

FAQ

Enrollment

- What's the difference between the annual, weekly and supplemental tutoring programs?

The annual program is based on the assumption that the student will attend 50 classes per year. The tuition is divided into 12 installments, paid monthly. Annual enrollment allows me to make long term plans - therefore I am able to offer the lowest possible price per class and a lot of bonus features (snacks & tea, monthly diligence prize drawing for kids, origami club, complimentary culture sessions, etc.) The annual program promotes consistency in learning, which is crucial especially in the first 2 years.

The weekly program is designed for students who are not really sure if they can commit more than 3-4 hours per month to learning Japanese and/or Japanese culture. The student pays at or after class, and we plan the next lesson weekly.

Supplemental Tutoring is designed for students who are already learning Japanese at other institutions but would like to buy a few classes to help them with a particular problem. The assumption is that the student is already at the Japanese II level or higher. The student communicates a specific problem when contacting me and we work on it at the agreed time.

- What is the difference between private and semi-private lessons?

A private lesson is a lesson with one-on-one instruction. The program is tailored to the needs of the student as well as the speed at which we are working on the material. A semi-private lesson is a lesson for 2 students (siblings or friends who are at a similar level) and the program and speed is adjusted to the 2 students.

- I'm not sure if I should enroll in private classes or group classes.

It depends on how you prefer to learn. Private classes offer privacy and are perfect for students with inquisitive minds who like to ask a lot of questions. They might feel embarrassed or simply bad about asking questions during regular sessions. It is also perfect for students who like to through with the material at their own pace. Group classes are perfect if you want to meet new friends who share your passion, and you thrive in a classroom setting.

- I have never learned Japanese or any other language, how do I know which program to choose?

Start with the weekly mixed (language/culture) program, and see if you like it - if you do, we can switch to the annual program at any time.

- Can I ask questions in private sessions?

Of course, you are more than welcome to ask ANY question related to Japan and Japanese language and culture. It is your time and you have every right to have your questions addressed.

- Can I ask questions in group classes?

Of course, all questions related to the material we are working on are more than welcome!

- Can parents stay during classes for kids?

Private sessions - yes.

Group lessons - no.

Learning Japanese language

- How many hours per week should I take?

It all depends on your goal and your financial situation. In my experience the best results are when we are able to spend some time (even if it is just 30 minutes) every day or every other day (in the class or by ourselves) reviewing vocabulary and practicing kanji.

Here are four examples from my own experience:

- Goal: full working proficiency
4-8 hours of Japanese classes per day (5 days per week) and additional activities - working fluency in 5-6 years (achieved by 90% of Japanese language major students at a university - students I've known)
- Goal: JLPT n5 in 1 year (starting from 0)
3 hours of Japanese classes per week and approx. 2-3 hours of independent study outside of the class (achieved by one of my students)
- Goal: holding a daily conversations at natural speed
1-2 hours of Japanese classes per week and 3-4 hours per week outside of the class over 3 to 4 years (achieved by my students)
- Goal: lower functional proficiency for work
2-3 hours of Japanese classes per week and 3-6 hours per week outside of the class over 3 to 4 years (achieved by my coworkers in Japan)

According to the Foreign Services Institute (institute teaching foreign languages to US diplomats) Japanese language requires about 2200 class hours (while speaking e.g. French at the same level requires only 600-700 hours)

If you are passionate, committed to learning Japanese and willing to work hard but cannot afford more classes - please reach out to me. We can come up with a plan; I would be more than happy to guide you and give you additional worksheets for independent study. I can also offer an academic merit-based scholarship to students (high school and up) who are working hard and prove their motivation, commitment and passion combined with hard work outside of class.

- How long does it take to memorize hiragana?

It all depends on how much time you can commit to your study. I've known adult students who had to memorize hiragana in one week (Japanese language major students in college), while others who didn't have to hurry needed several months. Average time for adults: 3-6 months (provided that they come to classes on a regular basis and are completing all of the assignments)

Immersion schools usually give 6-7 year old children approximately a year to get used to the different writing/reading system and only after that they start reading practice. Average time for kids: 6-12 months (provided that they come to classes on a regular basis and are completing all of the assignments)

- I'd love to keep learning Japanese but my financial situation has changed and I cannot afford the lessons anymore.

I love seeing passionate and hard working students and I am offering a mini merit-based scholarship towards the tuition for those who work hard but are struggling with paying for lessons. Not everyone has the financial means to acquire a good education - but money should never stand in the way of dreams, especially if someone is actively doing everything they can and more to make their dream a reality.

- I really want to learn Japanese with the discount. I am passionate about Japanese but I don't have time to work on home assignments.

The scholarship is meant to award passionate students who are willing to take their study to the next level - working hard outside of the classroom. Passion and enthusiasm are amazing stimuli to guide us towards our dreams but they need to be supported by hard work to generate results. We can assume that all my students are passionate about Japanese language - otherwise they would not be taking the lessons outside of their school curriculum. However, the scholarship is meant for students who are actively reaching for their dreams.

Classes

- I'm going to be out of town during class, can I have my class rescheduled?

Annual enrollment students: Yes - up to 2 classes per month can be rescheduled if the absence is communicated to me at least 24 before our planned lesson.

Weekly enrollment student: there is no need to reschedule - you are paying for the classes as you take them.

- I am in the annual program but I would like to take a couple of extra classes during the summer, do I have to enroll in the weekly program and pay the higher fee?

No, annual students are offered additional classes at their base program fee.

- I completely forgot that I had class today, can we reschedule? I'm an annual enrollment student.

No, sadly we cannot reschedule a class a student forgot about - regardless of the program.

We will reschedule up to 2 absences communicated to me 24 hours prior to the absence and medical emergencies (annual enrollment program).

- I completely forgot that I had class today, do I have to pay for the class? I'm a weekly enrollment student.

Yes, no show fee is equivalent to one lesson fee.

- I'm in the weekly program. Why does my class time change?

Weekly classes are offered based on my schedule availability. I am trying to offer as many classes as possible but I am sharing the weekly program time with my translations and the tutoring program.

- I am an annual program student, will my class time change?

No, annual program students are offered classes on a consistent basis. The time will change only if we both agree on it.

- Can I accumulate my rescheduled classes and skip the payment of one month?

No, the annual fee is calculated per year and then divided into 12 installments. A rescheduled class is a class from the previous installment/month.

Your rescheduled class will be offered on top of your monthly classes, within a month from your absence.

- Is it possible to switch in-person classes to online?

Yes! I have a number of students in a hybrid program - partially online, and partially in-person.

- My employer is sending me out of town for an extended period of time (a few weeks or months), what should I do?

We have a couple of options for this situation:

1. Keep learning online - I strongly recommend consistency. It's crucial especially at the beginning of your journey with Japanese language
2. Switch to the weekly program for the time being
3. Take a break, and come back to Japanese after you are back in town (no cancellation/re-enrollment fee)

- My work schedule picked up and I will not be able to come to class anymore. Is there a cancellation fee?

No, there is no cancellation fee, you are free to leave anytime.