



Asian Languages and Cultures

The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures offers concentrations that enable students to gain proficiency in a foreign language, understand the structure and use of languages, and become familiar with the literature, culture and history of other people. Whether specializing in Chinese or Japanese, concentrators have established themselves in careers ranging from government to human services to the arts. The Bachelor's degree may also provide a firm basis for advanced work in law, business, or liberal arts disciplines. For students majoring in other

areas, incorporating coursework in Buddhist Studies or South and Southeast Asian Studies into their programs offers additional knowledge and abilities applicable across a wide range of professions.

This guide highlights some of the diverse skills that Asian Languages and Cultures majors develop in their studies and presents a selection of occupational opportunities available.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

Asian Languages and Cultures majors develop many skills and abilities in addition to language fluency. Abilities such as understanding diverse cultures and critically reading and analyzing texts prepare graduates to excel in numerous career areas. Whether managing a business

office overseas or writing for a professional association newsletter, for example, the ability to explain complex concepts might be useful on a daily basis. A sampling of representative skills and abilities follows.

Communication

- Reading and writing another language
- Reading for content and structure
- Understanding historical language change
- Writing clearly and carefully
- Explaining complex concepts
- Speaking to groups
- Communicating between cultures

Analysis

- Weighing values
- Interpreting data
- Reading critically
- Comparing interpretations
- Evaluating evidence

Interpersonal

- Adapting to other cultures
- Working as part of a team
- Understanding foreign value systems
- Listening carefully
- Interviewing non-judgmentally
- Developing flexible interpersonal skills

Research/Project Development

- Gathering information
- Summarizing ideas
- Using original sources
- Compiling/recording data
- Working with research subjects
- Establishing hypotheses
- Evaluating research results

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

A selected list of the diverse career paths chosen by concentrators in Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Michigan and other colleges follows. Entry level and advanced level positions are both included. For

some occupations listed below, such as museum curator, related training or specialized skills may be desirable. Additional advanced study is generally expected for those occupations marked with a • on the following list.

Business

Business representative overseas

• Trade lawyer/broker

Market researcher

Corporate travel planner

• Information manager

Tour director

Manager of translation/language service

Arts/Communications

Foreign correspondent

Professional association editor

Special events coordinator

Film critic

Technical writer

• Museum/gallery curator

Academic press editor

Web designer

Government

Immigration officer

Grants and contracts manager

National Security Agency analyst

State legislative committee staff person

Trade development officer

City cultural events planner

State Department officer

Education and Human Services

• Professor

Student exchange program coordinator

• Language lecturer

Manager, private language school

Bilingual program teacher

International student advisor

• Professor

• Special collections librarian

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

An intermediate level of language study is prerequisite to the concentration; undergraduates with native or near-native ability are not encouraged to concentrate in their respective languages. The core courses in the modern languages of East, South, and Southeast Asia are designed to develop basic skills in the proficiency of reading, writing, aural comprehension, and speaking.

Complete information on course offerings may be found in the LS&A Bulletin. Languages taught in Asian Languages and Cultures include:

Chinese

Japanese

Korean

Thai

Indonesian

Vietnamese

Filipino

Hindi

Sanskrit

Tibetan

Urdu

Punjabi

Tamil

Telugu

Bengali

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information about choosing a career, about graduate/professional school internships, or job descriptions; and for library resources:

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
(734) 764-7460
www.careercenter.umich.edu

For information about choosing a major and about concentration and degree requirements:

Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
202 S. Thayer Street, Suite 6111
(734) 764-8286
www.lsa.umich.edu/asian
um-alc@umich.edu

LS&A Academic Advising Center
1255 Angell Hall
(734) 764-0332