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 Thesis 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, 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 required Master's thesis.

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 $2,500 for living expenses for summer language study equivalent to one full year of language study
- Academic Year award - full KU tuition and a $15,000 stipend 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 (http://flas.ku.edu/how-apply) for this funding.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Admission to the M.A. program

Apply to the EALC M.A. program via the Office of Graduate Studies online application system (http://graduate.ku.edu/prospective-students). For additional information regarding departmental admissions requirements, deadlines, and the application process, please visit the graduate admissions page (https://ealc.drupal.ku.edu/admission) of the EALC Department website, or contact the EALC Department Graduate Program directly at ealc@ku.edu.

Master's Program

The department offers a master's degree in East Asian languages and cultures. The student declares his or her concentration in 1 of 3 options.

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

Students of Chinese or Japanese 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.

Prerequisites

Entrance requirements for a concentration in either Chinese or Japanese 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.

Requirements for Chinese or Japanese Language and Literature Concentration

1. A minimum of 30 graduate credit hours:
   a. Fourth-year level of language.**
   b. While students may apply credit hours from study abroad toward their degree, at least 18 credit hours must be taken in residence at KU.
   c. No more than 6 hours of directed readings courses may be included in the required 30 hours.
   d. A course involving research methods, to be determined in consultation with the thesis advisor and the director of graduate studies.
2. 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 are expected to make significant use of primary and secondary sources in the language of concentration.

Requirements for East Asian Cultures Concentration

1. A minimum of 30 graduate credit hours:
   a. Third-year level of language.**
   b. While students may apply credit hours from study abroad toward their degree, at least 18 credit hours must be taken in residence at KU.
   c. A course involving research methods, to be determined in consultation with the thesis advisor and the director of graduate studies.
   d. Students are expected to select 1 of the East Asian cultures for their concentration and to include in their programs at least 2 courses dealing wholly with an East Asian culture outside the concentration or broadly on East Asia.
   e. Students may not take more than 6 hours of directed readings.
   f. 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 thesis advisor and the director of graduate studies. East Asian area courses are offered in anthropology, business, film and media studies, geography, history, history of art, linguistics, political science, religious studies, and sociology.
   g. Students must take 1 literature or culture course with an EALC department graduate faculty member at the 500 level or above in the country of their concentration.

2. A thesis that will demonstrate in-depth research on a topic in the area of concentration (China, Japan, or Korea), typically completed over 1 or 2 semesters (EALC 899, 3 to 6 credit hours).

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

East Asian Courses in Other Departments

Anthropology

ANTH 565  Popular Images in Japanese Culture, Literatures, and Films  3

Communication Studies

COMS 557  East Asian Communication  3

Economics

ECON 583  Economic Issues of East Asia  3

Film and Media Studies

FMS 541  Asian Film  3

FMS 743  Contemporary Japanese Film  3

History

HIST 510  Topics in Non-Western History:  2-3

HIST 584  Modern China  3

HIST 587  Age of Shoguns: Early Modern Japan  3

HIST 588  Japan, 1853-1945  3

HIST 589  Japan Since 1945  3

HIST 590  Cultural History of Korea  3

HIST 593  Modern Korea  3

HIST 605  Medieval Japan  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 822  Seminar in Buddhist Art:  3

HA 980  Seminar in Chinese Art:  3

HA 990  Seminar in Japanese Art:  3

Political Science

POLS 656  Governments and Politics of East Asia  3

POLS 668  Reform in Contemporary China  3

POLS 676  International Relations of Asia  3

POLS 678  Chinese Foreign Policy  3

POLS 956  The Governments and Politics of Asia  2-3

Religious Studies

REL 508  Religion in China  3

REL 509  Religion in Japan  3

REL 510  Religion in Korea  3

REL 733  Seminar in Eastern Religious Texts:  3

REL 762  Seminar in Eastern Religious Thought:  3

REL 776  Seminar in Religion and Society in Asia:  3

For additional courses in the above disciplines, see appropriate sections of the online catalog.