

Q17 What are the main challenges currently faced by Japanese Studies in Australia?

Answered: 69 Skipped: 28

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Career opportunities Career opportunities	2/9/2018 12:44 PM
2	Unsure, n-a Not sure	2/8/2018 8:02 AM
3	Decline: language course Lack of specialists in language pedagogy in universities. Highly conservative language pedagogy. Dwindling numbers of academics who do not have time or the will to devote to the general development of the field or collaborative work.	2/7/2018 10:25 AM
4	Systemic issues - Many lecturers of Japanese language are over worked (no time for research) - Lack of free-to-use online teaching resources of Japanese language	2/7/2018 10:02 AM
5	Rising China Chinese studies	2/6/2018 2:28 PM
6	Low perceived value General waning in the interest in the Humanities, Asian Studies as well as languages.	2/6/2018 12:40 PM
7	Career opportunities Students majoring Japanese Studies will grow if they see a greater career opportunities and importance of language skills.	2/6/2018 12:22 PM
8	Career opportunities career built on Japanese studies	2/6/2018 12:20 PM
9	Lack of funding Decline of languages and budget cut down	2/5/2018 3:49 PM
10	Rising China The increasing presence and growth of Chinese Studies.	2/2/2018 1:47 PM
11	Lack of funding Lack of government funding	2/2/2018 10:30 AM
12	Rising China Maintaining the relevance since the rise of China.	2/2/2018 7:29 AM
13	Low perceived value Failure of educational policy and decision makers to see the ongoing value of Japanese Studies .	2/2/2018 2:53 AM
14	Few publishing opps Systemic issues Publication opportunities; and time for research	2/1/2018 9:35 PM
15	Low perceived value Rise: purpose-driven res. Drive toward 'purpose driven' research areas. Few specialists trained in Literary studies in the country, makes studying these areas difficult - especially Classical Japanese.	2/1/2018 6:46 PM
16	Rise: other Asian nations Competing with other Asian countries that have been powerfully promoting their products/culture/education/etc	2/1/2018 11:04 AM
17	Rising China China	1/31/2018 12:43 PM
18	Too narrow, disconnected Global presence?	1/30/2018 9:24 AM
19	Decline: language course Language issues Systemic issues Language programmes have been pared back so much that there is little time to develop both cultural and linguistic knowledge. There are difficulties in getting language students' research skills up to Honours or PG level, encouraging them to study another discipline (other than just LOTES, eg) with their Japanese language, and then to keep them in Japanese studies.	1/30/2018 8:25 AM
20	Career opportunities dearth of academic positions	1/27/2018 11:38 AM
21	No next-gen scholars How to sustain it beyond the generation change	1/24/2018 5:15 PM
22	Too narrow, disconnected very limited interactions with other Japanese Studies activities around the world	1/24/2018 4:25 PM
23	Rise: other Asian nations Rising China Too much focus on JPC Too narrow, disconnected As above	1/24/2018 3:26 PM
24	Declining interest in Jpn It is to increase their interests in Japanese studies among undergrad/postgrad students.	1/24/2018 2:01 PM

25	Detailed comments Too much focus on JPC Too narrow, disconnected There is recently too heavy a focus on pop culture and literature and not enough focus on Japan's relationship with the rest of the world, the political economy or social inequalities. People interested in Japan's economy or politics tend to not get involved in Japanese studies. It's unfortunate because I feel like Japanese studies is ghettoized as a result.	1/24/2018 1:46 PM
26	Attracting postgrads Lack of funding Rise: other Asian nations Funding support in the tertiary sector; fewer students enrolled in honours programs; attracting phd students; profile within the field of Asian Studies	1/24/2018 1:27 PM
27	Declining interest in Jpn Rise: other Asian nations shifts in interest and support to other country studies, for example Chinese Studies, Southeast Asian Studies and possibly Indian Studies	1/24/2018 11:27 AM
28	Too narrow, disconnected not well connected to Japanese studies hubs in Asia Pacific	1/24/2018 11:25 AM
29	Career opportunities Lack of funding No next-gen scholars Universities cutting posts and not developing the next generation of scholars.	1/24/2018 11:15 AM
30	Too narrow, disconnected Conservatism and isolation. Needs to enter into discussion on broader global issues	1/24/2018 10:34 AM
31	Detailed comments Language issues more x-cult, x-discipline Secondary sch. programs Too narrow, disconnected Disconnect between highschool and university learning engagement, particularly where students are transitioning between the two. Focus is heavily on humanities, education and language learning, which may obscure interest in Japanese studies from cross-disciplinary fields such as Sciences, Environmental Studies, Architecture, Engineering etc. High interest in Japanese studies from these other disciplines, may not match the language skills required.	1/24/2018 10:14 AM
32	Detailed comments Language issues No next-gen scholars Systemic issues Too narrow, disconnected Marginalisation in Australian academia, little encouragement to develop sophisticated language skills (cf publish!), and not enough time or support to develop networks. A lot of short-term pressures but too little long-term investment in 'human capital'.	1/24/2018 10:10 AM
33	Declining interest in Jpn A general lack of interest in Asian countries by the government and general population.	1/24/2018 9:56 AM
34	Declining interest in Jpn Rising China We academics might be passionate about Japanese studies, but the "average Australian Joe" seems vastly more interested in China. This is perhaps understandable, given the rate at which the Chinese economy is growing and China's importance to the Aust economy. Still, the focus on China is overwhelming and to the detriment of wider interest in Japan. This, in turn, impacts on Japanese studies in Aust.	1/24/2018 9:38 AM
35	Declining interest in Jpn Rise: other Asian nations General decline of interests in Japan. It would accelerate with the economical decline of Japan relative to other Asian nations.	1/23/2018 4:28 PM
36	Rise: other Asian nations Too narrow, disconnected It's not well linked to Asian Studies. Need more opportunities to open up the space for comparative studies.	1/23/2018 3:49 PM
37	Lack of funding Lack of Funding	1/23/2018 2:42 PM
38	Too narrow, disconnected The very small size of the Japanese studies community results in a lack of dynamism domestically. The repetitiveness of the JSAA conference is a good example of this.	1/22/2018 5:07 PM
39	Language issues Secondary sch. programs Systemic issues in my view, the diversity of secondary school programs across states, and the resulting diversity of programs in the University sector. The challenges at the University sector are what they have always been: maintaining quality teaching with ever changing administrative and budgetary constrains, and managing the diversity of students' existing language capital.	1/22/2018 10:59 AM
40	Rising China political emphasis on China studies.	1/21/2018 4:14 PM
41	Career opportunities Lack of funding University budget cuts and limited (ongoing) academic positions	1/18/2018 3:21 PM
42	Career opportunities Detailed comments No next-gen scholars The bulk of academics currently active will reach retirement age. Would the universities offer replacement positions?	1/18/2018 1:28 PM
43	Systemic issues Academic staff with limited research capacity. Preferential recruitment process.	1/18/2018 8:22 AM

44	Detailed comments Too narrow, disconnected Country studies reflect the dynamics of that country, the greater the relevance of Japan to regional and international politics and economy is, the greater an attention to Japanese studies both among students, the bureaucrats, and business will be. This is something an academic community cannot control. It is also noticeable the funding organizations of Korea and China seem to be strong in Australia, but also globally in relative to those of Japan. At the same time, secondary school Japanese language programs are still strong, and there is also a significantly strong interest in and good general view about Japan among the general public in Australia, which is also important for Japanese studies. I also heard that the Japanese studies conference in Europe is growing stronger, and dynamic, and a greater attention to locate Japanese studies in a broader global studies context, and linking with other academic associations, both disciplinary and area/country-wise will be important for future dynamic of Japanese studies?	1/18/2018 6:22 AM
45	Unsure, n-a Not sure.	1/17/2018 5:43 PM
46	Rise: purpose-driven res. Systemic issues maintaining relevance as Area Studies specialists in an increasingly hard discipline based university system.	1/17/2018 4:41 PM
47	Declining interest in Jpn Low perceived value Rising China Remaining in the public's and university administrators' consciousness within the rise of the China and India economies.	1/17/2018 4:40 PM
48	Career opportunities Career opportunities beyond the conclusion of formal studies.	1/17/2018 3:46 PM
49	Lack of funding Low perceived value Lack of government and public recognition of the importance of Asian/Japanese studies. Lack of research funding is still a hurdle.	1/17/2018 2:02 PM
50	Detailed comments Systemic issues the challenges of Japanese studies are part of a larger challenge to maintain excellence in teaching and research in the arts and humanities, programs have shrunk and options for study have reduced. there is also a confusion about what Japanese studies is. certainly language studies is one aspect but the question of the field remains less clear.	1/17/2018 1:42 PM
51	Career opportunities Detailed comments No next-gen scholars Over-supply of talented young researchers! Need to think about how to offer postgrads more diverse career paths beyond academia. Realistically there is no prospect of major growth in Japanese Studies in Australian universities in the coming years, so we need to prepare postgrads for other ways to use their expertise in other careers.	1/17/2018 1:40 PM
52	Declining interest in Jpn Fewer scholars are interested in Japanese studies in general.	1/17/2018 1:18 PM
53	Declining interest in Jpn Lack of funding Low perceived value Perceived loss of relevance of the field to Australia and Australians, and therefore lack of interest in supporting growth by govt and university admins.	1/17/2018 1:17 PM
54	Attracting postgrads Systemic issues casualisation of teaching staff, difficulty of recruiting Honours and HD students	1/17/2018 12:10 PM
55	Career opportunities more x-cult, x-discipline No next-gen scholars Academics seem to be turning to discipling studies over regional studies and historic commitment to area studies while also engaged in the discipline seems to be fading. Too many senior academics in Australia and NZ are not participating actively in the Japanese Studies space. There are fewer jobs in academia and so it is hard to support the next generation of scholars.	1/17/2018 12:05 PM
56	Systemic issues the parochialism of australian academia in general	1/17/2018 11:47 AM
57	Systemic issues The same challenges faced by university academics in Australia. Demanding roles cutting into research time, increased casualisation of the workforce, etc.	1/17/2018 11:43 AM
58	more x-cult, x-discipline Too narrow, disconnected It is too Japanese-centred and should develop topics which are cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary	1/17/2018 11:41 AM
59	Declining interest in Jpn Rising China Declining interest in Japan generally and a rush to embrace China.	1/17/2018 11:39 AM
60	Career opportunities Rising China Job market and focus on Chinese studies	1/17/2018 11:32 AM

61	Detailed comments more x-cult, x-discipline Systemic issues A negative spiral of invisibility and irrelevance-- existing senior staff at many departments are mediocre and poorly trained/regarded as researchers. Their research and teaching rarely interact with other fields or current debates among serious scholars in Japan. This leads to an isolated and narrowly focused field in Australia which is only appreciated by the converted. Academic relevance to other fields needs to be actively promoted, if this situation was to change, but those in such positions are disinclined or ill-equipped to do so. This is why, with a few exceptions, serious scholars prefer to associate themselves with traditional disciplines (history, anthropology etc). We need active senior researchers to show more leadership to create a dynamic community of scholars whose work is read by non-Japanese studies people. But I don't know what roles you can play to encourage that, when serious scholars tend to be busy building their reputation in their own disciplines, and senior ones in Japanese Studies are usually busy creating a cosy playground by keeping the little power to themselves. I'm sorry to be negative, but this is widely recognised and making the field uninspiring for upcoming scholars in Australia with the right kind of ambition. Much of the quality English-language work on Japan comes from elsewhere, mostly the US.	1/16/2018 5:57 PM
62	Low perceived value Rising China How universities are choosing China over other Asian countries to support. To make Japanese Studies relevant to all stakeholders (again).	1/16/2018 5:05 PM
63	Decline: language course Reduction in Univesities offering Japanese language courses.	1/16/2018 4:20 PM
64	Attracting postgrads Lack of funding Access to resources and Ensuring sufficient number of students are attracted to postgraduate studies	1/16/2018 3:07 PM
65	Detailed comments more x-cult, x-discipline Too much focus on JPC Whilst we are seeing a resurgence in Japanese language enrolments, most of this is casual. The true challenge is to convert this into serious education that focusses not just on language skills for the purposes of a holiday, but to break-down problematic stereotypes that many of our students hold due to over-investment in anime/pop culture etc. The JF could go a long way in supporting this in providing more opportunities for voices critical of Japanese society to be presented in various fora.	1/16/2018 12:24 PM
66	Few publishing opps few opportunities to publish	1/16/2018 11:42 AM
67	Detailed comments more x-cult, x-discipline Too narrow, disconnected Due to its diversity, there is fragmentation as a field - lacking coherence. As an area study, I think it would be really cogent and coherent to position the field within larger 'area' studies - what it means to study a particular society in the age of significant changes in space-time transformation. I think it would be really useful to increase the relevance of Japanese studies in relation to other area studies (Asia studies, other countries), but without resorting to methodological nationalism. Also, to position Japanese studies as providing empirical accounts that inform other globalised thematic areas or disciplines - fine art, music, politics, etc, which has relevance in Australia.	1/16/2018 11:19 AM
68	Declining interest in Jpn declining interest in Japan in this country	1/16/2018 10:10 AM
69	Low perceived value Rise: other Asian nations Rising China Public seeing Japanese studies as irrelevant in the face of growing interest in neighboring China and Korea.	1/16/2018 9:31 AM