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 more than 6,000 students in its courses each year.

The department provides instruction in nine Asian languages: Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Sanskrit, Urdu, and Vietnamese. It awards BA degrees in Asian Languages and Culture, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and South Asian Languages & Literature, as well as MA and PhD degrees with specialization 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 Study Abroad Office. During the 2018-2019 academic year, students from across the university participated in study programs in China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, 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.

The department hosts a career panel every spring to help undergraduates learn how to leverage their language skills into careers, and to help them connect with potential employers.

STUDENTS (September 2018-August 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate majors</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate students</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total student enrollment</td>
<td>6,335</td>
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DEGREES AWARDED (September 2018 - August 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts degrees</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Arts degrees</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD degrees</td>
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</tbody>
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STUDENT AWARDS (2018-2019)

- Alvord Dissertation Fellowship Award
- Critical Language Scholarship
- Dhammachai Foundation Grant
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships
- Fulbright Fellowship
- Graduate School Presidential Dissertation Fellowship
- Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Fellowship
- Phi Beta Kappa

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 Asian Languages and Literature faculty include:

American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Short-Term Fellowship
American Institute of Pakistan Studies Short-Term Research Grant
Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present Book Prize
College Art Association Millard Meiss Publication Fund Award
Henry Luce Foundation Grant
Japan Foundation Fellowship for Research on Japanese Art
Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Commendation
Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies Grant for Travel to Japan
Prix de la Fondation Colette Caillat en études indiennes
Urdu Writers Society of North America Award
UW Global Innovation Fund Grant
UW Royalty Research Fund Award
UW Simpson Center Large Scale Collaboration Grant

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 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.

• **The Hōsei Encyclopedia of Noh Drama**: An interdisciplinary, multinational effort to create the first work of this kind in English.

• **Publication of the Encyclopedia of Chinese Language and Linguistics**: A major international project involving many UW faculty as authors, editors, and advisers from around the world. The encyclopedia was published in January 2017 and is now a major reference in the field.

• **Research on Korean at the Nexus of the Northeast Asian Linguistic Area** (in conjunction with Cornell University): Research on the status of Northeast Asai as a linguistic area or *sprachbund*, with a focus on Korean's central role among the languages of this region.

• **UW Translation Hub**: A project funded by the Simpson Center for the Humanities that aims to coalesce energies on campus and beyond by building on existing and emergent faculty and graduate student research projects, courses, and initiatives in public engagement around translation.

Outreach