Japan and the School of East Asian Studies: Moving forward together.
Celebrating 50 years of Japanese Studies at the University of Sheffield.

In 1963, the University of Sheffield was chosen by the British government to form a centre of academic excellence on modern Japan, focussing on commerce, diplomacy and business. 50 years later, this centre has expanded into the renowned School of East Asian Studies, one of the largest and most distinguished departments of its kind in Europe.

The School is delighted to celebrate five decades of success in studying modern Japan, establishing strong relationships between British and Japanese institutions, and inspiring graduates to master the Japanese language and understand the culture of this remarkable country.

This is a time not only to celebrate the School’s achievements but also to look to the future. The School is determined to remain at the forefront of studying contemporary Japan and its place in the fast-evolving East Asia region, as well as analysing Japan as a global player. Its ambition is to continue to attract world-leading academics to Sheffield, and provide excellent opportunities for the bright and talented students who choose to study Japanese. Philanthropy has a powerful role to play in enabling the School to achieve this ambition.

The cover image is taken from Japanese artwork depicting two ‘koi’ fish swimming. The Japanese character (kizuna) signifies the bond or connection between people.

Japanese Studies は、英国政府による卓越した研究拠点形成のための重点支援のもとに、通商、外交、ビジネスの三分野において現代日本研究を展開する学術センターとして1963年に設立されました。それから50年、当研究所は今やヨーロッパで最大規模且つ最高峰を誇る東アジア研究機関のSchool of East Asian Studies（東アジア研究所）として成長を遂げています。

設立50周年を迎えるにあたりまして、当研究所の実績を振り返れば、現代日本研究の成果はもとより、日本と英国の学際機関の確かな協力関係を築きながら、日本という素晴らしい国のことばを習得し文化を理解する意欲に満ちた卒業生達を送り出すことに貢献してきました。

また、今こそ将来の展望を計画するにふさわしい時と言えましょう。当研究所は、今日の日本実態や急速に発展していく東アジア地域における日本の在り方の研究においても、国際社会の担い手としての日本の分析においても、引き続き第一線で活躍していく志を新たにしています。さらに今後も、世界トップレベルの研究者を惹き付け、才能豊かで優秀な日本学専攻の学生達に卓越した学びの機会を提供する研究所として活動を展開していく所存です。そして、その実現を可能にするのが正に、フィランソロピーに基づいた皆様からのご支援です。
Does Japan matter?

Japan matters. It matters as the third largest economy in the world and as a major overseas investor as well as trading partner of the UK. As a developed democracy, it plays an important political and security role in the East Asian region and in the wider world. As a member of the G8 and G20, Japan contributes to the shape of the international order in tackling important issues such as the health of the global economy, energy security and climate change. This is why Japan remains crucially important to policymakers, business leaders and other observers and analysts of economic and political developments.

We are proud that the University of Sheffield has historic and wide-ranging links with Japan. Japanese students today come to Sheffield to study a wide variety of subjects, for example, business studies, politics, engineering, molecular biology and biotechnology, computer science, linguistics, arts and heritage management, international studies, law and ethics – a testament to the international relevance of the University’s courses.

Sheffield also enjoys well-established links with top Japanese universities including Tokyo University, Keio University and Kyoto University, and has student exchange programmes, study-abroad arrangements and collaborative research agreements with many other leading Japanese institutions.

Our School of East Asian Studies builds upon this flourishing relationship. For the past 50 years, the School has been a dynamic intellectual and training hub, promoting the understanding of Japan in the UK and internationally, and producing world-class research on all aspects of Japanese society, economy and culture. By the 21st century, the School has grown to be one of the largest and most distinguished departments of its kind in Europe. The 50th anniversary of Japanese Studies at the University of Sheffield is a timely opportunity to celebrate the School’s achievements, and to look forward to future success.

Professor Sir Keith Burnett CBE, FRS
Vice Chancellor

日本抜きで何が語れるか

日本抜きでは何も語れません。なぜなら、日本は世界第三位の経済大国であり、英王国の主な海外投資国および貿易相手国であるからです。また、発展した民主主義国として日本は、東アジア地域でも世界でも政治・安全保障における重要な役割を担っています。G8・G20加盟国としても、国際経済の健全性やエネルギー需給の安定確保、および気候変動をはじめとする重要課題と取組み上で、国際秩序の形成に貢献しています。言うまでもなく、政策立案者やビジネスリーダー、さらに政治・経済発展のアナリストやオブザーバーにとって、日本は今日でも極めて重要な国なのです。

シェフィールド大学は、長い年月を経て日本との幅広い関係を築いてきましたが、その歴史に、本学の誇りです。日本の留学生が本学で専攻する科目を見れば、経営管理学、政治学、工学、分子生物学、生物工学、コンピューターサイエンス、言語学、芸術文化遺産管理学、国際学、法倫理学など多岐にわたり、本学が提供する一連のコースの持つ国際的な有用性を顕著に表しています。

また、本学は東京大学、慶応大学、京都大学を始めとする日本の名門校との確固たる関係にも恵まれ、交換留学制度や一年間の単位留学制度のほか、様々なトップクラスの研究機関との協同研究活動なども展開しています。

このような日本との豊かな相互関係が、シェフィールド大学 School of East Asian Studies での礎となっています。当研究所は過去50年間、英国および世界における日本への理解を促進し、日本の社会、経済、文化などあらゆる面で、世界に通用する研究を生み出しながら、躍進的な学術研究と研修の中枢として活動を続けてまいりました。そして21世紀を迎えた折には既に、当分野においてヨーロッパでも有数の最大規模・最高水準を誇る学術機関にまで成長していました。シェフィールド大学における設立50周年記念は、当研究所の功績を祝うと共に、将来への更なる飛躍を展望する好機と言えましょう。

教授 キース・バーネット卿（CBE大英帝国勲章、英国王立協会会員）
シェフィールド大学 総長
The Importance of Japanese Studies at Sheffield.

Despite the economic difficulties that the country has experienced in recent years, Japan remains an economic giant – the third largest developed economy in the world, a manufacturing powerhouse, with a presence in the world league tables in terms of major companies, scientific innovation and research, and financial strength well beyond its relatively small proportion of the world’s population.

From a specifically British perspective, Japan is a major contributor to the British economy through high-quality investment in both manufacturing and services over the last 40 years – over 1,300 Japanese companies employing more than 130,000 people directly and many more hundreds of thousands in the supply chain.

And Japan is also a country whose culture – in literature, the visual arts and design – is the envy of the world, and remains a source of fascination and admiration for millions. For all these reasons, it is important to continue to train the next generation of scholars and experts on Japan, as Sheffield has, so successfully, over the last 50 years.

From the beginning, the focus of teaching and research in Sheffield has always been contemporary Japan, with specific analysis and understanding of commerce, business and diplomacy. Sheffield pioneered the ‘dual degree’ system of teaching Japanese with the social sciences and other disciplines – an approach to the study of contemporary East Asia that has now become standard. This distinctive approach to Japan has laid the foundations for the School’s success over the last five decades, and continues to underpin its achievements today.

Adventurous students are transformed into world citizens by studying Japanese Studies at Sheffield, particularly through the ‘Year Abroad’ scheme established with Sheffield’s partner institutions in Japan. Students develop excellent language skills, strong critical thinking abilities and cultural awareness, and entrepreneurial skills.

They now work for:
- Elite Russell Group universities in the UK such as Oxford, Warwick, Birmingham and the London School of Economics, thereby making an important contribution of the highest quality to the study of Japan in the UK today;
- FT Global 500 companies such as Goldman Sachs, Barclays and Deutsche Bank;
- International media outlets such as Time magazine;
- Prestigious international bodies such as the UN, and British and East Asian embassies;
- The Japan Exchange and Teaching programme (JET) supported by the Japanese government, thereby promoting English-language education and grassroots international exchange in Japan.

Sir David Warren, KCMG
British Ambassador to Japan (2008 - 2012)
Chairman of the Japan Society, UK
Visiting Professor at the University of Sheffield (2013 - )
The Impact of 50 Years of Exceptional Teaching on Japan...

...the voices of former students of Japanese Studies.

1970s Graduate
Professor Ian Gow, OBE, FRSA.
Principal of Sino-British College, Shanghai.
Former Head of the School of East Asian Studies and former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield.

I believe that the standing of the Sheffield Centre for Japanese Studies, as it was then known, was helpful in enabling me to receive a Japanese Ministry of Education scholarship to study at Osaka University of Foreign Languages and an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) placement at the University of Tokyo.

Inspired by the model of teaching and research at Sheffield, I built a successful Scottish Centre for Japanese Studies at Stirling and later helped to strengthen the Sheffield Centre into an expanded School of East Asian Studies.

Japan is key to understanding East Asia. I believe that expert studies at Sheffield will repay our continued investment in language and social sciences skills. I would never have been as successful in my professional career if it hadn’t been for Japanese Studies at Sheffield.

1970s Graduate
Stephen Jones.
Commercial and financial career specialising in Japanese business.
Posts held include Deputy President, Jardine Fleming Investment Trust and Advisory Co Ltd, Tokyo; Senior Inward Investment Adviser, British Consulate-General, Osaka.

I chose Sheffield because the University’s ‘dual degree’ structure appealed to me. The undergraduate courses offered at Sheffield in Japanese History and Culture, and Social and Economic Development, provided a good grounding for operating in Japan. The teaching was first class - particularly on the structure of the language.

I have lived, studied and worked in Japan, where I have pursued a business career, for over 20 years. My experience at Sheffield set the course of my professional and personal life, and for this I remain extremely grateful.

1990s Graduate
Gregory Sutch.
CEO, Intralink Ltd, UK.

I spent time in Japan as a child because of my father’s job, and developed an early interest in the country.

I liked the fact that the Japanese Department at Sheffield offered me a contemporary course instead of focusing on ancient Japanese texts. I recall having some truly inspirational and gifted teachers, which was really essential when trying to learn a difficult language like Japanese!

I received a solid grounding in Japanese and all things Japan, which put me in great stead for my future career. I still draw on these skills in my job today. I could not have gone far in my profession were it not for Japanese Studies at Sheffield.
The Impact of 50 Years of Exceptional Teaching on Japan...
...the voices of former students of Japanese Studies.

1990s Graduate
Adrian Brindle.
Founding Partner of the boutique financial services firm Mercury Securities.
Previously worked for Baring Securities and JP Morgan Chase in Tokyo. Ran equity-linked trading businesses for nearly 20 years.

As an undergraduate, I wanted to combine my choice of Economics with another subject to increase its relevance and real life applicability. In the 1980s, Japan was at the peak of its global economic prowess, and I considered the linguistic challenge of learning Japanese worth taking on.

Sheffield was the only university that enabled me to study Economics and Japanese together. The teaching and, most importantly, the mentoring was top notch.

Japan possesses a wide spectrum of areas where it has a world leadership position and the significance of the country as the third largest economy in the world is enormous. There are so many fields that deserve studying, and Sheffield is a great place to begin this.

1990s Graduate
Julie Gilson.
Senior Lecturer in Japanese Politics, University of Birmingham.

After my undergraduate degree in Modern European Languages, I taught on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) programme for a year, and wanted to pursue a Master’s degree allowing me to combine my interests in Europe and Japan. Only Sheffield offered me this. I enjoyed the course so much that I was persuaded to continue with doctoral research, for which I was able to spend a large portion of time at Keio University in Tokyo.

I was challenged and motivated by my PhD at Sheffield to pursue a career in academia. Among other books, I have now authored Asia Meets Europe (Edward Elgar, 2002) and co-edited The European Union and East Asia: Inter-Regional Linkages in a Changing Global System (Edward Elgar, 2001).

2000s Graduate
Laura Scarlett.

Learning Japanese at Sheffield turned out to be one of the best decisions of my life.

A valuable thing I took away from my degree was a huge increase in confidence. Mastering a difficult language, having the courage to practise with native speakers and living by myself in Japan enabled me to gain the self-belief to face new challenges, which was a huge help when it came to job-hunting. The Japanese language knowledge itself got me a place on a prestigious Master’s programme, which in turn led to my current job.

I now work as an Assistant Correspondent for Nikkei Business magazine in its London editorial bureau, and draw upon my Japanese experience at Sheffield every day.
“I’m truly proud of my connection to Japanese Studies at the University of Sheffield. It has remained a pioneering centre, making connections between diverse communities of scholars and students in the arts, sciences and business worlds. It was a launchpad for my own career and I’m so glad to be part of the department’s celebrations.”

1990s graduate and honorary graduate Edmund de Waal, OBE
Ceramic artist and author of the award-winning book The Hare with Amber Eyes.

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2000s Graduate
Jonathan Paton.
International Relationship Manager, Fluid Capital.

I fell in love with Japan while staying with a Japanese family during my gap year. I wanted to go back to Japan and thank the friends I had made, in their own language, for inspiring me to study Japanese. Sheffield was the obvious choice to fulfil this aim. The focus on all areas of language learning at Sheffield meant that after graduating I was fully able to use my Japanese – communicating with co-workers, chatting to friends or translating written texts. Sheffield also gave me an in-depth understanding of the culture, history and politics of not only Japan but other countries within East Asia.

Without Japanese Studies at Sheffield, I would never have been able to work in translation in the investment sector, nor work with Japanese clients, conversing in their native tongue. My degree developed in me the confidence to communicate comfortably with people from different countries and cultures, and for this I am very grateful.

2000s Graduate
Graduate trainee in the International Sales Department, Hochiki, Japan.

I developed an interest in Japan since I was 15, and now have come to love the language. I’m one of those people who enjoys learning kanji!

Sheffield’s Japanese course is very well structured, compared to other universities. With having to master over 2,000 kanji, the degree helped me to learn how to manage my time. I found the confidence to voice my own opinions and ideas in front of large numbers of people in both Japanese and English.

My first position after graduating was a prestigious internship with Mercedes-Benz in Japan. I have now started my new full-time job at Hochiki, Japan’s oldest fire alarm manufacturer, where I am the only English-speaking person. It can be hard sometimes, but the confidence and practical presentation skills that I gained in Sheffield are coming in really handy.

2000s Graduate
Miryam Prasetyo.
Website designer, University of Sheffield’s School of Languages and Cultures.

I experienced Japan first-hand when I took part in a school trip to Japan’s Kansai region, and was inspired to study Japanese. The reputation of the School of East Asian Studies made Sheffield a clear choice for me.

For my MA in Multilingual Information Management, I was able to build on my Japanese Studies experience and wrote a dissertation comparing how managers in the UK, Germany and Japan should communicate differently with their employees to achieve the same effect. I now work with the University’s School of Languages and Cultures, redesigning the postgraduate section of the department’s website.
Celebrating the 50th Anniversary and Looking to The Future.

Japanese Studies at Sheffield is bound together by a passionate belief in the continued importance of Japan in today’s world. Sheffield academics, alumni and current students seek to communicate and disseminate their expertise and knowledge of this country across the University, as well as nationally and internationally.

The School’s breadth and quality of research in contemporary issues are its strengths, and it aims to maintain and build on these in the future. As a result, it has been selected by the Higher Education Funding Council and the UK’s Department of Business Innovation and Skills to take forward new initiatives in the study of Japan. The School also frequently briefs the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on such issues as the challenge of ageing populations, the G8 and G20 summits, and free trade agreements.

Current research priorities include:

- Regionalism and globalisation: for example, East Asia’s regional institutions and their global roles, reflecting the rapid changes in the region’s economic development;
- Business, political economy and development: for example, analysis of current changes in corporate management, state regulation, financial and consumer markets;
- Identities and cultures: for example, the rise of Japanese diasporas;
- Social change and transition: for example, the disintegration of social institutions and changing demographics in Japan.
Training the next generation
The School plays a critical role in training the next generation of experts and scholars on Japan. Language proficiency is key to enabling a nuanced and effective study of modern Japanese culture and society. The School provides students with excellent support to build their language skills so that they can then engage with broad themes related to modern Japan: business, economics, history, international relations, language, literature, society, politics and gender.

Sheffield students are transformed into world citizens at the School, particularly through the ‘Year Abroad’ scheme with Sheffield’s partner universities in Japan.

Looking to the future
The School is determined to build on the success of its first 50 years, and to remain at the forefront of studying contemporary Japan and its place in the fast-evolving East Asia region, as well as analysing Japan as a global player. In addition to its vital role as an internationally recognised centre of excellence for teaching and research the School will, in particular:

- Work to ensure that the importance of Japan is not overlooked by policymakers and business, through collaboration with partner universities, foundations, corporations, government and NGOs;
- Analyse the political, economic and cultural cross-cutting themes that shape Japan’s regional and global development;
- Continue to build strong international links and exchanges between Japan and the UK.
The Value of Philanthropic Support.

Philanthropy has a powerful and complementary role to play in enabling the School to achieve its vision. Benefactions can enable the School to realise its vision in two ways:

Supporting the Geoffrey Bownas Memorial Fund
In 2012, the University established the Geoffrey Bownas Memorial Fund in memory of the renowned Japanese scholar and professor at Sheffield. Geoffrey Bownas. Professor Bownas, who died in 2011, was a brilliant linguist and a dynamic leader in Japanese Studies for more than half a century, and was the founding professor of the School. Through his understanding of the country’s culture and society, he made a key contribution to UK-Japan relations in fields from poetry to industry.

The School seeks to inspire future generations of students and researchers with Professor Bownas’s example. Gifts made to the Fund will be used to support:

- Postgraduate students at the School travelling to Japan for research purposes with their travel and living costs. These gifts are vital in enabling PhD students to access resources and collaborate with key academics at partner Japanese universities first-hand.
- Undergraduate students with their ‘Year Abroad’ spent at a partner university in Japan. This is the most transformative year in undergraduate students’ lives, when for the first time they are able to test their learning of Japanese language and society in the real world, promote intercultural exchange, and develop professional and personal skills that stay for life.
- Small grants for academics to attend conferences and travel to Japan for research purposes. Gifts directed towards these grants will promote collaborations with Japanese academics, corporations, government and civil society groups, adding to the existing expert knowledge on Japan in the School.

Support for leadership posts
To continue providing expert insights and analysis into Japanese life and culture, the School will attract the most talented and leading academics in Japanese Studies to Sheffield. Philanthropic support for such posts will enable the post-holders to focus on topical, cross-cutting themes as well as the regional and global significance of Japan, and serve as international experts on these issues.

The University is delighted to recognise gifts to Japanese Studies in a variety of ways. These include acknowledgement in Sheffield’s Roll of Benefactors, in the University’s own marketing and promotional publications and other material, and in appropriate instances, through the naming of bursaries, scholarships and posts.

First-year students of Japanese Studies at the University of Sheffield learn Japanese script.
Why I support Japanese Studies at Sheffield

Japanese Studies at Sheffield paved the way for my future career by opening doors to a first-class financial institution in the City of London on a highly competitive graduate scheme. I have now come to concentrate on Japan and its position in Asia and the world in business.

Japan remains one of the largest economies in the world and the richest in terms of capital assets per head of population. It is of enormous relevance to the world, and Sheffield remains one of the best institutions to study this fascinating country. Japanese Studies at Sheffield taught me the importance of looking at the world from a non-Eurocentric perspective.

As a student, I was privileged to receive funding from a variety of sources including a travel scholarship from Japan Airlines that allowed me to go to Japan. Without that help I would not have been able to spend time studying in the country.

I recognise that funding these days is much more difficult, particularly for postgraduate students. For those of us who have benefited in our careers from what we learnt at Sheffield, it is incumbent upon us to give something back.
For further information, please contact

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