate and international students are also welcome.

● Nichibunken Forums

Nichibunken Forums, which are held monthly, serve as a venue for presentations and discussion by researchers visiting from other countries. Limited to topics related to Japan and completed in a single session, these events are open to the public.

● Nichibunken Thursday Seminars

These seminars are held every third Thursday of the month to facilitate exchange among researchers.

● Nichibunken Evening Seminars

These seminars provide occasions for researchers from overseas to present their research and engage in discussion with other researchers from within and outside the center. The seminars are held in English.

Nichibunken holds other lectures and symposiums at irregular intervals.

● International Research Symposiums and Other Programs

With mounting interest in Japanese culture and society among the countries of the world, the issues of scholarly inquiry and research methods have grown increasingly diversified. To deal with these developments, Nichibunken has since 1988 held international research symposiums mainly on the themes of team research projects undertaken at Nichibunken, thereby providing an international forum for debate to propel the further development of Japanese studies. Nichibunken also organizes several types of international symposiums overseas as part of research activities and collaborative research programs outside Japan. Through various support programs the graduate students at the Department of Japanese Studies are encouraged to participate in these international meetings.



International Research Symposium



Presentation by a Graduate Student



Books and Resource Materials

● Library

The Nichibunken Library, opened in April 1991 offers a variety of information services and a wide-ranging collection of books, reference materials and documents—some 500,000 in all—vital to the field of Japanese studies and available for use by all qualified researchers. The library is open-stack and users have unlimited access.

Including Library Annex I, Library Annex II and the newly opened Annex III (2014), the library has a total capacity for approximately 600,000 volumes housed in both fixed and electronically controlled compact shelving. The library also has a rare book room, map room, microfilm room, four study rooms for individual researchers, and two for groups.

Research Material Collection Principles

Books and materials related to Japanese studies written in languages other than Japanese

We are trying to acquire as many of these materials as possible. In 1998, to mark the tenth anniversary of the foundation, we compiled a detailed catalogue of all the foreign books and materials edited before 1900 in the Nichibunken collection and published it in four volumes.

Books and materials considered basic for any research on Japan

We acquire basic materials published both in and outside of Japan. Among our holdings are the “Microfilm collection of books and materials.”

Catalogues and indexes of literature related to Japanese studies

We seek to keep up-to-date catalogues and indexes of literature related to studies on Japan, as referring to them is the first step towards gathering the necessary information in scientific research.

Audio-visual materials

The library also holds colored photographs and glass negatives of works from the late Edo and Meiji periods, old maps, DVDs of Japanese movies, and other audio-visual materials.

Usage of Library Materials

The Nichibunken Library is open to unlimited use by all Nichibunken staff and students, with some restrictions for rare books and some other items. Researchers outside Nichibunken may obtain access for scholarly research purposes by applying in advance. The database recording Nichibunken’s library holdings may be accessed via the Internet. Documents in the collection may be photocopied or obtained on loan through other libraries and institutions through the NACSIS-ILL (interlibrary loan) system.

Library staff are on duty between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. The Library is open to Nichibunken staff and students between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

● List of Nichibunken Databases

Catalogue of the Research Center for the History of Sino-Japanese Relations	Illustrations of Historic Places in Kyoto	Overseas Images of Japan
Early Photographs	Illustrations of Strange Phenomena and <i>Yōkai</i> (Ghosts, Monsters, Spirits)	Pre-1900 Western-language Publications Related to Japan
Enpon (Ukiyo-e Shunga)	Japanese Art Overseas	Rare Books and Maps on Japan in European Languages
Folktales of Strange Phenomena and <i>Yōkai</i> (Ghosts, Monsters, Spirits)	<i>Kojiruien</i> Page Search System	Renga
Haikai	Kyoto Festivals and Customs	Sōda Archives: Pictorial and Miscellaneous Materials
<i>Heian Jinbutsu Shi</i> (Who’s Who in Old Kyoto)	Letters Addressed to Inoue Tetsujirō	Waka
Heian-Period Chronicles (Old Diaries, Historical Documents)	Nichibunken Map Collection	etc.
	Noma Archives (Rare European Medical Books)	

<https://db.nichibun.ac.jp/en/>



Access

From Hankyu Railway Katsura Station (West Exit)

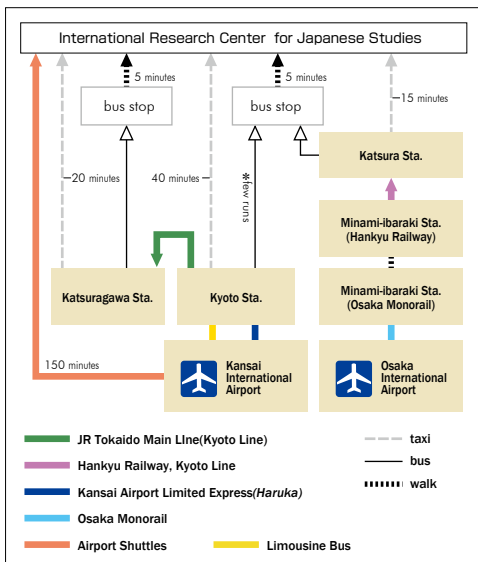
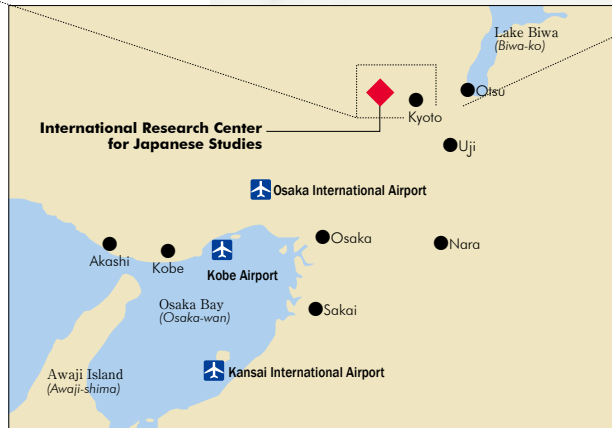
By Bus: Take the Keihan Kyoto Kotsu Bus “#20” or “#20B” bound for “Katsurazaka Chuo” and get off at “Hananomai-koen-mae” bus stop (20 min.). Nichibunken is a five-minute walk from the bus stop. Take the Kyoto City Bus “Nishi#5” or “Nishi#6” bound for “Katsurazaka Chuo” and get off at “Katsurazaka Shogakko-mae” bus stop (30 min.). Nichibunken is a five-minute walk from the bus stop.
By Taxi: 15-minute ride from Katsura Station West exit (approximately 1,500 yen).
Getting to Katsura Station from Kyoto Station (25 min.)
From Kyoto Station, take the Subway (Karasuma Line) north to Shijo Station (5 min.) and transfer to the Hankyu Railway. Take an Umeda (Osaka)-bound train to Katsura Station (10 min.).

From JR Kyoto Station (Karasuma Chuo Exit)

By Bus: Take a Keihan Kyoto Kotsu Bus “#21”, “#21A” or “#26” bound for “Katsurazaka Chuo.” Get off at “Katsurazaka Shogakko-mae” bus stop or “Hananomai Koen-mae” bus stop (45 min.). Nichibunken is a five-minute walk from the bus stop.
By Taxi: 40-minute ride from Kyoto Station (approximately 3,500 yen).

From JR Katsuragawa Station

By Bus: Take the Yasaka Bus “#1” or “#6” bound for “Katsurazaka Chuo.” Get off at “Katsurazaka Shogakko-mae” bus stop or “Hananomai Koen-mae” bus stop (30 min.). Nichibunken is a five-minute walk from the bus stop.
By Taxi: 20-minute ride from JR Katsuragawa Station (approximately 2,000 yen).
Getting to JR Katsuragawa Station from Kyoto Station (10 min.)
From Kyoto Station, take an Osaka-bound local train to Katsuragawa Station. From JR Osaka, take a Kyoto-bound local train to Katsuragawa Station.



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