East Asian Languages and Cultures

The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC) offers advanced degrees in the traditional and modern literatures and cultures of East Asia, based on substantial knowledge of at least one East Asian language. EALC offers the AM in Chinese and Japanese, and the PhD in Chinese Language and Literature, Japanese Language and Literature, Chinese and Comparative Literature, and Japanese and Comparative Literature.

The goal of these programs is to produce scholars well-trained in their chosen languages, firmly grounded in the relevant linguistic and literary traditions, and thoroughly conversant with critical discourses (indigenous and Western) relevant to their fields. With research strengths that cover premodern poetry and poetics, gender and sexuality, religious texts and traditions, narrative, memoir, dramatic literature, postmodernity and more, our internationally recognized faculty is poised to offer graduate students careful and consistent mentoring. Admitting only a select number of graduate students a year, our programs allow individualized guidance. In the completion of these programs at the PhD level, candidates have extended firsthand exposure to the modern societies whose languages, literatures, and cultures they study and significant teaching experience in both the language and the literature classroom. Students with a strong background in language training and experience are given preference in admission.

Phone: (314) 935-4448  
E-mail: ealc@wustl.edu  
Departmental website: http://ealc.wustl.edu

Chair  
Rebecca Copeland  
Professor  
PhD, Columbia University  
Japanese literature

Endowed Professor  
Robert Hegel  
Liselotte Dieckmann Professor of Comparative Literature  
PhD, Columbia University  
Chinese literature

Professors  
Beata Grant  
PhD, Stanford University  
Chinese; Religious Studies

Associate Professors  
Lingchei Letty Chen  
PhD, Columbia University  
Chinese literature  
Ji-Eun Lee  
PhD, Harvard University  
Korean literature  
Jamie Newhard  
PhD, Columbia University  
Japanese literature

Assistant Professor  
Zhao Ma  
PhD, Johns Hopkins University  
Chinese history

Professor of the Practice  
Virginia S. Marcus  
MA, University of Michigan, New York University  
Japanese language

Senior Lecturers  
Shino Hayashi  
MA, University of Wisconsin, University of Minnesota  
Japanese language  
Mijeong Mimi Kim  
EdD, University of San Francisco  
Korean language  
Xia Liang  
MA, Beijing Normal University  
Chinese language  
Judy Zhijun Mu  
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Chinese language  
Wei Wang  
MA, University of Minnesota, Beijing Language and Culture University  
Chinese language  
Fengtao Wu  
MA, Indiana University Bloomington  
Chinese language

Lecturers  
Wenhui Chen  
MA, National Taiwan Normal University  
Chinese language
Insung Ko  
PhD, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Korean language

Chun-ying Lin  
MA, National Taiwan Normal University  
Chinese language

Ke Nie  
MA, Capital Normal University  
Chinese language

Kanako Yao  
MA, Ohio State University  
Japanese language

Degree Requirements

Master of Arts in Chinese or Japanese

The Master of Arts in Chinese or Japanese requires 36 units of graduate study in Chinese or Japanese, which may include courses from related fields such as East Asian Studies and Comparative Literature, including the following:

1. Language proficiency through the fourth level, and two semesters of classical Chinese or Japanese. No more than 12 units in language training may be applied.
2. At least two semesters of literary history courses.
3. A research proseminar, preferably in the first year of study.
4. Either a master's thesis or a master's essay, or successful completion of a comprehensive written exam.

The degree is completed in four semesters. Applicants must submit a writing sample that indicates a student’s facility with literary critique, preferably an analytical essay on a work of East Asian literature, generally 10-30 pages.

PhD in Chinese Language and Literature or PhD in Japanese Language and Literature

The PhD in Chinese Language and Literature or Japanese Language and Literature combines the study of Chinese or Japanese literature with training in literary theory and critical methodology. Students are required to take courses in Chinese or Japanese literature, in another East Asian literature or culture, and in literary and cultural theory and critical methodology; some of these may focus on other literatures. Doctoral students must demonstrate native or near-native competence both in English and in either Chinese or Japanese. If needed for research in the chosen area of specialization, sufficient proficiency in one or more additional languages may be required.

Students must pass a qualifying examination at the end of their first year and three comprehensive examinations at the end of their third year. In addition, before the beginning of the fourth year, students must submit a dissertation prospectus for committee approval. Unless the student has taken graduate-level course work in the relevant research language(s) or demonstrated sufficient competence in other ways, language competence examinations will be required by the end of course work. All students gain teaching experience in language or literature, or both. Students may serve as teaching assistants in lower-level Chinese or Japanese courses; advanced graduate students may serve as instructors of a course which includes Chinese or Japanese texts.

Applicants for these PhD programs are screened on the basis of their competence in Chinese or Japanese and in English; their demonstrated ability to write analytically and to think critically; their commitment to the study of Chinese or Japanese literature and culture; and their interests in areas of research strength among our faculty (early modern, modern, and contemporary China and Japan). Applicants should have completed a master’s degree in: a) Chinese or Japanese literature or cultural studies, b) East Asian Studies with focus on Chinese or Japanese literature/culture, or c) another relevant field.

PhD in Chinese or PhD in Japanese and Comparative Literature

The PhD in Chinese or the PhD in Japanese and Comparative Literature is offered jointly with the Committee on Comparative Literature. The focus of these programs is comparison of the contents, theoretical basis, and methodologies of Chinese or Japanese literature and a second literature (Western or non-Western), within the context of a familiarity of the cultural context and historical background of the literatures, and the critical and historical methodology of modern literary study. Whether or not applicants enter the program with a relevant master’s degree, the requirements for our AM in Chinese or Japanese must be met as part of the requirements for the joint PhD degree. Required course work, qualifying examination, comprehensive examinations, dissertation prospectus, demonstration of language proficiency, and teaching opportunities are analogous to those in the PhD programs solely in Chinese or Japanese.