



New ESRC projects on China and Japan

Two School of East Asian Studies professors were recently awarded grants by the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) for new research projects on China and Japan.

Tim Wright, Professor of Chinese Studies, is researching a project entitled *The Impact of the Great Depression on Manchuria*. Since commencing the project in November last year, he has undertaken archival and library research in northeast China, Beijing, Nanjing, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan.

“The project is part of my research for a book on the impact of the 1930s world depression on China. Manchuria’s experience is an important case study because it

illustrates the significance of China’s use of a silver currency during the period and because it was a major factor behind Japan’s expansion into China and the outbreak of war.

In addition to working on this project, Tim Wright has continued his research on the history and political economy of China’s coal industry, most recently on the issue of safety. With the continuing spate of mining accidents in China, he has become a regular media commentator.
Email t.wright@sheffield.ac.uk

Glenn Hook, Professor of Japanese Studies, has been awarded an ESRC grant for a project entitled *Norms, Threats and the Japan-US and South Korea-US Alliances*.

Dr Son Key-young, a specialist on the international relations of South Korea, will also be working on the project.

“The project’s aim is to contribute both theoretically and empirically to our understanding of how norms and threats shape the behaviour of the weaker partner in an alliance. The focus on Japan and South Korea will enable us to shed new light on the similarities and differences in how their alliances with the United States function.”

The project, which will commence in July, is part of the ESRC’s New Security Challenges Programme.

Professor Glenn Hook is a specialist on Japan’s international relations and has written extensively on security affairs. He is the editor of the Centre for Japanese Studies/ RoutledgeCurzon publication series and immediate past president of the British Association for Japanese Studies. Email g.hook@sheffield.ac.uk

民国时期经济 (1911-1937) the Chinese Economy (1911-1937) within the



Professor Tim Wright speaking at the Conference on the Chinese Economy (1911-1937) within the Global Economic Framework, held at Nankai University in Tianjin last year.

Taster Day for school students



Dr Hugo Dobson, senior lecturer on Japan's international relations, discusses issues of war and peace in East Asia with visiting students.

The School of East Asian Studies held its first Taster Day on 10 November. Over thirty students and staff from Wales High School, Lady Manners School and Frederick Gough School came to find out more about our degree programmes and experience a day in the life of our students.

All the participants had the chance to learn some Korean and Chinese. "The language classes were very enjoyable and well organised," one student commented. "This taster session has given me background knowledge of the Chinese language and I'm very interested in learning more."

Students were also able to take part in seminars and discussions on topics including war and peace in East Asia, business in East Asia, women in East Asia, and Japanese language and literature. According to one teacher: "The lads were very impressed by the business talk and liked the lecturer's approach; he spoke to them as though they were adults and they appreciated that."

In addition to attending classes, the visiting students and staff also had the chance to meet some of our current students and take a look around the campus, the Union and the School itself. Another teacher later told us: "My students were really enthused on the way home. They'd enjoyed being able to make use of the Union facilities, giving them a really full taster of university."

A second East Asian Studies Taster Day will be held in November. Schools interested in taking part should contact us on 0114 222 8400 or Email seas@sheffield.ac.uk

Note on names

Following East Asian convention, the family name precedes the given name/s in Chinese, Japanese and Korean names, unless the particular person uses the Western word order (given name followed by family name) in his/her publications and/or everyday life. Examples of the latter in this issue are Dr Masaaki Hatsumi and Mrs Sadako Ogata.

John Crump 1944-2005

Staff of the School of East Asian Studies were very saddened to hear of the death of John Crump who died on 3 March following a brief illness. John came to Sheffield's Centre of Japanese Studies as a "mature age" student in 1970, having qualified as a dentist and worked in the school dental service for some years. While at Sheffield, John met his wife Taeko (Midorikawa), a Japanese assistant in the Centre. After completing his PhD, also at Sheffield, he worked in the Politics Department at York University; his last position was as Professor of Japanese Studies at the University of Stirling. During the course of his career John was the author of a number of publications on socialist thought and on anarchism in Japan. His last book, *Nikkeiren and Japanese Capitalism*, was published in 2003 in the Sheffield Centre for Japanese Studies/RoutledgeCurzon Series.

Editor's note

This issue includes a number of articles written by Sheffield graduates and current students on their experiences and research: from working in a local company and teaching migrant children in China, to teaching English and working as a translator in Japan, helping to produce a film about North Korea, and investigating the histories of a Chinese school and of resident Koreans in Japan. The views expressed in the articles are those of the individual authors.

This is the tenth issue of EastAsia@Sheffield and, with my pending retirement from the University, the last one to be published under my editorship. The new editor will be Dr Hugo Dobson who has been an enthusiastic contributor since he came to Sheffield four years ago. Email h.dobson@sheffield.ac.uk

Best wishes to all my present and former colleagues.

Beverley Hooper

“Me – Anhui boy. You – Beckham”

Teaching migrant children in Nanjing

Richard Buckley is a second year Chinese Studies student. Along with his Sheffield classmates, he is currently spending his “language year abroad” at Nanjing University.



“My first day in class”

When I agreed to volunteer for Hongshan School for Migrant Workers’ Children as an occasional English teacher, I was completely unprepared. All I knew was that “Teacher” Zhao, a young woman whom my Chinese friend “Teacher” Wang liked, was organising something to do with *mingong* – migrants from rural areas who come to the cities to seek work – and that I was needed to save his face as he’d promised to find a flexible *laowai* (foreigner).

Within ninety minutes of being summoned, I was greeted with silence by my first class. I had delivered spontaneous lessons before, but never in Chinese. And never to children with such complex needs as *mingong* children.

In Britain, educators often talk of the dispossessed urban teenagers of Thatcher’s economic reforms, trapped in an insensitive school system that offers them nothing. In a contest, they lose hands down for the disenfranchisement prize to the *mingong* children of Deng Xiaoping’s economic reforms. The children at Hongshan were, indeed, a class above their peers in that they were actually receiving some education. Many migrant children, no longer the responsibility of their home provinces’ educational authorities, don’t – let alone the fact that their parents have taken them from familiar *guanxi* (connections) and local dialects for the sake of insecure, dead-end construction jobs on the Nanjing metro system.

Teacher Wang told me not to worry: it’s more important to show up and contribute than to deliver a decent lesson, he said. After all, the teachers only earn 500 *yuan* (around £33) a month, so everyone’s pretty laid-back about it all.

In truth, I doubt Teacher Wang could have more profoundly misread the situation. The teachers are liberal by Chinese standards, but they are certainly engaged. With so many kids fatigued by poverty and some uncomfortable with speaking Mandarin (many had little prior education), they have to be. On first glance, I estimated my first class to be around forty pupils, a manageable number. But moving towards the back of the class for one-on-one conversation drills, whole rows of students seemed to emerge from nowhere. Many I felt like sending home to get some sleep. Teacher Zhao had to translate my question in Mandarin into Zhejiang dialect for one girl, and even then she was too shy to answer above a whisper. This was hardly work to be laid-back about.

I guess Teacher Wang was actually referring to the unsettling passivity of many – an opposite manifestation of disaffection from the rowdiness of disaffected kids in the West. In his eyes, it suggests they’re probably a bit dim, but at least harmless. In my eyes, it’s what we’re here to tackle.

My favourite moment so far has been hearing a thirteen-year old, who before had physically hidden under his desk, say: “Me – Anhui boy. You – Beckham”. Nobody could understand why I appreciated that more than the boy who sat at the front with his hand permanently raised.

The school clearly appreciates our contribution to a class of children all-too-often overlooked. Yet I was wary of the initial feel-good factor. The inflexibility of some of my fellow volunteers to the pupils’ needs undermines our desire to help. True, the one-off picture of a skinhead *laowai* got the issue of migrant education onto the front page of a Nanjing newspaper. But this kind of temporary glimpse into the underworld of China’s “floating population” can just as easily reinforce prejudices as dispel them. I admire the genuine commitment of the teachers and the school body.

Still, it will take both a cultural and legal shift in China – not mere do-good gimmicks – to gain a fair deal for *mingong* children.



Richard, “Teacher” Zhao (centre) and another volunteer, “Teacher” Sui.

Former Sheffield student translates *The Way of the Ninja*

Ben Jones, who studied Japanese at Sheffield in the mid-1980s, is the English-language translator of Masaaki Hatsumi's book *The Way of the Ninja*, published last year by Kodansha International. In the book, Dr Masaaki Hatsumi, the only generally acknowledged Ninja grandmaster in the world today, reveals the hidden reality behind Ninjutsu, a mysterious and fascinating martial art whose true essence is far removed from its Hollywood image.

Ben first met Dr Hatsumi, while studying at Sheffield, after an invitation to an international Ninja seminar in Ohio arrived fortuitously in the department. Ben attended the seminar and obtained permission from the grandmaster to train with him in Japan. He began doing this as soon as he arrived in the country on Sheffield's exchange visit with Hosei University. Ben's Japanese skills led him to becoming Dr Hatsumi's chosen interpreter, and he accompanied him on many trips around the world.

"It was amazing to be able to converse for hours on end with a person who had inherited thousands of years of martial tradition. Dr Hatsumi always managed to bring his art across the centuries to contemporary situations, and I then had to interpret across the culture gap for Western practitioners. The grandmaster often speaks - and writes - in riddles, and trying to maintain those without applying

my own interpretation was one of the greatest challenges."

Since returning to the UK in 1990, Ben has run a successful Japanese translation, interpreting and typesetting business, as well as organising the Thanet Music & Drama Festival and helping to preserve a Kentish tradition called Hoodening. His website is at www.ozaru.freereserve.co.uk



Ben Jones pictured with Dr Masaaki Hatsumi.

Japanese diplomats participate in course

Students studying the module *Japanese Business and Management* enjoyed a break from normal lectures in November when the School welcomed Mr Isaka Yoshihiro (Minister, Finance) and Mr Matsumura Hiroshi (Minister, Commerce) from the Embassy of Japan. The two senior diplomats gave presentations on their areas of expertise.

A common theme in the module, a core component of the *MSc in East Asian Business*, is to explore how traditional Japanese business and management are responding to both external and internal changes, and what new "realities" are being established. According to the module coordinator, Andrew Staples: "The diplomats' presentations were a golden

opportunity for students to learn from senior bureaucrats about the latest developments in the Japanese economy in general and the financial sector in particular."

Mr Isaka joined the Japanese Ministry of Finance in 1979 and has served in various posts that have included directing the International Office of the Financial Supervisory Agency. He has also worked overseas at the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In his presentation, Mr Isaka reported on key aspects of Japan's financial architecture in the wake of the late 1990s financial crisis and outlined the measures employed to contend with globalisation and domestic restructuring.

Mr Matsumura, originally from METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) and now directing commercial affairs at the Embassy, focused on Japan's post-bubble economic policy and specific challenges to the economy in the form of Chinese expansion and global competition. An interesting debate developed in the discussion session around issues of demographics, gender and foreign workers in the Japanese economy.

The School was delighted to welcome the two distinguished diplomats from the Japanese Embassy, with which it has a longstanding relationship.

President's State Visit



Dr Judith Cherry is the author of Korean Multinationals in Europe (Routledge, 2001). She has served as Chair of the Korea Trade Action Committee and as a member of the UK-Korea Forum for the Future, and was awarded the MBE in 1999 for services to British exports to Korea. Judith attended the State Banquet at Buckingham Palace for the South Korean President and Mrs. Roh Moo-hyun.

On 1 December 2004, the President and First Lady of the Republic of Korea arrived in London at the start of the first-ever State Visit to the UK by a South Korean head of state.

The bilateral relationship between the United Kingdom and Korea formally dates back to 1884, and the UK has enjoyed strong ties with the Republic of Korea since it was established in 1948. The events last December followed the State Visit to Korea by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in April 1999 and a series of high-level official visits including those made by Prime Minister Tony Blair and former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung.

The relationship was greatly strengthened by the UK's support for Korea during and after the 1997 financial crisis. The UK was the first country to send an investment mission to Korea following the crisis and continued to develop trade and investment links through the recovery period. In 2003, visible bilateral trade amounted to more than £4 billion, comprising £1.5 billion in UK exports to Korea (led by electrical machinery, pharmaceutical and medical products, chemicals, fashion and Scotch whisky) and £2.6 billion in imports from Korea (mainly telecommunications equipment, shipping, cars and electrical appliances).

More than 100 Korean companies have invested in the UK, including giants such as Samsung and LG as well as small- and medium-sized enterprises. UK companies, including Tesco, AMEC, BP, Shell, Standard Chartered and HSBC, have also been investing in Korea. In addition, there are strong educational links between the two countries, with 17,000 Koreans currently studying in the UK. More than 160,000 Britons and Koreans visited each other's country in 2003.

During his three-day visit, President Roh Moo-hyun met the Prime Minister and other politicians, business leaders, academics, and representatives of the 35,000 Korean residents in the UK. In a joint statement issued by Downing Street, Tony Blair and President Roh made a commitment to work together to develop their countries' "warm and forward-looking friendship".

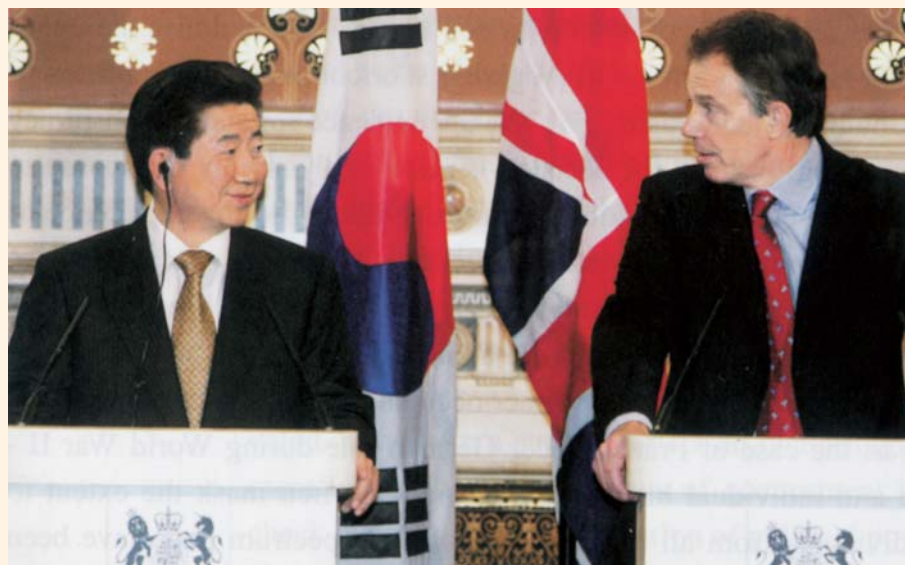
The diverse nature of the bilateral relationship was apparent from the broad range of events arranged for the State Visit. President Roh attended a Round Table meeting with the chief executive officers of leading British companies, opened the 5th UK-Korea High Technology Industry Forum, signed a Science, Technology and Innovation Partnership agreement, and visited the Korean War Memorial in St Paul's Cathedral to pay tribute to the 4,300 British soldiers who lost their lives during that conflict.

In a separate programme of events, the First Lady visited the Korean Gallery at the British Museum, the Royal Institution of Great Britain, and

the offices of Scope, the disability organisation in England and Wales whose focus is people with cerebral palsy.

The University of Sheffield Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert Boucher, and two School of East Asian Studies staff members attended events linked with the President's State Visit. Professor Boucher and James H Grayson, Professor of Korean Studies, were invited to a banquet at Guildhall (hosted by the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London), and I received an invitation to the State Banquet at Buckingham Palace.

At the State Banquet, the Queen paid tribute to the "spirit of the Korean people" as shown in their determination to overcome the financial crisis of 1997. Responding to the Queen's toast, President Roh expressed his gratitude to the British people for their support for Korea in times of crisis, and noted the potential for even greater cooperation between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Korea.



South Korean President Rob Moo-hyun and UK Prime Minister Tony Blair at their joint press conference.

Looking to careers...

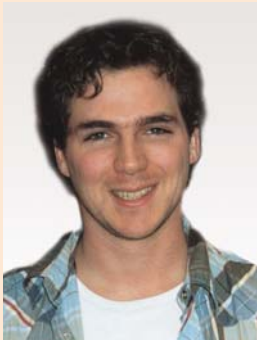
Masters degrees on China and East Asia

With the growing economic importance of East Asia, including the much-publicised emergence of China on the global scene, more graduates are looking to careers involving this dynamic region. The four MSc degrees offered by the School of East Asian Studies are designed to provide a sound foundation for future careers, whether focusing specifically on China or more broadly on the East Asia region.

- *MSc in Chinese Language, Business and International Relations*
- *MSc in Chinese Business and International Relations*
- *MSc in East Asian Political Economy*
- *MSc in East Asian Business*

The first two degrees are also available by distance learning, using the same lecturers as the in-house degrees as well as the resources of the School's award-winning Distance Learning Centre.

Here we profile four of the students currently enrolled for the *MSc in Chinese Language, Business and International Relations*. The degree includes a summer semester in China, where students further develop their language skills at the Beijing Language and Culture University as well as undertake a project on aspects of China's politics, business and international relations.



Dominic Phinn

"After completing a BA in European Studies at the University of Hull in 2002, I decided to put off the rat race for a while and sample life as an English teacher abroad. After 16 months teaching in Taiwan, the friction between the island and the mainland ignited an interest in Chinese politics and culture.

This, combined with the fact that I also wanted to learn the language, made further study seem a natural choice, and Sheffield appeared to be the best place to do it."



Jennifer Whittaker

"I graduated from Sheffield in 2001 with a Spanish and Business degree. I lived for a year in Brazil, working first as a teacher coordinator and then a marketing manager in Sao Paulo. After that I worked in Moscow for a year. I'd wanted to learn Chinese for a long time. I chose this course because of the

opportunity to study in China and the way that learning about Chinese politics and culture is included along with the language."



Anne Low

"My undergraduate degree was in Biology with Management and I graduated from Imperial College in London in 2004. I realised in my management year that I wanted a career in business and, as a British-born Chinese, I decided to do the *MSc in Chinese Language, Business and International Relations*.

From my family's business, I have learnt that China is becoming increasingly important in trade. I'm now learning the language and culture needed for developing business relations - and for my future career."



Colin McCulloch

"I have a Cambridge MA in Engineering and over 25 years experience in various UK and overseas companies; I'm a member of both the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Institute of Acoustics. I see China as an up-coming global force in business and technology, as well as low-cost manufacturing. I

hope to combine my Chinese language skills and business studies with my existing know-how and experience, in a consultancy, training or business-development role, with Chinese or foreign-invested companies."

For full details of Sheffield's in-house and distance learning postgraduate degrees, including the MSc degrees and a range of MA degrees on China, Japan and Korea, see www.seas.ac.uk/PostgradTaught/

Rediscovering history in China



Kerstin Lehr has a BA in Development Studies and Economics and an MA in Chinese Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies. She holds a UCCL (Universities China Committee, London) PhD scholarship and is currently at Sheffield researching rural education in China's Shandong Province.

In today's China the character *chai* 拆 (literally “pull down”, “dismantle”) features prominently on many old buildings and courtyard houses in Beijing and elsewhere.

Much to the dismay of some Chinese and foreigners (residing in or visiting China), these old buildings are in the way of China's fast road to modernisation. The officially repeated argument is that they are “too old”. More to the point, they are often prime property, conveniently located in the middle of a thriving city or town, or in one that has high hopes of joining those ranks, and therefore they become important to property speculators.

Exchanging the old for the new can be a very positive development in some cases, but it may also leave people with a sense of “lost history”.

Fortunately, not everywhere in China are people so readily disposing of buildings of historical interest.

As part of my fieldwork I recently spent eight months in Shandong Province in eastern China. My work is mainly concerned with the development of rural education – a theme to a certain extent connected with urban education. While I was in Shandong I received an email from Dr Gary Tiedemann, my former lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies, suggesting that I get in touch with some people at a

nearby school. Jude Small, an Australian teacher who worked at Zhoucun No 6 Middle School, had found Dr Tiedemann on the internet and contacted him for help with a project to rebuild the school's history, as they were approaching their centenary in 2005.

For ideological reasons, history in China is often looked at in terms of eras. Thus continuities in modern

currently considered the best senior middle school in this area of Shandong Province (measured by the enrolment rate in higher education of its final year students). Two buildings of the original school that was established one hundred years ago are still standing, and Mr Fang led a determined effort to preserve and restore them. Just before I left Shandong, this work had been completed.



Restoring one of the original buildings of Zhoucun No 6 Middle School, November 2004.

Restoring the buildings proved easier than recovering the history of the school. Since all the documents that related to the school were burnt during the Cultural Revolution, it has been an arduous task for the staff of No 6 to do any research. While on a short break from my fieldwork back in the UK, I managed to find some fascinating material relating to the school in an archive of the Baptist

Chinese histories are often rendered into discontinuities to fit the pattern. I became curious as to what this centenary celebration was about. It turned out that the current headmaster of No 6 Middle School, Mr Fang Ming, was setting out to retrace continuities.

The school was established at the beginning of the twentieth century by British missionaries of the Baptist Missionary Society. Since then it had changed names and grown a lot both in size and student numbers. It is

Missionary Society at Oxford University. Name lists of students, as well as photographs of the school and nearby places, emerged out of the papers of the missionary educator, Margaret Irene Thomas, who spent most of her life in Shandong Province.

Thus I found myself as a part of a chain of events that led to my contributing to historical rediscovery. (Wo)men make history, but not always in circumstances of their own choosing.

Working in Japan ... T

Japan offers a range of work opportunities for Japanese Studies graduates and, to time living in the country. Many *gaijin* work as translators or teachers, two occu

A Japanese-English translator

Ian Channing has lived in Japan for twelve years, working first as a news editor and later as a translator. He is currently enrolled for the *MA in Advanced Chinese Studies*, resuming studies he began in China during 1988-89, and intends adding Chinese-English translation to his expertise.

Translation in Japan is almost an industry, with fully-fledged translation companies, translators, editors and checkers. Japanese companies seldom have in-house staff capable of writing good English, which inflates the demand for outside translation services.

My main work for translation companies – like that of maybe half the Japanese-English translation done in Japan – has been the translation of corporate and financial material. This work is fairly well paid (around 500,000 *yen* – approximately £2,500 – a month) and straightforward once you know the basic balance sheet and business jargon.

But the translator also faces an obstacle course. The biggest problem is perhaps a surprising one, considering the prestige of the written word in East Asia. Japanese business writing is frequently of poor quality, with vague structuring, chronic repetition and huge chains of sub-clauses. It can be frustrating and draining trying to craft a sentence that uses the word *kaibatsu* (development) seven times!

The problem is partly due to cultural factors. While English prizes brevity and abhors run-on sentences, many Japanese people (especially company presidents) think that short sentences are childish and complex ones erudite, however difficult they are to read. Business Japanese is also more formal than business English, so literal English translations can sound stuffy. But much of the problem is just poor writing, as Japanese checkers will often confirm, perhaps because composition skills are not widely taught in Japanese schools.

A further problem is the notion, still widespread among more insular

Japanese, that no foreigner can truly master their language. There is a lot less of this now than there used to be, but I still found an advertisement in the *Japan Times* last year for a Japanese-to-English translator who had to be a Japanese national – not a native speaker of the target language. (The conventional professional practice is that one translates into one's own language.) A veteran colleague at one company I worked for told me that, for many years, my boss had assumed the foreigners on his translation team were just polishing English drafts translated by Japanese, and was astonished to find out that they were doing it all themselves.

Such attitudes can create a problem of trust. Japanese companies are afraid of damaging their image and sometimes interfere almost obsessively in a translator's work. This may be justifiable, as some translators neither have the basic financial knowledge nor understand their customer companies' products adequately, but it can seriously affect the quality of the final English.

Of course there are also upsides for the translator working in Japan. Most companies that translate their materials into English usually have leading-edge products and technologies, so translators learn about the latest, say, mobile phone functionality before the rest of the world. And in some important ways, Japanese clients are tolerant. Deadlines are nearly always reasonable, questions are accepted, and deep technical knowledge of the company's products is not expected. These are generous concessions that take a lot of the stress out of translating corporate materials.

Websites containing information on working as a Japanese-English translator include:



www.crossroads.net/honyaku/



Institute of Translation and Interpreting
Japanese Network, J-Net
www.iti-jnet.org.uk/



Japan Association of Translators
www.jat.org



Society of Writers, Editors, and Translators
www.swet.jp



Japanese Translation Association
www.jta-net.or.jp/

The cultural challenges

a lesser extent, for English-speaking Westerners who simply want to spend some vacations in which they regularly face the challenges of Japan's workplace culture.

A union to protect foreign teachers

Since graduating from Sheffield with an *MA in Advanced Japanese Studies*, **Chris Flynn** has been working as an Associate Professor at the Kyushu Institute of Information Sciences where he lectures on English language and the media. Although his university work keeps him on his toes, he has become increasingly busy with his union activities.



Chris Flynn outside the Fukuoka General Union office, shared with a number of other NPOs (Non-Profit Organisations).

The trade union movement in Japan is a topic rich in content for any essay or thesis. Many books and papers have been written on the role of the union in Japan and the system of company based unions. Over the past three years I have been involved not with the theory, but in the front line of industrial relations issues in Japan, representing foreign workers in the General Union movement.

The General Union (GU) is a trade union that anybody can join (www.generalunion.org). This is quite unique in Japan where unions are primarily company based (one company, one union). The majority of members are foreign workers in Japan who, like migrant workers in any country, are vulnerable to poor working conditions and organisational discrimination. This might sound like a situation common to unskilled labourers, but it also applies to one of

the most respected professions in Japan – the teacher.

In the past, foreign teachers in Japan – whether in schools or universities – for the most part have been transient, working for a few years and then going back home. However the person who wants to stay for the long haul is often stonewalled by the system. Most foreign teachers in Japan are on limited-term contracts, many with non-renewal clauses. This is in contrast to Japanese school and university teachers who are practically all on open-ended contracts.

A major role of the General Union is to represent teachers who are fighting their termination. Last year the Fukuoka General Union, with which I'm involved (www.fukuoka.generalunion.org/), had a major victory when, after collective bargaining, we persuaded a public

university to abolish a rule stating that foreign teachers must quit after five years.

The Labour Standards Law is one of the few laws that prohibit discrimination based on nationality but frequently the union has had to confront companies who ignore this law. Grievances that the union has dealt with recently include an Irish teacher on the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) programme who was told to speak with an American accent by her team teacher, a British teacher employed by a conversation school who was transferred for being late on the day a typhoon hit the city, and a university teacher whose position was terminated after fourteen years because she had become too “Japanised” and the university needed a “fresh foreigner”. Employers are somewhat surprised when a team of foreign union reps – well versed in the labour laws – arrive at their company for collective bargaining!

Suing for unfair dismissal in court is expensive and it can take years to reach a verdict, so the union can be a viable alternative for getting quick results. At the moment the Fukuoka General Union has fifty members and we have managed to settle most grievances.

After reading this article you might think that Japan doesn't seem such a great place to work, but I must emphasise that in my union position I only deal with people who have work-related problems. Japan is actually a great place for Westerners to live and work – this is the main reason we are pulling together to try to iron out the cultural creases in the workplace.



Graham Healey receives the Japan Society Award at the Society's 2004 Annual Dinner from Mrs Sadako Ogata, a former UN High Commissioner for Refugees, diplomat and university professor.

Graham Healey receives Japan Society Award

Graham Healey was one of two recipients of the 2004 Japan Society Award. The awards (normally one in the UK and one in Japan) are presented annually to people who have made an outstanding contribution to Anglo-Japanese relations.

Closely involved with the development of Japanese Studies in the UK for more than thirty years, Graham has been on the organising committee of the British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS), including a period as President, and the British Association for Korean Studies (BAKS). He has been a member of the UK-Japan Mixed Cultural Commission, the UK-Korea Mixed Cultural Commission and the UK-Korea Forum for the Future. He has also been on the selection board for the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Programme and its predecessor BETS (British English Teachers Scheme) for twenty-five years and received a Commendation from the Japanese Foreign Minister for his contribution to these programmes.

Graham began teaching in Sheffield's Centre for Japanese Studies in 1967, after studying Chinese at Oxford and Japanese at Waseda University in Tokyo. Over the years he has taught a range of courses on Japanese language, literature, history, politics and cinema. Most recently Graham has been Academic Director (Japanese Programmes) in the School's Distance Learning Centre, which he set up and developed with Alison Churchill. In 1996 the distance learning *MA in Advanced Japanese Studies* was awarded a Japan Festival Prize.

Over the course of his academic career Graham has been a visiting researcher and teacher at Kyoto University and at Hosei, Waseda and Hitotsubashi Universities in Tokyo. He was joint editor-in-chief and one of the principal translators of *The Iwakura Embassy, 1871-73*, the first English translation of the report of the early Meiji government's mission to the United States and eleven European countries. The five-volume publication was awarded the Japan Society of Translators Prize for Best Translation of the Year in 2002.

Visiting professor from China



Professor Li Xiukun has stepped into the shoes of Professor Liu Chuanping as the School of East Asian Studies' visiting professor from China. Professor Li is on secondment from the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies where she teaches modern Chinese, classical Chinese and Chinese written script. As a leading expert on the teaching of Chinese as a foreign language, Professor Li has twice led delegations to Indonesia to train local Chinese language teachers.

Professor Li has broad research interests, ranging from cultural elements in the teaching of Chinese language to the interference of local dialects in language learning. She has published a number of articles and two textbooks, and has also contributed to two dictionaries, one on modern and one on classical Chinese language.

Whilst at Sheffield Professor Li will build on the work of her two predecessors from China, Professors Liu Chuanping and Cui Yonghua. She will focus mainly on teaching oral and aural skills to undergraduate and postgraduate students. She has already represented Sheffield at the March meeting of the British Chinese Language Teaching Seminar, where she gave a presentation on how listening skills are taught at Sheffield.

A State of Mind

Glimpsing the DPRK



Ben Jackson graduated in 2004 with a BA degree in Korean Studies with Japanese, as well as the Robert Sloss Prize. He is working for VeryMuchSo productions, a Sheffield-based film company that is currently producing, amongst other films, its third documentary on Korea.

“When I was young, I didn’t know if the US imperialists were good or bad, but through our war in the 1950s I saw the brutal bombing of our country and the atrocities suffered by our people – and I came to feel that we have to rid this land of US imperialism completely.”

Pak Hyon Sun’s grandfather, a construction worker, sits in a darkened room in Pyongyang giving an interview. He goes on to say how, once his team has finished Pyongyang’s new market, he will start work on building the duck factory.

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Gymnasts performing at the Kim Il Sung Stadium in Pyongyang (from the film A State of Mind).

Whenever I thought about it, which wasn’t often, I assumed I would probably head back to Korea soon after graduating last June. After all, where was the demand for Korean speakers in Sheffield? The answer, it turns out, is in a small office not far from Ecclesall Road, one of Sheffield’s major shopping areas.

Some time in early 2003, Dr Hyangjin Lee, my tutor and a specialist on Korean cinema, called me into her office in the School of East Asian Studies. I came face-to-face with Dan Gordon, a Sheffield-based film director who had just returned from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, having had his luggage lost on the way. Dan had already made one film, the award-winning *The Game of Their Lives*, the result of having traced the eight surviving members of the 1966 DPRK World Cup football team that caused a sensation by beating Italy to reach the quarterfinals. He was now filming a second Korean documentary, this time about mass gymnastics. Would I be able to try a bit of translation?

Before I knew it I was sitting in a windowless edit suite, finger on the rewind button, ears straining to catch bits of Korean picked up by Dan’s camera. Gymnastics instructors barked out clouds of orders into the freezing February air; a grandfather and granddaughter, hand-in-hand, whispered their way round the marble halls of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum; two army veterans on a co-operative farm got drunker and drunker as they reminisced about their days of military service.

For about a year, I built up work experience with VeryMuchSo productions, Dan’s small company. In 2004 the film, *A State of Mind*, was finished and I was offered a full-time job after graduation. I snapped it up.

This job probably has brought me much closer to the DPRK than if I had been in Seoul, barely fifty miles from the border. While there will always be limits to what the country lets outsiders see, the footage brought back by our film crew is

fascinating in the way it shows everyday scenes in a place so isolated that it is normally described in sensationalist clichés: it is the last Stalinist stronghold on earth; the people are brainwashed automatons; the leader is an evil maniac who guzzles caviar and cognac; and so on.

The unprecedented access to Korean everyday life gained by our film crew dispels such fictions and shows that North Koreans are just ordinary people trying to make the best of their situation, but it’s sometimes sad to see the extent to which the country’s half century of isolation has led it off on a tangent from so much of the world. Watching the North’s film *They Met on the River Taedong (Part 1)* after the South’s *Old Boy* gives an idea of the yawning cultural gap that has opened between the two halves of the peninsula.

I still haven’t been to North Korea, but maybe one day I’ll have a chance to go there and see the duck factory for myself.

A State of Mind has received critical acclaim at a number of film festivals and was shown on BBC4 in December. It is now available on DVD and VHS. (www.astateofmind.co.uk)

Japanese Study Abroad Programme expands

Takeda Hiroko Programme director



Japanese Exchange Student Tutor, Bhubhindar Singh (second from left) with some of this year's exchange students from Japan.

Sheffield's Japanese Study Abroad Programme is currently undergoing significant expansion, in response to a substantial increase in the number of undergraduate students in Japanese Studies. The total number of exchange agreements has been increased this year from thirteen to fifteen, with three further agreements in the final stage of negotiation, hopefully to commence operation from September 2006.

All students doing Japanese Studies degrees, including dual degrees, spend the third year of their studies in Japan. Our "sister" universities across Japan provide an excellent learning environment for our students, who also have the

opportunity to participate in a wide range of community and other activities.

Building on their experience of living and studying in Japan, the students spend their final year at Sheffield further developing their language skills as well as their knowledge of different aspects of Japanese life (including politics, international relations, economy, society and literature).

As part of the exchange, Japanese students from our sister universities come to Sheffield for one year. The students join different departments along with regular students, helping to enrich the diversified culture of

the University. The School of East Asian Studies provides a Japanese Exchange Student Tutor (currently PhD student Bhubhindar Singh) to ensure that the visiting students fully benefit from the diverse range of learning and other opportunities in Sheffield, and to provide advice on academic and other matters.

In addition to the student exchanges, our links with Japanese universities provide the basis for a wide range of academic co-operation among staff, particularly in research. Sheffield frequently hosts academics and research students from our Japanese sister universities and Sheffield academic staff visit Japan for research collaboration.

Existing exchange agreements:

Chuo University, Doshisha University, Hiroshima University, Hosei University, Kanazawa University, Keio University, Kobe University, Meiji University, Nagoya University, Rikkyo University, Otaru University of Commerce, Yokohama National University, plus Tokyo University for research purposes only.

New agreements since 2004:

Seijo University, International Christian University.

Agreements under negotiation:

Sophia University, Waseda University, Ryukyu University.

Chinese Consul-General presents books



Mr Gong Jianzhong pictured with China historian, Dr Marjorie Dryburgh.

China's new Consul-General in Manchester, Mr Gong Jianzhong, paid a visit to the University of Sheffield on 19 January. During the visit he had discussions with Chinese Studies staff in the School of East Asian Studies and presented the School with a selection of recently published Chinese language textbooks and other publications.

Mr Gong took up his position in Manchester in September last year. Before coming to the UK he was Deputy Director-General of the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Information Department. A career diplomat, his previous postings included the UK and Iceland.

Working in a Chinese company

Online at Chinatungsten

Steve Tingay and Somer Finlay graduated with BA in Chinese Studies degrees in 2004. They were awarded scholarships from the John Speak Trust to gain work experience in China.

We're living in the "garden city" of Xiamen in the south-eastern coastal province of Fujian. Of course more or less every Chinese city has its own claim to fame - Xiamen might just have it right though. It's been voted "China's cleanest city", it has some really beautiful beaches, and there are places where you stroll along palm-tree lined roads or climb mountains offering the peace and tranquillity one sometimes misses in China.

Since September last year we have been working for Chinatungsten Online, one of the first E-commerce businesses to open in China back in 1996. The company specializes in the manufacture and export of tungsten alloy and tungsten carbide, supplying a diverse range of products from dart barrels to lighting filaments and counterweights for world class racing yachts. Our main duties involve product research, the writing of quotations and contracts, and translations of technical documents and news articles - yes, all that precision translation we did at Sheffield has come in useful!

It's fair to say that we have had our share of fine surprises and bitter frustrations. Working for a wholly Chinese-owned company does have its drawbacks. The wages are pretty poor, though fortunately the John Speak

Trust scholarships top up our monthly earnings. Sometimes it can be very frustrating when trying to do even the simplest things, like persuading our colleagues to accept our advice on their English email messages. And after six months we're still trying to get the English-language website changed from "Chinglish" into accurate English! (www.chinatungsten.com)

The benefits, however, far outweigh the drawbacks. Steve was asked to write a report on British office culture and managed to get us two 10 minute coffee breaks during the day - on top of the two and a half hour lunchtime break everyone gets to *xiuxi* (rest)!

We have an enormous apartment provided by our boss, with a TV and DVD player (complete with four microphones - a social necessity in China). Electricity shortages and rats are also part of the deal! As we are living rent-free and our costs are relatively low, we do have some extra cash for Western treats - such as the 130 RMB (approx £10) breakfast buffet at the Xiamen Holiday Inn when we just can't resist that urge for beans and bacon.

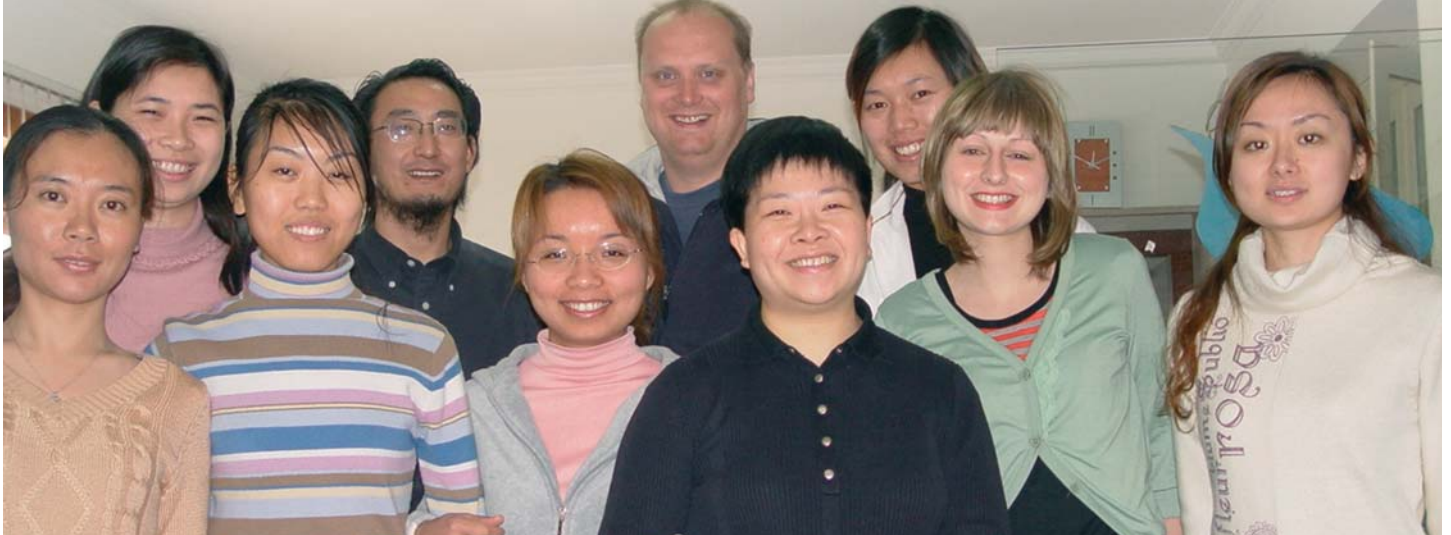
Despite being told by our workmates that Chinese people don't celebrate Christmas, our boss hosted a large party at his house and we prepared a

Christmas dinner as traditional (well, as traditionally British) as Xiamen allowed: turkey, cranberry sauce, sprouts, Christmas cake, and of course plenty of whisky, brandy and advocaat. It was our very first "catering for the masses" experience and we discovered it's not only the company's employees who are considered part of the company - it's also their husbands, wives, brothers and sisters.

As part of our company's search for *guanxi* (connections), we've had dinner with countless government officials, professors from Xiamen University, and even the mayor of another district. Interpreting for some important Australian customers was one of the most challenging things we have done so far, not only from a language point of view but also from a cultural one. Being repeatedly asked to translate "do you need more food" was a bit embarrassing, though in China this is just a way of expressing your generosity towards your guests.

In our everyday work it's often easy to think that Chinese people are doing things the wrong way round, but you soon realise that culture is not just landscape paintings and vases, and that working the "Chinese way" is better than trying to change things. After all, who are two foreigners compared with 1.3 billion Chinese?

Steve and Somer pictured with their colleagues at Chinatungsten Online.



Recent Masters graduates

Where are they now?

TOKYO

Edward Baker

MSc in East Asian Business (2004)

I'm working at the Japan office of Intralink Limited, a British business development company. Essentially we help foreign companies do business in either Japan or China through market feasibility studies or, more typically in Japan, surrogate sales.

My job as "project co-ordinator" is hard to define since what I actually do varies according to the particular project. Generally, it involves market research, arranging meetings, and reporting to my boss and to our clients. Japanese language ability is a daily and central part of everything we do: emailing, cold calling, interpreting, presenting and negotiating all has to be done in Japanese.

My present position owes much to fortune and to my placement, as part of my dissertation, with Chubu Electric Power Company last summer. As well as providing a fascinating insight into one of Japan's biggest companies, the placement provided a useful training ground for what are now core skills in my current job. I do feel I've been lucky - a year ago I could not have dreamt myself into a better position professionally than where I am now.



BEIJING

Claudia Albertini

MA in Advanced Chinese Studies (2004)

My Masters dissertation was on images of children in Chinese posters and advertisements, and my aim has been to combine my interest in art with my knowledge of Chinese and China. Now this has happened!

I came to Beijing in early March to start a new job, helping to set up an Italian art gallery in the 798 Factory (aka 798 Space and the Dashanzi Art District). A few years ago some local artists started renting space in the "factory" - a former electronics complex designed by East German architects in the 1950s. Now it's become quite famous with art studios and galleries, restaurants, bars, bookstores, and design and advertising companies. (www.798space.com)

I spent my first few weeks here visiting artists' studios, talking about prices, discussing new works, listening to new ideas, practicing a good amount of Chinese - and getting upset when things didn't go the way I expected! On 28 March we celebrated the opening of the Marella Gallery with great success - now waves of curious people are coming to visit us. It's certainly an exciting new chapter in my life.



TAIPEI

Stuart Coyle

MSc in Chinese Language, Business & International Relations (2004)

I came to Taipei last September after being awarded a one-year Taiwan government scholarship (administered by the British Association for Chinese Studies) to further my Chinese language studies. Coming fresh from Beijing where I'd spent the summer semester completing my Sheffield Masters degree, I've had a great opportunity to experience two very different forms of modern Chinese culture.

The most striking aspect of Taiwan, for me, is "opportunity". Whether one is interested in the language, the culture or the can-of-worms that is Taiwanese internal and external politics, there are countless opportunities not just for formal study but for learning from the "university of life" - like chatting with taxi drivers about what they think of the PRC's anti-secession law, whether Taiwan is part of one China, or the disadvantages of chewing betel nut.

Similarly, no matter where one's extra-curricular interests lie, Taiwan provides copious outlets for expression. Like Sheffield, Taiwan seems to be a place that many people find very hard to leave.



Koreans in Japan



David White studied for a Sheffield MA in Japanese Language & Society by distance learning in 2000-2001. He is currently carrying out research on a Japanese Education Ministry scholarship at Nagoya University in central Japan. He writes regularly for Avenues, an English-language magazine published in Nagoya, and has recently been researching the resident Korean community. Email davewhitejapan@yahoo.co.jp

Resident (*zainichi*) Koreans in Japan remain a somewhat invisible minority in Japanese society.

There is limited knowledge of them either inside or outside Japan, although their situation is becoming better known with the current popularity of resident Korean literature and a number of films regarding this community (most recently Sai Yoichi's latest film *Blood and Bones*). The Korean TV drama *Winter Sonata* has also contributed to a "Korea boom" in Japan, with an increased focus not only on Korea but on resident Koreans in Japan as well.

How did Koreans come to be living in Japan? With Japan's annexation of Korea in 1910, many Koreans moved to Japan in an attempt to escape the poverty at home. From the late 1930s, more Koreans migrated to Japan, both voluntarily and also forcibly recruited in Korea by the Japanese authorities. By the end of World War II, roughly 2,300,000 Koreans were living in Japan; three-quarters of them subsequently returned to Korea.

The successive Meiji, Taisho and Showa governments had encouraged an image of Koreans as being inferior to Japanese, even though Koreans were classed as Japanese citizens until the end of World War II, albeit with a different family registration system. Just after the end of the war, however, resident Koreans were

stripped of their Japanese citizenship and in 1952 the Alien Registration Law was implemented.

Since that time the issues of citizenship, voting rights, North/South Korean loyalties, inter-marriage, alien registration cards (Korean residents, like other foreigners living in Japan, are still required to carry an Alien Registration Card with them at all



Korean-Japanese director Sai Yoichi speaking about his latest film, Blood and Bones, at the 2004 Pusan International Film Festival. The film was described by Time Asia (13 December 2004) as the best Japanese film of 2004.

times) and identity formation have been of concern to many members of the resident Korean community.

Although Koreans may now apply for Japanese citizenship, many refuse to do so as they feel this is a betrayal of their ethnicity. Younger Koreans, unburdened by memories of the war and really only knowing Japanese

language and culture, are more likely to naturalise. Inter-marriage is also now common. While Koreans have traditionally been looked down on in Japan, it's now said that young Japanese do not really mind marrying a resident Korean (and vice versa). If there is any opposition to a "mixed" marriage, it usually comes from the older generation – whether Japanese or Korean.

The subject of voting rights for resident Koreans who do not have Japanese citizenship has become a contentious issue, stemming from the split in Japan's Korean community along ideological lines. The North Korean community oppose voting rights as they consider themselves to be foreigners in Japan and aligned with the motherland (North Korea). In contrast, the South Korean affiliated organization (*Mindan*) is pushing for voting rights, and a bill has been brought up in the Diet several times, though so far nothing has been decided.

Some other historical issues refuse to go away and these remain controversial. They include the denial of pension rights to those Koreans forced to serve in the Japanese Imperial Army. According to an article in the *Asahi Shimbun* in 2001, the Supreme Court threw out a case that involved a Korean man who had served in the Japanese Imperial Army and lived in Japan for 63 years but was denied a pension.

For those interested in reading more about the Korean community in Japan, there are a number of books available in English. They include Sonia Ryang, *North Koreans in Japan: Language, Ideology and Identity* (Westview Press, 1997), George Hicks, *Japan's Hidden Apartheid: The Korean Minority and the Japanese* (Ashgate, 1997), Yasunori Fukuoka, *Lives of Young Koreans in Japan* (Trans Pacific Press, 2000).

HSK Chinese Proficiency Test being held in Sheffield

The Chinese Proficiency Test or HSK (汉语水平考试 *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi*) is now being held in Sheffield, making the School of East Asian Studies one of only two centres of Chinese learning in the UK to hold the event. (The other is the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.)

The HSK, which is organised by the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, is a test designed to assess the Chinese language proficiency of non-native speakers from beginners to advanced level. Not only is it used as a standard evaluation of Chinese language ability; it also provides a reference for outside institutions and organisations.

The two levels tested at Sheffield are:

- Elementary-Intermediate (suitable for those who have had approximately 200-1,000 hours of formal tuition) in which listening and reading abilities are tested;
- Advanced (suitable for those who have received at least 1,000 hours of intensive tuition in Chinese) in which listening, reading, writing and speaking abilities are all tested.

The test at Sheffield will be held annually in April/May. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Dr Sarah Dauncey. *Email s.dauncey@sheffield.ac.uk*

East Asian Studies degrees

The School of East Asian Studies offers a wide range of single and dual honours degrees, as well as postgraduate taught and research degrees. For further information, contact SEAS@sheffield.ac.uk or see the School's webpage www.seas.ac.uk

BA degrees

Most degrees involve four years of study. Those marked* take three years.

Single honours

Chinese Studies
Japanese Studies
Korean Studies
East Asian Studies*

Dual honours

Chinese Studies and/Business Studies, History, Music
Chinese Studies with/Japanese, French, German, Spanish, Russian
Japanese Studies and/Business Studies, Politics, Sociology, Linguistics, History
Japanese Studies with/Korean, French, German, Spanish, Russian
French/Germanic/Hispanic/Russian Studies with Japanese
Korean Studies and/Business Studies, Linguistics, Music
Korean Studies with/Japanese
East Asian Studies and/Business Studies, Russian Studies, Music*
International Politics and East Asian Studies*

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In-house

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MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Chinese Business and International Relations
MSc/Diploma/Certificate in Chinese Language, Business and International Relations
MA/Diploma/Certificate in Japanese Language and Society
MA in Advanced Japanese Studies
MA/Diploma/Certificate in Modern Korean Studies
MSc/Diploma/Certificate in East Asian Political Economy
MSc/Diploma in East Asian Business

Distance learning

MA/Diploma in Japanese Language and Society
MA in Advanced Japanese Studies
MSc/Diploma in Chinese Business and International Relations
MSc/Diploma in Chinese Language, Business and International Relations

Postgraduate research degrees

PhD supervision is available in a wide range of subject areas on China, Japan, Korea and intra-regional studies

Forthcoming Korean Studies Conference

The 2005 Biennial Conference of the Association for Korean Studies in Europe (AKSE) will be held at Halifax Hall, the University of Sheffield, on 4-8 July 2005. The conference will be hosted during the 25th anniversary year of Korean Studies at Sheffield, which began with the appointment of the first Korean Studies lecturer in 1980. Information about the conference is available from the Conference Organizer, Professor James H. Grayson (j.h.grayson@sheffield.ac.uk). Requests to attend the conference may be received up to 1 June.

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