Asian Civilizations, M.A.

Requirements

The Master of Arts program in Asian Civilizations requires a minimum of 30 s.h. of graduate credit, including 24 s.h. earned in residence at the University of Iowa. All students must maintain a g.p.a. of 3.00 or higher.

Detailed information on degree requirements is sent to all applicants. By the end of the first semester in residence, students propose a study plan developed in consultation with their advisor and in accordance with guidelines for specializations within the program.

M.A. students choose from two tracks: teaching Chinese as a foreign language and interdisciplinary Chinese studies. Currently, the department is not accepting applicants for Hindi, Sanskrit, or Japanese tracks.

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College on the Graduate College website. The Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures requires a g.p.a. of at least 3.00 for regular admission and a g.p.a. of at least 2.75 for conditional admission.

A B.A. in Chinese language and literature, teaching Chinese as a second language, or the equivalent is required for study in the M.A. in teaching Chinese as a second language track. Chinese language proficiency equivalent to third-year Chinese, as determined by examination, is required for the M.A. in Chinese studies track.

All international applicants must submit Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) iBT scores for reading, listening, speaking, and writing. They must also submit an essay in response to specific questions indicated in the application instructions. Applicants whose first language is not English must score at least 98 on the TOEFL.

Applicants must submit a statement of purpose, a research paper written in English, three letters of recommendation, and scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test. Both international and U.S. graduate applications requesting financial support for the following academic year are due February 1. All other applications are accepted until April 15 for fall admission and October 1 for spring admission. Application materials are available from the department.

Financial Support

Graduate students have access to the following financial aid and scholarship resources. Contact the Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures for application information.

Cheng/Liu Scholarship: Students currently majoring in Chinese in the Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Iowa may apply for the Cheng/Liu Scholarship. The award can be used for summer Chinese language study.

Fairall Scholarship: Majors who have attended and/or graduated from Iowa elementary or secondary schools may be nominated by the department to receive a Fairall Scholarship. Preference is given to Japanese studies students. Applications are available late spring, with scholarships to be awarded the following fall semester.

Foreign language and area studies fellowships: Only U.S. citizens are eligible. Graduate students combining work in Asian languages at an advanced level with interdisciplinary or professional programs may apply. The award is offered by International Programs for academic year and summer language study.

Graduate assistantships: The department offers teaching assistantships for graduate students in the program. All graduate applicants receive information on applying for an assistantship. Assistantships are awarded each spring for the following academic year.

Graduate international research: Opportunities for funding research abroad include Stanley Fellowships for Graduate Student Research Abroad, CIREH Research Scholarships in International Health, Fulbright Grants, and Foreign Language Area Scholarships.

Summer language scholarships: Currently enrolled students may compete for a Stanley-University of Iowa Foundation Support Organization Summer Language Scholarship to be used for intensive summer language study in Chinese, Japanese, or Sanskrit. Eight to ten awards of $2,000-$2,500 are made each summer. Applications are due March 1.

Career Advancement

The master’s degree program in Asian civilizations prepares students for doctoral study in a variety of disciplines. It also may be a good choice for students planning nonacademic careers in which advanced knowledge of Asian civilizations could be useful. For example, students working toward professional degrees, such as an M.D. or J.D., may decide to earn the M.A. in Asian civilizations while completing the professional degree. The program also provides an excellent background for advanced study in the humanities.

The number of Americans who can speak Asian languages is relatively small, so many career opportunities exist for individuals trained in these areas. The Pomerantz Career Center is a great resource for students researching internships and careers.