

ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

The 21st century has been called the “Asian Century”: indeed, many of the world’s most pressing issues cannot be understood without a grasp of the histories, cultures, and languages of Asia. Asia is home to over half of the world’s population. China, Japan, and India are three of the world’s top economies. For decades, Asian countries have been leaders in global manufacturing, and Asian universities are renowned centers for literary studies and scientific innovation. Fifty percent of the declared nuclear-weapon states are also in the region. Simply put, Asia matters a great deal.

The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) offers a wide variety of courses on East, South, and Southeast Asia taught by faculty who are specialists in their regions and disciplines. Whether you are taking your first step toward learning about Asia or you bring some background experience, an ALC major will expand your ability to think and work across cultural and linguistic boundaries. Majors may opt to study Asia in a transnational and transhistorical perspective or in a more focused course of study by choosing one of our named options in East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

To take advantage of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures’ many relationships with other departments and program units across campus, students may choose to double major or enhance their studies in ALC with one of the certificates offered at the university, such as the Certificate in Global Health, the Certificate in Health and the Humanities, or those offered by the area studies centers.

This major is interdisciplinary and offers a wealth of options. Careful planning and consultation with the ALC undergraduate advisor is especially important.

STARTING COURSEWORK TOWARD THE MAJOR

Students may declare the Asian Languages and Cultures major at any time. Before declaring the major, students may begin coursework to explore the language and fields of interest. Those students who have studied an Asian language prior to coming to UW–Madison will have to take a placement test (<https://alc.wisc.edu/languages/placement-tests/>) for a language offered during the academic year to determine the best class to enroll in on campus.

Code	Title	Credits
The courses noted below are open to freshman and have no prerequisites:		
ASIAN 100	Gateway to Asia: Special Topics	3-4
ASIAN/ HISTORY 103	Introduction to East Asian History: China	3-4
ASIAN/ HISTORY 104	Introduction to East Asian History: Japan	3-4
ASIAN/ HISTORY 108	Introduction to East Asian History - Korea	3-4
ASIAN/COUN PSY/ ED PSYCH/ PSYCH 120	The Art and Science of Human Flourishing	3

ASIAN 203	Lost in Translation: Western Experience in Asia	3
ASIAN/ RELIG ST 206	The Qur'an: Religious Scripture & Literature	3
ASIAN/ RELIG ST 218	Health and Healing in South Asia	3-4
ASIAN/ RELIG ST 236	Asia Enchanted: Ghosts, Gods, and Monsters	3
ASIAN/GEOG/ HISTORY/POLI SCI/ SOC 244	Introduction to Southeast Asia: Vietnam to the Philippines	4
ASIAN/ASIAN AM/ HISTORY 246	Southeast Asian Refugees of the "Cold" War	4
ASIAN 252	Contemporary Indian Society	3
ASIAN 253	Japanese Popular Culture	3
ASIAN/HISTORY/ POLI SCI 255	Introduction to East Asian Civilizations	3-4
ASIAN/HISTORY/ RELIG ST 267	Asian Religions in Global Perspective	3-4
ASIAN 268	Tibetan Cultures and Traditions	3
ASIAN/ RELIG ST 274	Religion in South Asia	3
ASIAN 277	Kendo: Integration of Martial Arts and Liberal Arts	2
LITTRANS 231	Manga	3
LITTRANS 232	Anime	3
LITTRANS 261	Survey of Chinese Literature in Translation	3
LITTRANS 262	Survey of Chinese Literature in Translation	3
LITTRANS 263	Survey of Japanese Literature in Translation	3
LITTRANS 264	Survey of Japanese Literature in Translation	3
LITTRANS 373	Topics in Japanese Literature	3

The language courses below are open to freshman and have no prerequisites:

ASIALANG 101	First Semester Chinese	4
ASIALANG 103	First Semester Japanese	4
ASIALANG 105	First Semester Korean	4
ASIALANG 110	Elementary Chinese I	2
ASIALANG 113	First Semester Elementary Japanese	2
ASIALANG 123	First Semester Filipino	4
ASIALANG 125	First Semester Hmong	4
ASIALANG 127	First Semester Indonesian	4
ASIALANG 129	First Semester Thai	4
ASIALANG 131	First Semester Vietnamese	4
ASIALANG 133	First Semester Hindi	4
ASIALANG 135	First Semester Modern Tibetan	4
ASIALANG 137	First Semester Persian	4
ASIALANG 139	First Semester Urdu	4
ASIALANG 141	First Semester Sanskrit	3-4

ASIALANG 143	First Semester Burmese	4
ASIALANG 145	First Semester Khmer	4

STUDY ABROAD & INTERNSHIPS

The University of Wisconsin–Madison is ranked #2 for semester-long study abroad participation among all U.S. institutions, and #16 among all U.S. universities and colleges for total students studying abroad, according to the 2018 Open Doors Report (<https://www.iie.org/en/Why-IIE/Announcements/2018/11/2018-11-13-Number-of-International-Students-Reaches-New-High/>).

Currently there are 60 study abroad programs across Asia. Students who participate in approved programs will receive residence credit for study abroad. More information about study abroad, application process, and costs is available through International Academic Programs (<https://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/>). With pre-planning, students may fulfill major requirements during study abroad. It is important to meet with the undergraduate advisor to create a study plan.

Students can also gain professional experience through various internship opportunities abroad. More information about internship opportunities is available through International Internship Programs (<http://internships.international.wisc.edu/>).

DEGREES/MAJORS/CERTIFICATES

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- Asian Languages and Cultures, BA (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/asian-languages-cultures/asian-languages-cultures-ba/>)
- Asian Languages and Cultures, BS (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/asian-languages-cultures/asian-languages-cultures-bs/>)
- Chinese Professional Communication, Certificate (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/asian-languages-cultures/chinese-professional-communication-certificate/>)
- Chinese, BA (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/asian-languages-cultures/chinese-ba/>)
- Chinese, BS (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/asian-languages-cultures/chinese-bs/>)
- Japanese Professional Communication, Certificate (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/asian-languages-cultures/japanese-professional-communication-certificate/>)
- Japanese, BA (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/asian-languages-cultures/japanese-ba/>)
- Japanese, BS (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/asian-languages-cultures/japanese-bs/>)

PEOPLE

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Please visit the Asian Languages & Cultures website (<https://alc.wisc.edu/people/>) for a complete list of faculty, instructional, and academic staff.

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships (<https://flas.wisc.edu/>)

FLAS fellowships are funded by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by UW–Madison’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.htm>) and are contingent on federal funding. Please direct any questions to the FLAS Coordinator (<https://flas.wisc.edu/Languages.html>) of your chosen language.

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.

Scholarships@UW–Madison (<https://scholarships.wisc.edu/Scholarships/>)

This is the primary campus-wide portal for applicants, current students, and everyone looking for scholarship opportunities on campus.

Undergraduate Academic Awards Office (<https://awards.advising.wisc.edu/>)

We help UW–Madison undergraduates and recent graduates pursue nationally competitive scholarships (<https://awards.advising.wisc.edu/scholarships/nationally-competitive/>) and campus-wide awards (<https://awards.advising.wisc.edu/scholarships/campus-wide/>) for research, service, and leadership – activities at the heart of the Wisconsin Experience. We can help you:

- Find scholarship opportunities that match your goals and interests
- Navigate the scholarship application process
- Review scholarship essays
- Prepare for national scholarship interviews

Contact us (<https://awards.advising.wisc.edu/schedule-an-appointment/>) to schedule an appointment to discuss which opportunities are right for you.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Boren Scholarships (<http://borenawards.org/>)

Campus Representative: Matt Geisler (mdgeisler@studyabroad.wisc.edu), Associate Director, International Academic Programs
These scholarships provide up to \$20,000 to US undergraduate students to study abroad in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. The countries of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are excluded. Additionally, all programs must include formal study of an appropriate foreign language.

Critical Language Scholarship Program (<http://www.clscholarship.org/>)

Campus Representative: Mark Lilleleht (awards@iris.wisc.edu), Assistant Director, IRIS

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is part of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is a fully-funded overseas intensive language and cultural immersion program for American undergraduate and graduate students. With the goal of broadening the base of Americans studying and mastering critical languages and building relationships between the people of the United States and other countries, CLS provides opportunities to a diverse range of students from across the United States at every level of language learning.

The fourteen CLS languages are: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Swahili, Turkish, and Urdu.

The CLS Program seeks participants with diverse interests, from a wide variety of fields of study, backgrounds, and career paths, with the purpose of representing the full diversity of the United States. Thus, students from all academic disciplines, including business, engineering, law, medicine, science, social sciences, arts and humanities, are encouraged to apply.

Gilman Scholarship Program

Campus Representative: Andy Quackenbush
(quackenbush@studyabroad.wisc.edu), Advisor, International Academic Programs

The Gilman Scholarship Program is an undergraduate grant program for U.S. citizens of limited financial means to enable them to study abroad, thereby internationalizing their outlook and better preparing them to assume significant roles in the increasingly global economy.

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures has various scholarships to support meritorious students in our academic programs. Please visit the department website (<https://alc.wisc.edu/undergraduate-studies/department-scholarships/>) for more details.