Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures

Director, Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures
  • Jill N. Beckman

Interim Chair, Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures
  • Helen Shen

General Education Language Coordinators
  • Aniruddha Dutta (South Asia Studies), Irina Kostina (Russian), Yuan Lu (Chinese), Yumiko Nishi (Japanese), Sang-Seok Yoon (Korean)

Undergraduate majors: Asian languages and literature (B.A.); Russian (B.A.)
Undergraduate minors: Asian languages and literature; Korean studies; Russian; Russian and Eastern European studies
Graduate degree: M.A. in Asian civilizations
Faculty: https://asian-slavic.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://asian-slavic.uiowa.edu/

The Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures offers instruction in languages of Asia and Eastern Europe as well as in the literatures, civilizations, and cultures of the regions. In addition to offering degree programs, the department welcomes undergraduate and graduate students from across the University to enroll in courses that complement their degree programs or satisfy their personal interests.

The department offers language study in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, and Sanskrit.

Undergraduate students in all majors may satisfy the World Languages requirement of the GE CLAS Core with courses in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, or Sanskrit; see "Language for GE CLAS Core" below. They also may get acquainted with Asia and Eastern Europe by taking any of the department’s GE CLAS Core courses on Asian humanities and on Russian and Slavic literature and culture, all taught in English. Entering students may take the department’s First-Year Seminars, one on Asian culture and civilization, the other on Slavic culture and civilization.

The Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures is one of the academic units in the Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Language for GE CLAS Core

Undergraduate students in all majors may satisfy the World Languages requirement of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core with course sequences in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, and Sanskrit.

Students who have had experience with Japanese or Russian should take the appropriate University of Iowa World Languages Placement Test, which helps determine the level at which they should begin study of the language. Students with backgrounds in Chinese, Korean, or Sanskrit should contact the general education coordinator to determine the level at which they should begin language study at the University of Iowa.

Chinese

The following sequence fulfills the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement and is appropriate for students without previous knowledge of Chinese.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHIN:1111</td>
<td>First-Year Chinese: First Semester</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIN:1112</td>
<td>First-Year Chinese: Second Semester</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIN:2101</td>
<td>Second-Year Chinese: First Semester</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIN:2102</td>
<td>Second-Year Chinese: Second Semester</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who have participated in ABRD:3411 Iowa in Tianjin after completing CHIN:1111 First-Year Chinese: First Semester and CHIN:1112 First-Year Chinese: Second Semester, and students from Chinese-speaking families who perform exceptionally well in CHIN:1111 and CHIN:1112, may fulfill the World Languages requirement with the following sequence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHIN:1111</td>
<td>First-Year Chinese: First Semester</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIN:1112</td>
<td>First-Year Chinese: Second Semester</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIN:2103</td>
<td>Accelerated Second-Year Chinese: First Semester</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIN:2104</td>
<td>Accelerated Second-Year Chinese: Second Semester</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Additional coursework is available, including advanced Chinese, classical Chinese, and business Chinese. Consult the department for appropriate placement in Chinese language courses.

Japanese

The following sequence fulfills the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement and is appropriate for students without previous knowledge of Japanese.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JPNS:1001</td>
<td>First-Year Japanese: First Semester</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JPNS:1002</td>
<td>First-Year Japanese: Second Semester</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Korean

The following sequence fulfills the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement and leads to elementary/intermediate proficiency in Korean.
international programs in India and China. The government of the People’s Republic of China offers scholarships for two students to live and study in mainland China each year.

The Iowa in Tianjin Summer Program is a faculty-led Chinese language and culture study program. This program provides students with a comprehensive and balanced curriculum and combines classroom instruction with field trips, language partnerships, and extracurricular activities.

The UI-Nanzen Exchange allows Iowa students to pay Iowa tuition, room, and board while attending the Center for Japanese Studies at Nanzen University in Nagoya, Japan. There also is a cooperative agreement with the Landour Language School in the Himalayan foothills of India.

Iowa students participate in summer, semester, or academic year programs in Russian under the auspices of the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR). The association directs academic language training programs in the cities of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Vladimir. Students also are encouraged to participate in ABRD:3813 PRUE Summer Intensive Russian Program in Moscow, Russia, a two month program that allows students to earn up to 8 s.h.

Many students participate in summer, semester-long, and year-long study abroad programs in India, China, and Japan offered through other U.S. universities. In many cases credit is transferable, and it is possible for a student to study abroad and still complete the Four-Year Graduation Plan. There are many resources available for funding research and study abroad. It also may be possible for students to apply University of Iowa financial aid to their study abroad programs.

Contact the Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures or International Programs Study Abroad for more information.

Summer Study, Internships

The department offers an intensive course of language study (second year) each summer in which students complete the equivalent of one academic year of study (the equivalent of one course for each of two semesters, totaling 8 s.h.). Scholarships are available for summer intensive Russian.

Students are encouraged to enrich their programs of study through internships designed to combine work experience in Asia or the United States with study or research projects. The University's Pomerantz Career Center maintains a list of internships.

Activities

Student Associations

Students have many opportunities to enrich their studies in Asian languages and literature while living in Iowa City. The University sponsors student associations for students from many Asian countries, including mainland China, Japan, Korea, India, Pakistan, and Taiwan. All University of Iowa students are welcome to join. Various international community groups sponsor cultural events and holiday celebrations throughout the year.

Residence in the Global Mosaic Living Learning Community

The Global Mosaic Living Learning Community welcomes American and international first- and second-year students who wish to broaden their knowledge of international issues,
languages, and cultures. Global Mosaic members live in Mayflower Residence Hall and enjoy a variety of programs on diverse cultures, the arts, fashion, cinema, dining and cuisine, study abroad, and more. Students must apply to live in the Global Mosaic Living Learning Community; see Communities on the University Housing and Dining website.