Asian Languages and Cultures, M.A.

The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures offers new interdisciplinary M.A. and Ph.D. programs. Students may design their own courses of study that take advantage of the many opportunities on campus to do in-depth research on Asia from multiple disciplinary perspectives and across the traditional area studies divisions of East, South, and Southeast Asia. Students may also choose to focus their studies in a thematic track, such as: Asian religions; Asian medical and health humanities; and Asian rights, violence, and law. Initially working with two co-advisors, each student will craft a program of coursework that combines Asia-focused courses with disciplinary study in and beyond the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. This may include linkages with other departments as well as UW–Madison’s rich array of centers and programs, including the Center for Healthy Minds (https://centerhealthy minds.org), Center for Visual Cultures (https://cvc.wisc.edu), Human Rights Program (http://law.wisc.edu/gls/human_rights.html), Religious Studies Program (http://religiousstudies.lss.wisc.edu), Center for East Asian Studies (https://eastasia.wisc.edu), Center for South Asia (http://southasia.wisc.edu), and Center for Southeast Asian Studies (http://seasia.wisc.edu).

We welcome applications from a wide range of students compelled to work transregionally, transdisciplinarily, or both. This includes students with a traditional background in Asian Studies and related academic fields as well as practitioners whose path to studying Asia has been through professional work.

The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures anticipates the formation of a lively intellectual community around Transasian studies and looks forward to supporting student-led seminars, reading groups, workshops and other events.

Admissions

Thank you for your interest in our programs. The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) offers a graduate program in Asian Languages and Cultures (https://alc.wisc.edu/graduate-programs/asiannlanguages-and-cultures), Chinese (https://alc.wisc.edu/graduate-programs/chinese) and Japanese (https://alc.wisc.edu/graduate-programs/japanese).

Prior to submitting application and materials, applicants should carefully review the information regarding the program of interest and the faculty’s expertise (https://alc.wisc.edu/about/faculty) to determine the fit between their interest and the program. To this extent, prospective applicants may contact a specific faculty to discuss their research interest prior to submitting applications.

Applicants should also review the Graduate School’s admission process (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/asian-languages-cultures/asian-languages-cultures-ma%20https://grad.wisc.edu/apply), Graduate School’s minimum requirements (http://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/requirements), and program requirements and information prior to submitting the online application and fee. The application fee cannot be waived or refunded.

Deadlines

We accept applications for the fall term only.

In order to be considered for fellowships, project assistantships, and teaching assistantships (https://alc.wisc.edu/graduate-programs/costs), all application materials must be in by January 10.

If you do not need any funding support, you may submit applications by April 15.

Application Process

New applicants to UW-Madison apply to programs through the Graduate School application process. Complete the online Graduate application (https://apply.grad.wisc.edu/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f) and select the Asian Languages and Cultures (major code 596) or Chinese (major code 171) or Japanese (major code 583) program.

If you are a currently enrolled UW-Madison graduate student and would like to add or change your current graduate program to Asian Languages and Cultures, Chinese, or Japanese, you do not need to fill out the online application. You will need to submit the following to the ALC Graduate Program Coordinator (1244 Van Hise):

• ALC Departmental Application form (https://alc.wisc.edu/sites/alc.wisc.edu/files/ALC20Departmental%20Application_internal2017.pdf)
• Grad School "Add/Change Program (https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/change-program)" form (click on link and look for form in the "Academic Forms" box)
• Letters of recommendation
• CV or Resume
• Statement of purpose

The applications from current UW–Madison graduate students will be reviewed every spring, together with new applications submitted.

Graduate School Admissions

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic degree programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet requirements of both the program(s) and the Graduate School. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions).

Funding

Graduate School Resources

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

Program Resources

Students applying to the Department of Asian Languages and Culture and students currently enrolled in the department may apply for fellowship support. Most fellowships are handled through the department. However, some are available through sources outside of the department and have different application procedures.
Graduate Studies Costs

For tuition and living costs, please view the Cost of Graduate School page (http://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/cost). International applicants recommended for admission to the Graduate School are required to show sufficient funds to attend the University during the course of studies (tuition, food and housing, incidentals and health insurance) to be officially accepted by the Graduate School.

Financial Assistance

Our department offers financial assistance in the forms of fellowships, teaching assistantships (TAships), and project assistantships (PAships). These positions are highly competitive as applicants are competing against other applicants across the department, and across campus in some cases. Please make note of the deadline of January 10 for financial assistance consideration. All necessary materials including test scores must be submitted by the deadline.

If you are an international applicant and receive a fellowship, PAship or TAship, please make note that you will likely be required to show additional financial documentation to meet the minimum required for your official acceptance to the Graduate School.

Fellowships. Students applying to the Department of Asian Languages and Culture and students currently enrolled in the department may apply for fellowship support. Most fellowships are handled through the department and have different application procedures. Some examples are as follows:

- **Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships:** FLAS fellowships are funded by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the UW’s National Resource Centers to assist students in acquiring foreign language and either area or international studies competencies. FLAS awards are only available for specific languages (https://flas.wisc.edu/Languages.html), and are contingent on federal funding. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Applications by students in professional fields are encouraged. Preference will be given to applicants with a high level of academic ability and with previous language training. Academic Year and Summer FLAS awards are two separate competitions requiring two separate and complete applications. Complete details about FLAS at UW-Madison are available on the FLAS FAQs (https://flas.wisc.edu/FAQS.html) (your first stop) and the FLAS Languages & Coordinators (https://flas.wisc.edu/Languages.html) pages (should you have additional questions).

- **Advanced Opportunity Fellowship (AOF):** This fellowship is awarded to highly qualified underrepresented students. To be considered for AOF funding, prospective students must be new to the Graduate School and be admissible to a graduate program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For further information: https://grad.wisc.edu/diversity/oecd/

Project Assistantships. Availabilities of PAship vary from one year to another, depends on the types of projects the departmental faculty are engaged in. PAs assist faculty members’ research projects and/or respond to some programmatic needs of the department and other campus units.

Teaching Assistantships. Availabilities and types of TAship vary from one year to another, depending on the department’s curricular needs and the student enrollment. TAs will support a number of our language and culture courses, typically team-teaching with faculty members. If you are interested in being a teaching assistant in our language programs, you must submit the TA application and necessary materials through the Graduate School application system by January 10.

Other Forms of Financial Aid: Loans and some on-campus job openings are handled through the Student Financial Services Office (https://financialaid.wisc.edu). Please contact them to obtain more information.

Please also refer to the Graduate School’s Funding Information for New and Current Graduate Students (https://grad.wisc.edu/studentfunding/currentstudents) page for additional information.

Students may also obtain information from the Grants Information Center (https://www.library.wisc.edu/memorial/collections/grants-information-collection) in the Memorial Library, Room 262, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. Phone 608-262-3242.

If you encounter questions or difficulties with the application process, please contact the Graduate Coordinator at rweiss@wisc.edu.

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**MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS**

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

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<tr>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Mode of Instruction Definitions**

- **Evening/Weekend:** These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

- **Online:** These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.

- **Hybrid:** These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

- **Accelerated:** These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.
CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Credit Requirement 30 credits

Minimum Residence Credit Requirement 16 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement Half of degree coursework (15 credits out of 30 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide/).

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement 3.00 GPA required.

Other Grade Requirements Students must earn a B or above in all coursework (300 or above, not including research credits) taken as a graduate student.

Assessments and Examinations There are two possible exit requirements for the M.A. One of the following two options will be chosen in consultation with the advisors.

- Students should select two substantially revised and/or expanded research papers completed during their graduate study to submit to their committee (the advisors and one additional faculty member). In addition to the written papers, an oral presentation of these papers to the committee is required.

- An approximately 50-page M.A. thesis. In addition to the written thesis, an oral presentation of the thesis to the committee is required. This option is usually appropriate for a student who wishes to continue in the Ph.D. program.

Language Requirements Six semesters of study of an Asian language or four semesters of study of two Asian languages, or the equivalent level of proficiency as established by examination by department faculty and staff. Additional language study may be required by the advisors.

REQUIRED COURSES

- At least 21 credits in Asia-related graduate courses in the department or elsewhere on campus.
- At most 9 credits of other graduate courses as approved by the advisors.
- Language study at the third-year level and beyond can count toward the total degree credits to a maximum of 12 credits.

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

A Graduate Program Handbook containing all of the program’s policies and requirements is forthcoming from the program.

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree or earned ten years is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison Undergraduate

With program approval, no more than 7 credits of graduate coursework (as defined above) completed while a UW–Madison undergraduate maybe counted to satisfy degree requirements. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison University Special

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison University Special student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

If a student’s average falls below 3.0 in a given semester, the department will decide whether the student may continue on probation. A specific plan will be arranged with dates and deadlines in place in regard to removal of probationary status.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Starting Fall 2018, all students are required to have two co-advisors, identified at the time of admissions. During the course of study, students meet regularly with their advisors to ensure satisfactory progress.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS

The maximum time for completing all M.A. requirements and passing the M.A. examination is three years.

Master’s degree students who are absent for five or more years will not be given credit for prior work.

OTHER

The program offers limited financial assistance in the form of fellowships and teaching assistantships to candidates who are highly qualified. Applicants should consult the program website for selection criteria and application materials for assistantships.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

The Graduate School Office of Professional Development (OPD) coordinates, develops, and promotes learning opportunities to foster the academic, professional, and life skills of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers and scholars.

Professional development topics include Individual Development Plans (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/idp), communication, mentoring, grant writing, dissertation writing, career exploration, job search strategies, and more. OPD collaborates with the Writing Center, Libraries, DoIT Software Training for Students, Delta, career centers, and others to provide a wealth of resources and events tailored to the needs of UW–Madison graduate students.

The office developed and maintains DiscoverPD (https://my.grad.wisc.edu/DiscoverPD), an innovative tool for UW-Madison graduate students to advance their academic and professional goals. DiscoverPD introduces nine areas (or “facets”) of professional development, includes a self-assessment, and provides a customized report of areas of strength and weakness. The report comes with recommendations to help graduate students strengthen their ability within each area.

More information on campus resources for student professional development is available at Graduate Student Professional Development (http://grad.wisc.edu/pd). Students may keep up-to-date by reading GradConnections (https://grad.wisc.edu/new-students), the weekly newsletter for graduate students, and bookmarking the Events Calendar (https://grad.wisc.edu/events) to keep tabs on upcoming workshops of interest.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate understanding of the primary field(s) of study in a historical, comparative, and global context.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the major theories, research methods, and approaches to inquiry in the selected area of the student’s focus.
3. Demonstrate ability to integrate theories into practice.
4. Demonstrate ability to articulate and communicate knowledge in specialized field(s).
5. Recognize and apply principles of professional and ethical conduct.

PEOPLE

FACULTY

Asian Languages and Cultures is home to nearly twenty faculty whose research and teaching specialities range from traditional medicine in India, the Hinduist roots of yoga, or diversifying contemporary mindfulness practice with insights from Tibetan Buddhism, to human rights in Thailand - from Chinese ghost stories, traditional poetics and philology, to sociolinguistics and discourse analysis of the Mandarins, Japanese, Korean, Indonesian languages - and from analysis of classical Japanese tale fiction, early modern comedic narratives, manga, anime, and Japanese counterculture. Visit our faculty pages (https://alc.wisc.edu/about/faculty) for more information on areas of expertise, current research, teaching and publications.

Erlin Barnard
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Fields of Study: Language Pedagogy; Materials Development; Second Language Acquisition

Gudrun Bühnemann
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Professor
Fields of Study: Sanskrit language and literature; Buddhism in India and Nepal; Hinduism; Tantrism and Yoga Studies

Anthony Cerulli
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Associate Professor
Fields of Study: Hinduism; Religion in South Asia; Medical Humanities; History of Medicine in India; Sanskrit Language and Literature; Kerala History and Culture

Charo D’Etcheverry
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Associate Professor
Fields of Study: Classical Japanese literature (especially court fiction & its reception and early kabuki)

John D. Dunne
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Professor
Fields of Study: Buddhist philosophy and contemplative practice; Religious Studies; Cognitive Science of Religion; Contemplative Science

Naomi Geyer
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Associate Professor
Fields of Study: Japanese Language, Language Pedagogy, Pragmatics

Tyrell Haberkorn
Associate Professor

Rania Huntington
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Professor
Fields of Study: Ming and Qing narrative and drama, literature of the weird and supernatural, memory in literature, depiction of women in literature

**Adam L. Kern**
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Professor
Fields of Study: The popular literature, culture, poetry, theater, and visual culture of early modern unto modern Japan (1600-1900). Transcultural comics in Japan (manga, kibyōshi, etc) and beyond.

**Byung-jin Lim**
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Associate Professor
Fields of Study: Korean Language and Linguistics, Second/Foreign Language Acquisition, Computer-Mediated Communication, Korean Language Textbook Development

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Fields of Study: Second Language Acquisition of Japanese, Japanese Pedagogy, Learning Strategies

**William Nienhauser**
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Professor
Fields of Study: Early traditional fiction and history; early poetry (especially Du Fu and Tao Qian)

**Steve Ridgely**
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**Hongming Zhang**
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Fields of Study: Chinese linguistics; syntax-phonology interface; prosodic phonology; poetic prosody; history of Chinese language; teaching Chinese as a second language

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Assistant Professor
Fields of Study: Discourse Analysis, Pragmatics, Pedagogy and Second Language Acquisition