

**Smith College**  
**Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures**  
**Japanese Language Placement Exam (2026-2027)**

**\*PLEASE COMPLETE STEPS #1-4 BY Saturday, AUGUST 15, 2026 11:59pm (EDT)**

Students arrive at Smith with differing language experience and proficiency, so there are several entry points to departmental course offerings for first-year and transfer students. Students with no previous Japanese language experience should expect to enroll in JPN 110 (Elementary Japanese) in the Fall semester. Please note that Japanese is taught in a year-long sequence, so JPN 110 is not offered in the spring. All first-year and transfer students who have previous experience with the Japanese language will take a placement exam prior to enrolling in a departmental course in order to determine the appropriate class for their language level.

The placement exam has four parts: 1) a student placement questionnaire; 2) an online test (SPOT 90); 3) a short, handwritten essay; and 4) a 10-15 minute interview via Zoom.

**Step 1: Complete the placement questionnaire**

Please fill out the questionnaire (<https://forms.gle/a37SK3mZymddVJkc9>) by midnight on Saturday, August 15, 2026 11:59PM EDT. Please note that you will also need to add your placement exam results and your short essay at the end of the questionnaire.

**Step 2: Take the SPOT 90 Japanese language placement exam (only once, please).**

(Please do not use a dictionary, textbook or other language resources during the exam.)

SPOT 90 is available online 24/7. Please take the exam when you have uninterrupted time to do so, allocating 20-25 minutes. You need headphones and a quiet space to work. We recommend that you take the exam on a computer rather than a tablet or a phone.

Please note that this test measures your abilities in understanding Japanese. While some questions will be easy, others will be difficult. Don't feel discouraged if you encounter questions where you don't know the answer. By assessing what aspects of Japanese you are able to understand, the test enables us to place you in the Japanese class that best suits your needs.

To take the Japanese placement test, go to <https://ttbj.cegloc.tsukuba.ac.jp/p1.html>

- Click on the blue button for "Test Application" 受験申込.
- Answer the questions for the user agreement.
- Press the button at the bottom of the screen for "apply for the test."

(continued on next page)

- **Choose SPOT 90 only.** You do not need to take the Grammar or Kanji tests.

**受けるテストを選択 (Test selection)**

受験希望のテストを以下から選択してください。  
(Select the test you would like to take.)

- SPOT90 + Grammar90 + 漢字SPOT50
- SPOT90(SPOT 90)**
- Grammar 90
- 漢字SPOT50 (Kanji SPOT 50)
- 漢字力診断初級 (Elementary Kanji Diagnostic Test)
- 漢字力診断中級 (Intermediate Kanji Diagnostic Test)
- 漢字力診断上級 (Advanced Kanji Diagnostic Test)

- System Requirements Check and Audio Check - answer whether you can hear the audio.
- Press the button 次へ at the bottom to move to the next page.
- On the next screen, type your name, and your email address.
- Type your affiliation type as ABROAD and then choose 未選択 NOTHING from the drop-down menu. You do not need to identify your affiliation. Then press the button 次へ at the bottom to move to the next page.
- Instructions for taking the text will be sent to the email address you provided.
- An email from the testing organization will provide you with a login ID and password. Follow the link in the email to the test website.
- Input your login ID and password.
- Fill out the questionnaire.
- We strongly recommend that you try each practice section first in order to understand the test format.

Proceed to take the exam (only once). At the end of the exam, you will receive your test results. Please take a screenshot of your results to the placement questionnaire and submit at the end of the placement questionnaire. **Saturday, AUGUST 15, 2026 11:59pm (EDT).**

### Step 3: Short Essay

Please write by hand a 1-2 paragraph (at least 10-12 sentences) essay on the topic of わたしとにほんご. Please do not use a dictionary or other resources to assist in writing this essay. This is an opportunity to show your knowledge of Japanese vocabulary, grammar and kanji. We recommend that you allocate 25-30 minutes for this part of the placement exam. Please be sure

to write legibly so that we can read your handwriting. Also, please write your name in both Japanese and English in the top left corner of the page. After you scan or take a photo of your essay, submit it in PDF or JPEG file format as an attachment to the placement questionnaire by **Saturday, AUGUST 15, 2026 11:59pm (EDT)**.

**Step 4: Submit test results, essay and placement questionnaire**

As noted above, please submit your test results, essay and placement questionnaire by **Saturday, AUGUST 15, 2026 11:59pm (EDT)**. Materials MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE your interview.

**Step 5: 10-minute short interview**

Once we receive all of your materials, we will send you a link to sign up for a 10-15 minute interview, which will be conducted via Zoom. The interviews will be held between **August 19 - August 21, 2026**.

If you have not used Zoom before, please download it to your computer, tablet or smartphone [here](#). Information about how to use Zoom is available [here](#).

Good luck! We look forward to meeting you in our JPN course soon.