

Japanese Academy

The Japanese Academy Program at Helensvale State High is designed to provide students of Japanese Language an extension on their knowledge, skills and abilities in all areas of Japanese across Years 7, 8, & 9. Languages are a fantastic way to engage young learners in intercultural appreciation, helping them to communicate with people around the globe and expanding their career options in the future. This three year program not only develops language skills, language confidence and cultural understanding, but also provides a supportive program that will enhance literacy, communication and higher-order thinking skills, all valuable foundations preparing students for their senior schooling years.



Over the three year course, students in the Japanese Academy Program develop and practise communicative language within realistic contexts while at the same time developing an understanding of cultural differences. Students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of the essential elements of the Japanese Language and are given the opportunity to create, present, interpret, respond and reflect on their own and other's work. Students are encouraged to work individually and collaboratively in Japanese, culminating in the Term 4 "Natsu Matsuri" Summer Festival.

At Helensvale State High we have a dynamic Japanese language department with staff who are passionate about the language and culture of Japan. Many extension opportunities are made available throughout our Program including sister school/study tour visits, Japanese lunch days and restaurant visits, participation in language competitions and cultural incursions/excursions. In

addition, Japanese Academy students will have access to exciting online learning tools that greatly aid in the development of their Japanese language skills.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

As part of your students' application for the Helensvale State High Japanese Academy Program we require students to sit an Entrance Examination to demonstrate their current knowledge of the following criteria:

- Greetings:** demonstrate knowledge of common greetings and everyday expressions used within a Japanese classroom setting.
- Self-Introductions:** demonstrate knowledge of language patterns and vocabulary necessary for introducing oneself in Japanese.
- Japanese Scripts:** Students demonstrate their knowledge of basic Japanese Scripts: Hiragana & Kanji numbers.
- Likes & Dislikes:** Students demonstrate their knowledge of basic descriptive language in Japanese.

Students are encouraged to review these topics with their current Japanese Language teachers or on their own. As places in the Academy Program are limited, Entrance Exam results are considered an important component of their overall application.

ACADEMY APPLICATION PROCESS **IMPORTANT DATES**

Year 6 applying for Year 7 Academy Classes

Date	Event
Tuesday 21 February 2017	Academy applications open. Application must be submitted electronically or in hard copy to the Helensvale State High administration office.
Thursday 2 March 2017	Academy applications close
Saturday 4 March 2017	Excite Exam held at Helensvale High
Tuesday 14 March 3:15-5pm approx. Meet at SWELL	Academy Auditions/Workshops/Exam/Trials: Arts, e4e, Japanese, Sports
Friday 31 March 2017	Academy applications notified and scholarships announced via e-mail

ACADEMY APPLICATION

ALL Applications must include only the following:

- Application form
- A statement that lists achievements
- Year 5 Semester 1 and 2 school reports
- Year 5 NAPLAN results

(No Yr. 6 Teacher reference necessary)

Plus Practical Component – as per academy requirement (e.g. exam, workshop, trial, audition etc.)

APPLICATION FOR 2 ACADEMY PROGRAMS

Students are able to apply for 2 Academy Programs as per below table and are asked to rank their preferences as the timetable structure may not allow them to participate in all programs they are accepted for.

If applying for multiple academies students may apply for 2 only in the following combinations:

- EXCITE + Arts OR Japanese OR e4e OR Sport
- SPORT + Arts OR Japanese OR e4e

JAPANESE ACADEMY ALUMNI QUOTES

Catherine Strassburg – Year 12 Japanese Student

I think learning Japanese is great, interesting and an enjoyable challenge. One of my favourite parts of learning Japanese is learning how to write kanji. The teachers are also incredible. They make learning Japanese really fun by incorporating different games and challenges between friends and class mates. I find that my Academy teachers often share information about extra opportunities to encourage and extend our language skill development, and build our confidence. In years 10 and 11 I went on the school's Japanese Study Tour to Japan and during my stay with my host family, I was able to converse with them with confidence. Studying Japanese with like-minded, motivated and interested students for the past four years has also helped me build strong trust and friendships amongst those in my class. I would highly recommend the Japanese Academy Program. It was one of the best decisions I made during my high school years.



Tynika Crooks – Year 12 Japanese Student

Japanese Academy has been an awesome experience. Over the past years the teachers have made learning Japanese fun. Many opportunities have been provided to us, such as a school trip to Japan and visits from our sister school. Learning Japanese has really helped me in being more confident. For example, when in Japan, I felt comfortable speaking to Japanese people, and in Year 10 I participated in a Japanese play held at a state-wide speaking competition run with the cooperation of Griffith University. Our Academy Teachers always make sure that the students know about any extra-curricular activities or events that are going on and encourage us to join in. Overall, joining Japanese Academy has really pushed me and supported me in my language studies, and being a part of it has helped to make Japanese one of my favourite subjects.



NB. An application fee is attached to this program and must be paid on submission.