



EPSOM
COLLEGE
MALAYSIA

ECM Institute of Japanese Studies

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Kanda University of International Studies

2

Tracks available

8-10

Students per class

MYR 70

Per hour

Programme Objectives

- Designed for native Japanese-speaking students living and studying abroad who wish to maintain and strengthen their Japanese language fluency across speaking, reading, writing and listening
- Advancing cultural identity and mother-tongue connection for Japanese-national and Japanese-heritage students
- Ensure students remain academically prepared for repatriation to Japan or entry into Japanese-medium higher education
- Focuses on practical language use rather than exam preparation but if more students wish to enter Japanese universities in the future, we will flexibly add the necessary content or introduce alternative programmes.

Curriculum Overview

The curriculum is designed and delivered by Kanda University of International Studies, structured for overseas and heritage learners across three learning bands. All four language skills are addressed in every band - reading (読む), writing (書く), speaking (話す), and listening (聞く) - with content and pace calibrated to each age group.

Junior Ages 7–10 Hiragana, Katakana, basic Kanji, oral expression and guided reading.	Middle Ages 11–14 Kanji, Essay Composition, Reading Comprehension	Senior Ages 15–18 Acquiring kanji vocabulary, writing compositions using previously learnt kanji, and reading comprehension
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Placement Assessment - SPOT

What is SPOT?

SPOT (Standard Proficiency Online Test) is a standardised Japanese language assessment used to objectively measure a student's proficiency level. It evaluates reading, vocabulary and grammar comprehension and is widely used by Japanese language programmes internationally.

SPOT is administered once before the programme begins to determine the correct band placement for each student.

Student Progress Reports

Through direct access to student portfolios, parents and guardians can view written work, real-time progress, and teacher feedback to clearly see each student's "process of growth." To complement this, regular progress reports will be sent throughout the year to evaluate development across all four language skills. These reports will measure performance against clear learning band benchmarks and highlight teacher observations on individual strengths and areas for growth.

DESIGNED AND DELIVERED WITH KANDA UNIVERSITY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Inside the Curriculum

Four questions define how Japanese is taught here: what is covered, how lessons are run, how work is judged, and what reaches you at home. Each one is answered below.

01

What We Teach

Three strands, present in every lesson.
Vocabulary and kanji, learnt as words a child can actually use rather than characters to memorise.
Writing, moving from short opinions to paragraphs to structured argument.
Society and culture, using news, data and discussion as the reading material.

02

How Lessons Run

One topic runs across three or four lessons, so a unit builds instead of resetting each week.
Every lesson opens with vocabulary and kanji, whatever the band.
Essay structure and research habits already learnt in English at ECM are carried across, not taught twice.

03

How Work Is Judged

Placement is decided once, before the programme starts.
After that, written work is judged on four things: how it is structured, whether the vocabulary suits the task, whether the argument holds together, and how well the evidence supports it.
Every piece is read three times over: by the student, by classmates, and by the teacher.

04

What Reaches You at Home

A digital portfolio gathers written work, research notes, classmate feedback and teacher comments by theme, so progress is visible while it happens.
At the end of each unit and term, your child adds their own note on what they can now do and what comes next.
A written report follows each term.

One curriculum, one record — from the first placement test to the final term report.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q

Who is this programme for?

This programme is for Japanese students currently enrolled in Epsom College Malaysia who are interested in advancing their Japanese proficiency.

Q

How small are the classes?

Classes are capped at a maximum of 10 students to ensure direct, personalised instruction from the teacher.

Q

Do students need prior Japanese language ability?

All students take the SPOT placement test before the programme begins to determine the right band level. The programme is designed for native Japanese speakers as structured mother-tongue advancement.

Q

Who are the teachers?

Lessons are delivered by qualified instructors provided through our academic partnership with Kanda University of International Studies.

Q

What is the SPOT test?

SPOT (Standard Proficiency Online Test) is a standardised online assessment used to determine the correct learning band placement for each student before the programme begins.

Q

Can my child switch tracks mid-year?

Track changes can be accommodated at the start of a new term, subject to availability.

Q

How will I know my child is progressing?

While SPOT is used for class placement, we will hold achievement tests at the end of each term. We plan to produce a report that shows each student’s individual progress.

Q

Does this programme prepare students for university entrance exams in Japan?

This programme is designed to help native-speaking Japanese students develop the ability to think about abstract ideas in Japanese and to expressive themselves clearly through reading and writing.

Q

What is the difference between Standard and Intensive track?

Standard is 2 hrs/week during CCA time. Intensive is 4 hrs/week — 2 during the week (CCA) and 2 on weekends.

Q

Is there an additional fee?

Yes, the Japanese Language Centre is a specialist enrichment programme offered at an additional term fee, separate from your child's standard ECM tuition, priced at MYR70 an hour.

About Kanda University of International Studies

神田外語大学 · Kanda University of International Studies

Chiba, Japan · Founded 1987

Kanda University of International Studies (KUIS) is one of Japan’s leading universities for language education and global engagement. Founded in 1987 and located in Chiba, Japan, KUIS is recognised for its expertise in language teaching, intercultural communication, and the development of globally minded graduates.

With extensive experience in Japanese language education, teacher development, and curriculum design, KUIS supports learners from a wide range of linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Drawing on this expertise, KUIS serves as the academic partner for ECM's Institute of Japanese Studies, supporting the development of a high-quality programme that helps students strengthen their Japanese language proficiency and deepen their understanding of Japanese culture.

Programme Coordinator



Photo

Kaoru Seki

Programme Coordinator · Kanda University of International Studies

Ms Seki is a highly experienced specialist in Japanese language education who has been involved in curriculum development and training for international organisations and educational institutions for over 20 years. She has designed and delivered Japanese language programmes for major corporations such as Sony, Honda, Apple, Aeon, Rakuten and SoftBank, as well as prestigious institutions including the University of Tokyo, Kanagawa University, JICA and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST). Currently, whilst conducting research into kanji acquisition among non-kanji-using learners at the Centre for Educational Innovation at Kanda University of International Studies, she is also contributing to the creation of a database for Japanese language learners as a researcher at the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics. By combining academic research with her extensive practical experience, she approaches Japanese language education with a practical, results-oriented approach.

Lead Teacher



Photo

Yoshie Otsuki

Lead Teacher · Kanda University of International Studies

Ms Otsuki holds a Master’s in Japanese Education from the University of the Sacred Heart and is a Registered Japanese Teacher. She has extensive teaching experience across secondary, university and adult education in Japan. Her expertise includes Japanese literacy, reading comprehension, academic writing, presentation and debate. At Epsom College Malaysia, she supports native Japanese-speaking students in maintaining and strengthening their Japanese language skills while studying in an international environment, with a particular focus on academic language, literacy and effective communication. She is also experienced in adapting her teaching to students with different learning needs and backgrounds.

Programme Fees

All fees quoted per term. Lessons are priced at MYR 70/hour.

Standard Track	MYR 1,400 / term
Hours per week	2 hours
Schedule	During CCA (weekday)
Hours per term	20 hours
Rate	MYR 70 / hour
Class size	8–10 students

Intensive Track	MYR 2,800 / term
Hours per week	4 hours
Schedule	2 hrs weekday (CCA) + 2 hrs weekend
Hours per term	40 hours
Rate	MYR 70 / hour
Class size	8–10 students