



NOTAT FRA PROGRAMSTYRE KNYTTET TIL
PROGRAMSENSORRAPPORT OM
BACHELORPROGRAMMET I JAPANSK VÅR 2017

Dato for håndtering i programstyret: _____ 25.august
2017 _____

Kommentarer fra programstyret:

Programstyret har diskutert programsensorrapporten for bachelorprogrammet i japansk i møte 25.8.2017.

Styret synes det er svært positivt at rapporten roser programmet for dets lingvistiske og språklige tilnærming til faget, noe som programsensor mener gjør japanskfaget ved UiB unikt i skandinavisk sammenheng.

Programstyret ser det også som positivt at programsensor støtter fagmiljøets initiativ til å innføre mappeinnlevering i stedet for «skoleeksamen».

Når det gjelder våre utvekslingsprogram, merker programstyret seg at programsensor kommenterer at studentene har blandede erfaringer med de japanske universitetene, og at noen studenter uttrykker misnøye med japanskundervisningen ved enkelte av universitetene. Programstyret stiller seg tvilende til om programsensor har dekning for en slik kommentar. En gjennomgang av programsensors spørreskjemaer, besvart av 13 studenter, viser at 6 studenter oppgir «middels fornøyd», 6 oppgir «svært fornøyd», og 1 student oppgir noe midt i mellom de to alternativene. Ingen av studentene oppgir «misfornøyd», som er ett av tre alternativer når man skal vurdere det aktuelle universitetet.

Fagkoordinator: Harry Solvang

Dato: 25. august 2017

REPORT FROM PROGRAMSENSOR

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Department of Foreign Languages

Faculty of Humanities

For the period of 2013-2017

REPORT 6: Bachelor Program i japansk

About the program

This is a report on the Japanese language Bachelor Program, which is offered at the University of Bergen.

The current Bachelor program started in autumn 2014. The program first consisted of the courses ASIA 100, JAP110, JAP120, JAP205, JAP252 and two semester long exchange studies at a university in Japan. In response to students' opinions that they wished to learn more about Japan rather than learning about both Japan and China, ASIA100, which was offered to both students of Japanese and Chinese languages, was replaced with JAP100 for the students of Japanese language in autumn 2016.

The course JAP 100 provides students with a basic knowledge of Japanese history and society, insight into Japan's role in East Asia, and to introduce the Japanese language to the students. By the end of the course, students have learned the Japanese writing system and obtained the practical skills to read and write two kinds of phonetic scripts, *hiragana* and *katakana*.

On the basis of JAP100, the Japanese language courses JAP110, JAP120 and JAP205 are offered.

JAP110 teaches basic grammar, vocabulary and about two hundred kanji and students obtain the ability to express themselves regarding their everyday life both in speaking and writing. On

completing the course, students will have gained an ability in the Japanese language equivalent to the Japanese Language Proficiency Test's level 5. JAP120 aims at building knowledge of the Japanese language on the basis obtained through JAP110, with emphasis on linguistic structure, written language, the polite manners of talking, and practical use of the language. On completing the course, students will have understood the grammatical structure of the Japanese language on the higher beginner's level, and gained an ability in the Japanese language equivalent to the Japanese Language Proficiency Test's level 4. JAP205 teaches the students to build knowledge of the Japanese language at intermediate level on the basis obtained through JAP110 and JAP120, with emphasis on understanding of texts of the various genres. On completing the course JAP205, the students will have understood the grammatical structure of Japanese language at intermediate level, and gained an ability in the Japanese language equivalent to the Japanese Language Proficiency Test's level 3.

JAP252 is a course provided to students returning from two semester long exchange programs in Japan to write Bachelor theses. The theses should be critical essays on some themes about Japan in Norwegian, with short summaries in Japanese language.

Characteristics of the program in comparison with some programs at other universities.

The only Norwegian university that offers a Bachelor program in Japanese is the University of Oslo. At this university, the program called japansk med japan-studier is offered as part of Asia- og Midtøsten-studier. This program teaches the Japanese language in the wider context of studies of Japan, while the program at the University of Bergen concentrates on Japanese language education. Study points for each Japanese language courses per semester are 10 points, which is one third of the compulsory study points per semester. The students obtain an ability in the Japanese language equivalent to the Japanese Language Proficiency Test's level 3 after completion of the course JAP3010-Japansk E which is offered after the exchange programs in Japan, while at the University of Bergen, the students obtain the ability of this level before their studies in Japan as the exchange students.

This shows that the Bachelor program of Japanese language at the University of Bergen is suited for the students who intend to learn Japanese language and gain competence at high level. It seems to be a reason for the students' choice of the program at the University of Bergen, not the one at the University of Oslo. Another reason for choosing the program at the University of Bergen is, according to the students' comments, the smaller number of the students, i.e. 38, compared to the 60 students at the University of Oslo.

The characteristics of the program at the University of Bergen stand out when compared to the ones at other universities in Scandinavia. The Bachelor programs in Japanese offered at universities in Sweden- Stockholm University, Lund University, the University of Gothenburg, Dalarna University (distance education), and universities in Denmark- the University of Copenhagen and Aarhus University, are, as at the University of Oslo, Japanese language education in the wider context of Japan related studies. This means that the program at the University of Bergen is unique in Scandinavia as a program for intensive Japanese *language* education.

Comments

Judging by the students' formal evaluation of the classes and my informal conversations with the students, they are satisfied with the quality of teaching at the University of Bergen. Based on my observation of some classes, the skills of grammar, vocabulary, reading, writing, listening and speaking are taught in a good balance. Grammar is, in particular, well taught, which is important to build up language ability to the higher level. It is an advantage for the students that they can use books on Japanese grammar written by their own professor. The method of evaluation of JAP110, JAP120, JAP205 is "mappeevaluating", which is effective in encouraging the students to work constantly through the courses.

The students' comments on their experiences of the exchange programs at Japanese universities indicates that the quality of teaching varies from university to university. While many students are happy about the programs, some students express dissatisfaction with the Japanese language courses in the programs. It is the Japanese universities' responsibility to improve the quality of their programs, but it is also important for the University of Bergen to choose exchange partners which provide good study programs.

As mentioned above, the Bachelor program at the University of Bergen is unique in Scandinavia as a program for intensive Japanese language education where the students can gain Japanese ability to a higher level than at any other university. Two permanent teachers are very well qualified linguists. There is a possibility to develop the program to into a "centre" for Japanese language education and linguistic research in Scandinavia in future. There is a PhD research position at the moment, but there is not a Master's program, which would be desirable to fill the gap between the Bachelor program and PhD level work, in order to make it possible for students to keep studying continuously at the University of Bergen.