

Master of Arts in East Asian Languages and Cultures

Why study East Asian languages and cultures?

The areas of East Asia covered represent 3 of the oldest continuous civilizations of the world. The great historical contributions of China, Japan, and Korea in literature, philosophy, and art are widely recognized and studied throughout the world. Today, the highly advanced industries of Japan, the enormous human resources of China, and the rapidly growing economies of Korea and Taiwan have contributed to the development of extremely valuable socio-political and economic ties between these areas and the United States.

M.A. Program Overview

The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC) is the only department in Kansas offering a regular program of instruction in the languages, literatures, and cultures of East Asia.

The EALC M.A. program trains students who will devote themselves to becoming effective links between the Far East and the United States.

Students concentrate in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or East Asian Cultures, usually entering the program with at least two years of college-level language. The program typically takes two years to complete, including the defense of a Master's thesis or portfolio.

More information can be found in our Graduate Handbook (<https://ealc.ku.edu/graduate/>).

FLAS Fellowships

Students in the M.A. program may also be eligible for a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) (<http://flas.ku.edu/>) fellowship through the Center for East Asian Studies. FLAS fellowships include:

- Summer award - up to \$5,000 for tuition and a stipend of \$3,500 for living expenses for summer language study equivalent to one full year of language study
- Academic Year award - up to \$18,000 for tuition and a stipend of \$20,000 for living expenses for academic year study that includes two semesters of language and six credits or more of East Asian culture courses.

Students in the joint J.D./M.A. or who are also admitted to other programs are strongly encouraged to apply (<https://flas.ku.edu/apply/>) for this funding.

Admission to Graduate Studies

Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees)

from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.

- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

Admission to the M.A. program

Apply to the EALC M.A. program via the Office of Graduate Studies online application system (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/>). For additional information regarding departmental admissions requirements and the application process, please contact the EALC Department Graduate Program directly at ealc@ku.edu.

All United States citizens and permanent residents applying to the EALC graduate program are encouraged to apply for the FLAS Fellowship (<https://flas.ku.edu/>).

Application Materials

- A current C.V. (Curriculum Vitae) or resume.
- A Statement of Purpose explaining your academic objectives. Please describe the research interests and goals that you intend to pursue in light of specific strengths that can be found among the faculty at KU (<https://ealc.ku.edu/administration-staff/>).
- A writing sample that demonstrates your writing skills and basic research capacity. A research paper from a previous upper-level undergraduate course will suffice.
- The names and emails of three references. These references will be contacted directly by KU for letters of recommendation. Please alert your references in advance.
- Copies of official transcripts from all institutions from which a degree was obtained and from all institutions attended post-bachelor's. *
- Official GRE scores (strongly recommended)

*International applicants who obtained degrees from the People's Republic of China must also provide an official copy of his or her Degree Certificate or "Xuewei Zheng." A Graduate Certificate only, or "Biye Zheng," will not be acceptable for admission to the program.

Master's Program

At the time of admission, students must choose one of the following concentration options:

- Chinese language and literature
- Japanese language and literature
- Korean language and literature
- East Asian cultures

Students of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean language and literature gain in-depth knowledge of these ancient civilizations, which have produced some of the world's greatest literature.

Students of East Asian cultures develop a broad interdisciplinary knowledge of East Asia. This concentration is for students pursuing professional or noncollege teaching careers, for students in the early stages of language training, or for students who have already acquired competence in an East Asian language.

While students may apply credit hours from study abroad toward their degree, at least 18 credit hours must be taken in residence at KU.

At least 50% of coursework for the master's degree must be taken at the 700 level or above.

Admission prerequisites

Entrance requirements for a concentration in **Chinese, Japanese, or Korean language and literature** include

- 3 years of the modern language and, for Chinese language students, one year of classical Chinese or the demonstrated equivalent. Students not meeting this prerequisite may be admitted with deficiencies provided they achieve this level of proficiency outside the minimum of 30 graduate credit hours required for the degree.*
- 2 lecture courses dealing with East Asia.

Entrance requirements for a concentration in **East Asian cultures** are

- At least 2 years of an East Asian language. Students not meeting this prerequisite may be admitted with deficiencies provided they achieve this level of proficiency outside the minimum of 30 graduate credit hours required for the degree.*
- 2 lecture courses dealing with East Asia.

Concentration in Chinese Language and Literature

Code	Title	Hours
Two advanced modern language courses:		10
CHIN 504	Advanced Modern Chinese I	
CHIN 508	Advanced Modern Chinese II	
Two language courses from selection below:		6
CHIN 542	Introduction to Classical Chinese	
CHIN 544	Readings in Classical Chinese: _____	
CHIN 562	Modern Chinese Texts I	
CHIN 564	Modern Chinese Texts II	
CHIN 744	Readings in Classical Chinese: _____	
CHIN 762	Modern Chinese Texts I	
CHIN 764	Modern Chinese Texts II	
At least one course at the 500+ level in Chinese literature		3
EALC 518	Modern Chinese Fiction & Film	
EALC 519	Contemporary Chinese Fiction and Film	
EALC 530	China's Cultural Legacy	
EALC 618	Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times	
EALC 718	Readings in Modern Chinese Literature	
EALC 720	Daily Life in China from the Opium War to 1911	
EALC 725	Ancient China	
A minimum of one course outside target language		3
A minimum of one course involving research methods, to be determined in consultation with the Thesis/Faculty Advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies		3
One additional elective at the 500-level or above, which can be an EALC course or from another department		3
Completion Option		3
Students select one of the following culminating effort options for a total of 3 hours:		

Master's Thesis: EALC 899 - Master's Thesis

OR

Portfolio Option: One additional elective course; can be outside the department

Total Hours 31

Concentration in Japanese Language and Literature

Code	Title	Hours
Two advanced modern language courses:		10
JPN 504	Advanced Modern Japanese I	
JPN 508	Advanced Modern Japanese II	
Two language courses from selection below:		6
JPN 562	Modern Japanese Texts I	
JPN 564	Modern Japanese Texts II	
JPN 762	Modern Japanese Texts I	
JPN 764	Modern Japanese Texts II	
At least one course at the 500+ level in Japanese literature:		3
EALC 509	Religion in Japan	
EALC 544	Manga: Histories and Theories	
EALC 716	Fiction and Film in Japan	
EALC 715	Survey of Japanese Film	
EALC 717	Contemporary Japanese Literature in Translation: 1945-Present	
EALC 743	Contemporary Japanese Film	
A minimum of one course outside of target language		3
A minimum of one course involving research methods, to be determined in consultation with the Thesis/Faculty Advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies		3
One additional elective at the 500-level or above, which can be an EALC course or from another department		3
Completion Option		3
Students select one of the following degree culminating effort options for a total of 3 hours:		
Master's Thesis: EALC 899 - Master's Thesis		
OR		
Portfolio Option: One additional elective course; can be outside the department		
Total Hours		31

Concentration in Korean Language and Literature

Code	Title	Hours
Two advanced modern language courses:		10
KOR 504	Advanced Modern Korean I	
KOR 508	Advanced Modern Korean II	
Two language courses from selection below:		6
KOR 562	Modern Korean Texts I	
KOR 564	Modern Korean Texts II	
KOR 762	Modern Korean Texts I	
KOR 764	Modern Korean Texts II	
At least one course at the 500+ level in Korean literature:		3
EALC 561	Colonial Korea	

EALC 562	Post-Colonial Korea	
EALC 563	Cultural History of Korea	
A minimum of one course outside of target language		3
A minimum of one course involving research methods, to be determined in consultation with the Thesis/Faculty Advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies		3
One additional elective at the 500-level or above, which can be an EALC course or from another department		3
Completion Option		3
Students select one of the following culminating effort options for a total of 3 hours:		
Master's Thesis: EALC 899 - Master's Thesis		
OR		
Portfolio Option: One additional elective course; can be outside the department		
Total Hours		31

Concentration in East Asian Cultures

Code	Title	Hours
Two advanced modern language courses in one of the following languages:		10
CHIN 504	Advanced Modern Chinese I	
CHIN 508	Advanced Modern Chinese II	
JPN 504	Advanced Modern Japanese I	
JPN 508	Advanced Modern Japanese II	
KOR 504	Advanced Modern Korean I	
KOR 508	Advanced Modern Korean II	
One East Asian cultures course with focus on the advanced modern language region		3
One 500+ level literature/culture course taught by EALC graduate faculty with focus on the advanced modern language region		3
EALC 518	Modern Chinese Fiction & Film	
EALC 519	Contemporary Chinese Fiction and Film	
EALC 530	China's Cultural Legacy	
EALC 544	Manga: Histories and Theories	
EALC 561	Colonial Korea	
EALC 562	Post-Colonial Korea	
EALC 563	Cultural History of Korea	
EALC 618	Sexual Politics in Chinese Literature and Culture: Premodern Times	
EALC 716	Fiction and Film in Japan	
EALC 717	Contemporary Japanese Literature in Translation: 1945-Present	
EALC 718	Readings in Modern Chinese Literature	
EALC 720	Daily Life in China from the Opium War to 1911	
EALC 725	Ancient China	
A minimum of 2 courses on East Asian culture with focus outside of advanced modern language region or broadly on East Asia		6
A minimum of one course involving research methods, to be determined in consultation with the Thesis/Faculty Advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies		3

One additional elective at the 500-level or above, which can be an EALC course or from another department	3
Completion Option	3
Students select one of the following culminating effort options for a total of 3 hours:	
Master's Thesis: EALC 899 - Master's Thesis	
OR	
One additional elective	
Total Hours	31

No more than 6 hours of directed readings courses may be included in the required 30 hours.

Students may, in consultation with the department graduate director, take other credit hours in a discipline or disciplines closely related to their studies. The balance between courses in EALC and related departments must be determined with the student's faculty advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

Completion Options:

Students select one of the following culminating effort options to complete the degree.

- Thesis Option
 - A thesis that will demonstrate in-depth research on a topic in the area of concentration, typically completed over 1 or 2 semesters (EALC 899, 3 to 6 credit hours). Students in the Languages and Literatures concentration are expected to make significant use of primary and secondary sources in the language of concentration.
 - In the final semester of study, the DGS, faculty advisor, and student will work together to assemble a committee of three graduate faculty and the student will be required to complete an oral defense of their thesis.
- Portfolio Option
 - Must write three substantial research papers on East Asian topics (15-20 pages).
 - At least one of the papers must be completed by the end of the second semester in the program.
 - The papers will be evaluated and graded by the instructor of the class in which the paper is submitted. The grade must be A or B.
 - The student will submit each paper to the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), plus an abstract (no more than 500 words) summarizing each. The student will submit the original copy with the instructor's remarks and grade. The DGS may require revisions be made before final acceptance.
 - With the permission of the DGS, students may include relevant courses in non-East Asian areas (such as linguistics, language pedagogy, anthropology, political science, and literary theory). A paper for such a course would generally not be used to fulfill the above requirements unless it was on an East Asian topic approved beforehand by the DGS.
 - In the final semester of study, the DGS, faculty advisor, and student will work together to assemble an oral defense committee of three graduate faculty. The student will select one of the three papers to present and defend for their exam. The committee may also ask general questions about the two other research papers that were submitted to meet the portfolio requirements.

*A language course result lower than 'B' may result in a departmental recommendation for probation status. If language course work performance does not improve after one semester, the student may be recommended for dismissal.

East Asian Courses in Other Departments

Code	Title	Hours
Communication Studies		
COMS 557	East Asian Communication	3
Film and Media Studies		
FMS 743	Contemporary Japanese Film	3
History		
HIST 510	Topics in Non-Western History: _____	3
HIST 584	Modern China	3
HIST 696	Seminar in: _____	3
History of Art		
HA 545	Early Chinese Art	3
HA 788	Proseminar in Japanese Art: _____	3
HA 789	Proseminar in Chinese Art: _____	3
HA 980	Seminar in Chinese Art: _____	3
HA 990	Seminar in Japanese Art: _____	3
Political Science		
POLS 668	Politics and Society in China	3
POLS 678	Chinese Foreign Policy	3
Religious Studies		
REL 509	Religion in Japan	3

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery of relevant knowledge in the target culture, whether pre-modern or modern; and from such knowledge can explain literary, textual, cultural, socio-political, or linguistic topics using appropriate analytic and synthetic strategies.
- Demonstrate mastery of effective communication in academic language.