

# East Asian Languages and Cultures, Accelerated BA/MA

To earn a master's degree at Washington University, a student must complete all courses required by their department; maintain satisfactory academic progress; pass certain examinations; fulfill all academic and residence requirements; and apply for program completion (graduation) via Workday Student.

For the details of master's degree general requirements in Arts & Sciences, including an explanation of Satisfactory Academic Progress, students should review the Master's Degree Academic Information page of the Arts & Sciences *Bulletin*.

## Program Requirements

This program allows qualified Washington University undergraduates to complete a Master of Arts (MA) degree in a one-year accelerated program after earning the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree. The undergraduate and graduate degrees are awarded sequentially, with admission to the Accelerated MA program, if approved, occurring during the fall semester after completion of the BA degree during the preceding December, May, or August. Applications may be submitted at any time during the student's senior year through March 15, and GRE tests are not required. The program is available only to senior students and only for continuous enrollment the next year. There is no option for deferred admission.

The requirements for the Accelerated MA are identical to those for the traditional MA, as detailed below. To complete the MA in one year, students may apply three undergraduate courses at the 4000-level or above (a maximum of 9 units) toward the master's degree. Undergraduate courses must be acceptable to the director of graduate studies, and they must be completed with a final grade of B- or higher.

- **Total Units Required:** 30, including 9 units 4000-level coursework taken in the senior year
- **Degree Length:** One year
  - **Note:** Students must be enrolled in 9 graduate credits each semester to retain full-time status. As students complete their coursework, if enrolled in fewer than 9 graduate credits, they must enroll in a specific Arts & Sciences graduate course that will show 0 units but does count as full-time status. Students should connect with their department to ensure proper enrollment prior to Add/Drop.
- **Grade Requirement:** The minimum grade required for a course to count toward the MA is a B-.

## Required Courses

1. A minimum of 10 graduate-level courses (30 units; including three 4000-level courses taken during senior year), chosen in consultation with the advisor:
  - At least one course in theory or methodology, chosen in consultation with the advisor. Examples include the following: GLOBAL 5897 Global Asias, COMPLITHT 5200 Introduction to Comparative Literature, FILM 5420 Film Theory, and WGSS 5150 Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory.
  - Language study. Students must achieve third-level competence in one East Asian language (Chinese, Japanese, or Korean) by the end of the program. Students who place out of third-level coursework via the placement exam or who attain that level after the first year in the program are expected to continue with fourth-level, fifth-level, and/or classical language. Students who place beyond these levels or who are native speakers are encouraged to take up study of a second East Asian language. No more than four semester-long courses in language may count toward the 10 required courses. Note that courses numbered below the 5000-level (i.e., first- and second-level courses) must be taken as an overload and do not count toward the degree.
  - At least two courses outside of the country of focus or that involve the comparative treatment of more than one East Asian culture.
  - At least two courses focused on the modern era and at least two courses focused on the premodern era.
2. One of the following:
  - Students who plan to continue their academic training at the PhD level should complete a master's essay or a master's thesis:
    - *Master's essay.* The essay will be based on a research paper written for one of the student's MA courses. Students will be expected to revise the paper in consultation with their advisor, lengthening the paper to provide appropriate context and explanation but also tightening, where necessary, to offer an incisive, analytical exploration of the topic. Essays should range from 8,000 to 10,000 words (34 to 40 pages). Students who elect this option may choose to register for 3 units of EALC 5930 Guided Readings in East Asian Languages and Cultures and will graduate "Master's without thesis." Each student will assemble a committee of three faculty members who will read the essay; the student will meet with the committee for a short oral defense of the essay.
    - *Master's thesis.* The master's thesis option allows students to complete a longer master's thesis under the direction of a thesis advisor. The thesis must be based on original research in an area of interest. It generally runs at least 50 pages in length, and it must utilize sources in the relevant East Asian language. Upon completion of the thesis, students sit for



a defense with three to four faculty members, chosen in consultation with the thesis advisor. Students who elect this option may choose to register for 3 units of EALC 6000 Thesis Research and will graduate "Master's with thesis."

- Students who do not plan to continue their academic training at the PhD level may complete a comprehensive written examination focusing on two major areas to be determined by an advisory committee comprised of at least three faculty members. The examination is administered near the end of the candidate's term of study and followed by a short oral examination in which the student discusses the written examination with the advisory committee.

## Thesis Requirements/ Details

The master's thesis is optional. More information can be found earlier on this page.

- A Title, Scope, & Procedure form for the master's thesis must be signed by the thesis committee members and by the program chair. It must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences, at least six months before the degree is expected to be conferred.
- A Master's Thesis Guide and a Thesis Template that give instructions regarding the format of the thesis are available on the website of the Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences. Both should be read carefully at every stage of thesis preparation.

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