

What can I do with a Japanese Studies major?

-or-

Ways to work in Japan or Asia- a starting point for students



Question:

**What can I do with a
Japanese Studies major (or minor)?**

Answer:

...Anything...

Japanese Studies Facts:

1962 - Japanese language teaching begins at Earlham College

1963 - Japan Study Program at Waseda University begins

1973 - SICE program begins

1974 - Japanese Studies major begins

1999 - Japanese Studies minor begins

224 - # of Japanese Studies graduates (as of 2004)

7 - # of Japanese Studies minors

What Happens After Earlham

We have surveyed the alumni/ae who majored, double majored, or minored in Japanese Studies.

Below is a list of current professions of those graduates who returned a survey.

- government positions: consulates/embassies/foreign service
- working for Microsoft USA (previously at Microsoft Japan)
- working for Intel Corporation in international marketing
- translation work: written & simultaneous
- newspaper reporter
- cultural liaison for US & Japanese businesses
- medicine: traditional & holistic: pediatrics, dentistry, & medical translation
- law
- computer software & website construction
- working at Kirin USA
- working for a women's shelter in Japan
- working for a political think tank in Japan
- teaching/Education: K-12, college/university, ESL, educational outreach

Alumni/ae

Scott Tomlinson- Class of 1997



Major: **Japanese Studies**

Off-Campus Program(s): **Japan SICE Program 1995, Jerusalem Program 1996**

After Graduation:

Immediately following graduation I participated in the Earlham College Teaching English in Japan Program in Kawai-mura, Iwate-ken for 2 years.

Further Education:

Fall 2000: MBA/MIM-Thunderbird, The American Graduate School of International Management. Concentration on Japanese Marketing and International Marketing.

Current Employment:

Intel Japan, Product Marketing Manager, Ethernet Components

Comments:

"In 1993 I left Macomb, Illinois for a college with strong roots, encompassing a commitment to ethics and principles; and more importantly, with an excellent teaching staff which offered me a chance for growth beyond what any other higher education institution could challenge in the world.

The Japan Studies division was more than a language learning experience, it almost instantly opened my eyes and ears to every aspect of Japan. From sushi to bullet trains, self-introductions to year-end parties, and kerosene heaters to heated toilet seats, I began to understand what it meant to be truly cross-cultural.

In my job now I interact with Japanese daily, often calling business men and women for multi-million dollar deals, and knowing that none of it would be possible without the Earlham Japanese Studies curriculum. Working and living in Japan in both a teacher and business role have given me the time of my life, and more knowledge than I could ever have asked for coming from a small mid-western town. And the best thing of all -- it is only the beginning, with Earlham having been my first step. Now the rest is up to me."

Make the Connection: College & Careers

Most students who enter college think that the experience will be four years of preparation for a career, and that, when graduation comes, they will pack up their lives and move smoothly into the certainty of their futures. College does open doors, but to the successful student these are doors of continued learning and exploration. “The only constant in life is change.” So goes the old saying, and successful careers result from the graduate’s ability to adjust to the changes that life brings. The real career preparation in college helps people learn to manage change.

Things to Consider:

In what ways do you expect college to prepare you for your future?

In what ways do you expect college not to be relevant to your future?

What is the most important thing you can do at school to prepare for your future?

In what ways will you continue to learn after you graduate college?

In what ways will you be complete after college?

Do you know what major or job you will pursue?

What are the chances you will change your mind?

What might influence you to change your mind?

Do you expect to enter into a profession and stay there until you retire?

Identify two or three possible careers.

What will you do similar to/different from the people who currently are in that career?

If you had your dream job right now, what would you be doing during a typical workday?

Are you doing anything now to help you develop the skills needed for those tasks?

Which aspects of your life are complemented well by college student culture?

Which are not?

What things outside of your own interest influence what you are studying?

Use Kierkegaard’s statement (“Life can only be understood backwards, but must be lived forward”) to think about the decisions you have made in your life.

Life after graduation - where to begin...

I. Make Lists

- A. What you like to do
- B. The products/equipment you may use
- C. What you think you'd like to do
- D. What you like about Japan
- E. Where you would like to work
- F. Conditions under which you'd like to work

II. Talk to people about their jobs and how they got to where they are

- A. Professors
- B. Parents
- C. Older friends
- D. Relatives
- E. Alumni/ae

III. Write down your ideal job

- A. What is it?
- B. Where is it?
- C. What might be involved in getting there (graduate school, etc.)

IV. Create your résumé

- A. Go to Career Services in Bolling Center.
- B. Show your résumé to many people for comment.
- C. Remember - there are different résumés for different jobs.

V. Make sure your passport is in order and know where it is!

*** Remember ***

These lists are not exhaustive. It is a place to get started!

Teaching Opportunities

Teaching English in Japan: www.earlham.edu/~aet

JET: www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/jet/

AEON: www.aeonet.com

NOVA: www.teachinjapan.com

KEEP: www.keep.or.jp/indexe.html

Grants/Internships

____**Asian American Art Centre Internships:** www.artspiral.org/internship.html

Foreign Student Service Council: call (202)232-4979 or email fssc@clark.net

Fulbright Scholarships: www.iie.org/TemplateFulbright.cfm?section=Fulbright1

Japan-America Society of Washington DC: www.us-japan.org/dc

Japan-America Student Conference: www.jasc.org

Japan-America Student Conference Internship: www.jasc.org/intern.htm

Monbusho Scholarships: www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jic/monbusho.html

Nambu Foundation Summer Internships: www.nambufound.com

U.S. State Department Internships: www.careers.state.gov/student/prog_intrn.html

Volunteers in Asia: www.viaprograms.org

Watson Fellowship - visit Career Services in Bolling Center for more information

Japan-America Societies

National Association of Japan-America Societies
733 Fifteenth Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202-783-4550 Fax: 202-783-4551
<http://www.us-japan.org>

Japan-America Society of Alabama
500 Beacon Parkway West
Birmingham, AL 35209
Phone: 205-943-4730 Fax: 205-943-4760
<http://www.jasaweb.net/>

Japan-America Society of Arkansas
Arkansas International Center
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
2801 South University Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72204-1099
Phone: 501-569-3282 Fax: 501-569-8347
<http://www.freewebs.com/jasarkansas/>

Japan Society of Boston
One Milk Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02109-4812
Phone: 617-451-0726 Fax: 617-451-1191

Japan Society of Northern California
312 Sutter Street, #410
San Francisco, CA 94108-4317
Phone: 415-986-4383 Fax: 415-986-5772
<http://www.usajapan.org>

Japan America Society of Southern California
ARCO Plaza, Level C
505 South Flower Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071-2101
Phone: 213-627-6217 Fax: 213-627-1353
<http://www.jas-socal.org>

Japan-America Society of Charlotte
105 West Morehead Street, Suite B
Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-332-3800 Fax: 704-332-3800
<http://www.us-japan.org/jascharlotte/>

Japan America Society of Chicago
20 North Clark Street, Suite 750
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-263-3049 Fax: 312-263-6120
<http://www.jaschicago.org>

Japan-America Society of Greater Cincinnati
300 Carew Tower
441 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202-2812
Phone: 513-579-3114 Fax: 513-579-3102
<http://www.cincinnatijas.com>

Japan Society of Northeast Ohio
Asia Plaza 210B
2999 Payne Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115
Phone: 216-694-4774 Fax: 216-622-6009
<http://www.us-japan.org/jas>

Japan America Society of Colorado
1625 Broadway, Suite 680
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 303-592-5768 Fax: 303-592-5367
<http://www.jascolorado.org>

Japan-America Society of Dallas/Fort Worth
11615 Forest Central Drive
Suite 206, LB26
Dallas, TX 75243-3914
Phone: 214-342-2022 Fax: 214-342-1022
<http://www.jasdfw.org>

Japan-America Society of Florida, Inc.
International Affairs Center, Cooper Hall
University of South Florida
4202 Flower Avenue
Tampa, FL 33620
Phone: 813-974-9948 Fax: 813-974-8271

Greater Detroit and Windsor Japan-America
Society
One Woodward Avenue
P.O. Box 33840
Detroit, MI 48232
Phone: 313-596-0484 Fax: 313-964-0168
<http://www.us-japan.org/gdwjas>

The Japan-America Society of Georgia
3121 Maple Drive, NE, Suite 224
Atlanta, GA 30305
Phone: 404-842-1400 Fax: 404-842-1415
<http://www.us-japan.org/jasg>

Japan-America Societies - continued

Japan-America Society of Hawaii
P.O. Box 1412
Honolulu, HI 96806-1412
Phone: 808-524-4450 Fax: 808-524-4451
<http://www.jashawaii.org>

Japan-America Society of Indiana
39 West Jackson Place, Suite 50
Indianapolis, IN 46225
Phone: 317-635-0123 Fax: 317-635-1452
<http://www.japanindiana.org>

Japan/America Society of Kentucky
3070 Harrodsburg Road, Suite 215
Lexington, KY 40503
Phone: 859-224-7001 Fax: 859-224-7033
<http://www.jask.org>

Japan America Society of Minnesota
Riverplace EH-131
43 Main Street SE.
Minneapolis, MN 55414-1031
Phone: 612-627-9357 Fax: 612-379-2393
<http://www.mn-japan.org>

Japan-America Society of Nevada
P.O. Box 81287
Las Vegas, NV 89180-1287
Phone: 702-252-0277 Fax 702-253-0075
<http://www.us-japan.org/nevada/>

Japan-America Society of Rhode Island
28 Pelham Street
Newport, RI 02840
Phone: 401-846-2720 Fax: 401-846-5600
http://www.us-japan.org/resources/jasinfo_past.html

Consulates General of Japan in the U.S.

Consulate of Japan in Anchorage
3601 C Street, Suite 1300
Anchorage AK 99503-5925
Phone: 907-562-8424 Fax: 907-562-8434
<http://www.anchorage.us.emb-japan.go.jp/>

Consulate of Japan in Atlanta
One Alliance Center, Suite 1600
3500 Lenox Road NE
Atlanta GA 30326
Phone: 404-240-4300 Fax: 404-240-4311
Information Center Phone: 404-240-4300
<http://www.japanatlanta.org>

Consulate of Japan in Boston
Federal Reserve Plaza, 14th Floor
600 Atlantic Ave
Boston MA 02210-2285
Phone: 617-973-9774 Fax: 617-542-1329
<http://www.boston.us.emb-japan.go.jp/index.html>

Consulate of Japan in Chicago
Olympia Centre, Suite 1100
737 North Michigan Ave
Chicago IL 60611-2656
Phone: 312-280-0400 Fax: 312-280-9568
<http://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/index.html>

Consulate of Japan in Denver
1225 17th Street, Suite 3000
Denver CO 80202-5505
Phone: 303-534-1151 Fax: 303-534-3393
<http://www.denver.us.emb-japan.go.jp>

Consulate of Japan in Detroit
400 Renaissance Center, Suite 1600
Detroit MI 48243
Phone: 313-567-0120 Fax: 3130-567-0274
<http://www.detroit.us.emb-japan.go.jp/english.htm>

Consulate of Japan in Honolulu
1742 Nuuanu Avenue
Honolulu HI 96817-3294
Phone: 808-543-3111 Fax: 808-543-3170
<http://www.honolulu.us.emb-japan.go.jp>

Consulate of Japan in Houston
1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 2300
Houston TX 77002-5013
Phone: 713-652-2977 Fax: 713-651-7822
<http://www.houston.us.emb-japan.go.jp/>

Consulate of Japan in Kansas City
1800 Commerce Tower
911 Main Street
Kansas City MO 64105-5334
Phone: 816-471-0111 Fax: 816-472-4248
<http://www.kansascity.us.emb-japan.go.jp/>

Consulate of Japan in Los Angeles
350 South Grand Ave, Suite 1700
Los Angeles CA 90071-3459
Phone: 213-617-6700 Fax: 213-617-6727
<http://www.la.us.emb-japan.go.jp/>

Consulate of Japan in Miami
Brickell Bay View Centre, Suite 3200
80 SW 8th Street
Miami FL 33130-3047
Phone: 305-530-9090 Fax: 305-530-0950
<http://www.miami.us.emb-japan.go.jp>

Consulate of Japan in New Orleans
639 Loyola Avenue, Suite 2050
New Orleans LA 70113-3140
Phone: 504-529-2101 Fax: 504-568-9847
<http://www.neworleans.us.emb-japan.go.jp/>

Consulate of Japan in New York
299 Park Ave, 18th Floor
New York NY 10171-0025
Phone: 212-371-8222 Fax: 212-319-6357
<http://ny.cgj.org/index.html>

Consulate of Japan in Portland
Wells Fargo Center, Suite 2700
1300 SW 5th Avenue
Portland OR 97201
Phone: 503-221-1811 Fax: 503-224-8936
<http://www.portland.us.emb-japan.go.jp>

Consulate of Japan in San Francisco
50 Fremont Street, Suite 2300
San Francisco CA 94105-2236
Phone: 415-777-3533 Fax: 415-777-0518
<http://www.cgjsf.org/index.htm>

Consulate of Japan in Seattle
601 Union Street, Suite 500
Seattle WA 98101-4015
Phone: 206-682-9107 Fax: 206-624-9097
<http://www.seattle.us.emb-japan.go.jp/index.htm>

Companies in Japan

McDonalds Japan: <http://www.mcdonalds.co.jp/>

Campbell Soup Japan: <http://www.campbellsoup.co.jp>

Kodak Japan: <http://www.kodak.co.jp>

Audi Japan: <http://www.audi.co.jp>

Disney Japan: http://www.disney.co.jp/index_flash.html

American Chamber of Commerce in Japan: <http://www.accj.or.jp/>

Companies in U.S.

NHK Enterprises America, Inc.: <http://www.pla-net.com/hdtv/index2.html>

Japan Media Productions Support, Inc: <http://www.sightchecker.com/en/profile.html>

JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization): <http://www.jetro.go.jp/usa/>

Kinokuniya Book Stores of America: <http://kinokuniya.citysearch.com/>

Tourist Industry

Kintetsu International: www.kintetsu.com/

Applying to Graduate School

Most JS graduates eventually continue their education at the advanced level, in master's and doctoral programs, in business schools, law schools, schools of international relations, and similar kinds of graduate study. Most of them do so because they're interested in careers that require an advanced degree of some kind. Some of them do so out of sheer love of the learning process. Unless your reason is in one of these two categories, you should think carefully before making a commitment to graduate education.

There are hundreds of good and excellent graduate schools in the United States. Nearly all of them require applicants to achieve a particular minimum score on the Graduate Record Examination, though the required minimum scores vary from one school to the next, and from one program to the next within the same school. Nearly all of them require some kind of minimum grade point average in undergraduate work, but law schools tend to be more particular about GPA than graduate programs leading to the PhD. Nearly all of them require three letters of recommendation, and in most cases, admission decisions depend more heavily on what's in those letters than on GRE scores, undergraduate GPA, and other standardized criteria. Nearly all of them offer various kinds of financial assistance, from loans and work study to complete tuition waivers and stipends. The specific combination of factors like these will be determined by the regulations of the graduate schools and programs you actually choose.

Many of those interested in graduate study already know where they want to go, and they usually have specific reasons for going there. But there are many criteria to consider in choosing graduate schools. Admission requirements and financial aid packages are obviously important. Equally important, you should decide what kind of degree you want – master's degree, doctor of philosophy, master's in social work, doctorate in education, law degree, etc. Once you know that, you can do research on line to find schools that confer the degree you want, and you can learn more details about their programs. You can also choose schools with a particularly good reputation in your area of interest, or with a well known name. You can choose a particular scholar in your area of interest and apply to the school where she or he teaches. Or you can choose a school with a good history of placing its degree recipients in attractive jobs in the field or profession where you hope to find work.

As with searching for work, you should think about your interests, and then be imaginative in thinking of ways to pursue them. Think outside the box, and don't decide to pursue an advanced degree just because it might be a good idea to have one. In many cases, holders of advanced degrees make higher salaries in comparable jobs, but if no one is hiring in the area of your training, you won't find work and you won't make any salary at all. Imagination and flexibility are critical.

A few tips from past job hunters/graduate school applicants.....

- 1) Don't wait until the last minute to ask for letters of recommendation.
- 2) Write thank you notes to those who write recommendations for you. Let them know if you get the job or into school.
- 3) Don't ask person who is writing the recommendation or the potential employer if you can see the recommendation(s). This is very unprofessional.
- 4) Always have copies of your resume handy; keep it updated!!! Also have an electronic copy.
- 5) Always have questions to ask for the interviewer. If you don't ask questions, you appear as if you are not very interested in the job opportunity, graduate program, internship, etc.
- 6) Always take an interview seriously-even if you know the potential employer. Always dress professionally. You may not have to dress-up when on the job, but show that you know when to dress for the occasion.
- 7) Write thank you notes to interviewer(s) after an interview.
- 8) Always respond promptly to the deadlines a potential employer or school sets. If you can't meet them, let the employer know immediately. Earlham is very flexible with deadlines. This does not reflect the reality of the non-Earlham world. Being on-time and meeting deadlines are important for functioning in graduate school and the working world.