

# ASIAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURE

Over half the world's population lives in Asia, home to many of the oldest and most vibrant cultures in human history. We explore these cultures through literary, linguistic, and textual analysis, illuminating vital connections between East and West from our vantage point on the Pacific Rim.



## Education

The Department of Asian Languages and Literature plays a central role in all areas of Asian studies at the University, with nearly 1,700 students—both majors and non-majors—enrolling in its courses each year.

The Department provides instruction in ten Asian languages: Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Sanskrit, Thai, Urdu, and Vietnamese. It awards BA, MA, and PhD degrees with specializations in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and South Asian languages and literatures. While attaining language proficiency, our undergraduate majors explore the cultural, literary, and linguistic aspects of Asia, past and present.

The Department strongly encourages its students to study abroad through programs coordinated with the Office of International Programs and Exchanges. During the 2014-2015 academic year, more than 300 students from many UW departments participated in study programs in Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. For undergraduate and graduate students alike, the overseas experience is a crucial element in their intellectual, personal, and professional development.

At the graduate level, students acquire and apply their knowledge through advanced seminars and original research. Graduates of our programs go on to successful careers in academia, business, government, journalism, law, and other professions, using their cultural and linguistic expertise to foster understanding between Asia and the rest of the world.

## Faculty

Recent awards and honors received by Department of Asian Languages and Literature faculty include:

- Membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Guggenheim Fellowship
- National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Research Award
- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships
- American Institute of Indian Studies Fellowship
- Special Book of Award of China
- Peking University Award for Sinological Translation
- Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Scholar Grant
- UW Royalty Research Fund Award
- UW Simpson Center Society of Scholars Fellowship
- UW Honors Program Excellence in Teaching Award

### STUDENTS (2014-2015)

97	Undergraduate majors
40	Graduate students
1,640	Total student enrollment

### DEGREES AWARDED (September 2014 - August 2015)

38	Bachelor of Arts degrees
5	Master of Arts degrees
3	PhD degrees

### FACULTY (2014-2015)

6	Professors
1	Visiting Professor
6	Associate Professors
3	Assistant Professors
1	Acting Assistant Professor
8	Senior Lecturers
9	Lecturers
3	Emeritus Faculty
5	Adjunct Faculty
2	Affiliate Faculty

## Research

Faculty in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature pursue their study of Asian languages and cultures primarily through the medium of text, but they represent a wide range of disciplinary interests, including linguistics, philosophy, history, literature, visual arts, and cultural studies. They participate in collaborative research projects that extend throughout the UW community and beyond. Examples of current collaborations include:

- *Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project*: Established in 1996 to edit, study, and publish the earliest collections of Buddhist manuscripts yet discovered, dating to the first century C.E.
- *Japanese-Language Education in Prewar Seattle*: Faculty and students from UW and Nagoya University catalogued more than 1,000 Japanese-language volumes at the Seattle Japanese Language School. In addition, Department faculty edited reproductions of two prewar Japanese-language textbook series—34 volumes total—produced in the 1920s and 1930s in Washington state and California. One series was republished in 2012, the other in 2014.
- *Comparative Court Cultures in Cross-Cultural Perspective*: International project that seeks to illuminate court life in Europe and Asia in the period known in European chronology as the Middle Ages and early Renaissance.
- *Japanese Visiting Scholar Program*: Every spring the Department hosts a senior scholar from a leading Japanese research university to co-teach a graduate seminar with UW faculty on a topic of shared interest.
- *Oracle-Bone Inscriptions Textbook Project*: Development of an entry-level textbook for the study of the earliest documented form of Chinese writing.
- *Early Chinese Periodicals Online*: An international project in the digital humanities, building an open-access online database of early Chinese periodicals, incorporating a sophisticated body of bilingual metadata.
- *Buddhist Rebirth Narratives in Literary and Visual Cultures of Gandhara*: A project assessing the religious and cultural significance of rebirth narratives in written records and artistic representations from Gandhāran history.

## Outreach

The Department sponsors two annual evening lecture series for the general public:

- The endowed Andrew L. Markus Memorial Lecture (inaugurated in 1998) honors the contributions of our late colleague to the study of Asian languages and literatures with a lecture by a leading scholar in one of our fields of study.
- The Distinguished Faculty Lecture (inaugurated in 2003), given by a member of the Department, presents topics of broad interest within the field of Asian languages and literature to the university community and the general public.

The Department's graduate students sponsor an annual graduate student colloquium at which they present the results of their research.

Faculty members actively collaborate with the Seattle Asian Art Museum and its Gardner Center for Asian Art and Ideas in organizing and giving public lectures. They also serve as consultants to the Museum and other local arts organizations in planning and presenting exhibitions and performances.

## AREAS OF RESEARCH

Classical and Modern Chinese Literature  
Classical and Modern Japanese Literature  
Modern Korean Literature  
Hindi Literature and Linguistics  
Sanskrit Literature and Religious Texts  
Urdu Literature  
Medieval Hindi Religious Literature  
Ancient Chinese Syntax and Phonology  
Applied Japanese Linguistics  
Comparative Chinese Dialectology  
Early Indian Buddhism and Buddhist Manuscripts  
Early Writing Systems and Epigraphy  
Japanese Visual Culture  
Asian Film and Asian Cultural Studies  
Translation and Literature

## STUDENT AWARDS (2014-2015)

- 3 Phi Beta Kappa
- 6 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships
- 1 Dhammachai Foundation (DIRI Grant)
- 1 Doris Liebman Fellowship
- 2 KC Hsiao Fellowships
- 1 Schwartz Endowment Award
- 1 UW Graduate School Top Scholar Award
- 1 Fulbright Grant
- 1 India Association of Western Washington Scholarship\*
- 1 Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellowship\*
- 1 Critical Language Scholar\*
- 1 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar\*
- 1 China Studies Program Fellowship
- 2 Chester Fritz-Boeing Graduate Fellowship for International Research and Study
- 1 Ayako Betty Murakami Scholarship for Japan Studies

\*undergraduate award

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