



# 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 a total enrollment of nearly 4,000 students 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 degrees in Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and South Asian languages and literature, as well as MA and PhD degrees in Chinese, Japanese, South Asian languages and literature, and Buddhist Studies.

While attaining language proficiency, our undergraduate majors explore the cultural, literary, and linguistic aspects of Asia, past and present. 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.

The department strongly encourages its students to study abroad through programs coordinated with the Office of International Programs and Exchanges. During the 2016-2017 academic year, students from across the university participated in study programs in Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. For undergraduate and graduate students alike, the overseas experience is a crucial element in their intellectual, personal, and professional development.

Beginning in 2016, the department has hosted a career panel every spring to help undergraduates learn how to leverage their language and cultural skills to find career opportunities, and to help them connect with potential employers.

### STUDENTS (2016-2017)

- 138 Undergraduate majors
- 38 Graduate students
- 3,929 Total student enrollment

### DEGREES AWARDED (September 2016 - August 2017)

- 49 Bachelor of Arts degrees
- 5 Master of Arts degrees
- 6 PhD degrees

### FACULTY (2016-2017)

- 7 Professors
- 7 Associate Professors
- 3 Assistant Professors
- 1 Principal Lecturer
- 8 Senior Lecturers
- 11 Lecturers
- 4 Emeritus Faculty
- 3 Adjunct Faculty
- 2 Affiliate Faculty



Segments of an ancient birch bark manuscript, part of a collection of manuscripts dating back to the first century CE that are the focus of the Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project.

## Faculty

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

American Institute of Indian Studies Fellowship  
Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Scholar Grant  
Henry Luce Foundation Grant  
Japan Foundation Long-Term Fellowship for Scholars and Researchers  
National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Research Award  
National Endowment for the Humanities Scholarly Editions and Translations Award  
Northeast Asia Council Association for Asian Studies Grant  
Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship  
UW Distinguished Teaching Award  
UW Honors Program Excellence in Teaching Award  
UW Royalty Research Fund Award  
UW Simpson Center Society of Scholars Fellowship

## Research

Faculty in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature study 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. Current examples 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 Visiting Scholar Program:** Every spring the department hosts a senior scholar from a leading Japanese research university to co-teach a graduate seminar with department 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.
- **Collaborative Writing with Learning Technology:** Research in conjunction with Waseda University and the University of Washington Center for Teaching and Learning on collaborative writing using learning technology.
- **The Encyclopedia of Chinese Language and Linguistics:** An international project involving many UW faculty as authors, editors, and advisers. The encyclopedia was published in January 2017 and is now a major reference work in the field.
- **Academy of Korean Studies Laboratory Grant for Korean Studies:** Research on Korean at the nexus of the northeast Asian linguistic area in conjunction with Cornell University. The project studies the status of Northeast Asia as a linguistic area or *sprachbund*, with a focus on Korean's central role among the languages of this region.

## Outreach

Numerous events, performances, and lectures open to the general public and the University of Washington community are organized throughout the year, including the Andrew L. Markus Memorial Lecture, which was inaugurated in 1998.

## AREAS OF RESEARCH

Ancient Chinese syntax and phonology  
Applied Chinese linguistics  
Applied Japanese linguistics  
Asian film  
Classical and modern Chinese literature  
Classical and modern Japanese literature  
Comparative Chinese dialectology  
Early Indian Buddhism and Buddhist manuscripts  
Early writing systems and epigraphy  
Hindi literature and linguistics  
Japanese visual culture  
Modern Korean literature  
Sanskrit literature and religious texts  
Urdu literature

## STUDENT AWARDS (2016-2017)

American Association of Teachers of Japanese Bridging Scholarship  
UW China Studies Program Fellowship  
Critical Language Scholarship  
Dhammachai International Research Institute Grant  
Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships  
Fullbright Foreign Student Fellowship  
Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship  
Mellon Fellowship for Reaching New Publics  
Phi Beta Kappa  
Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship  
UW Plan2Go Scholarship

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