Asian Languages and Cultures

Rutgers University–New Brunswick is a leading national research university and the state of New Jersey’s preeminent comprehensive public institution of higher education. The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures in the School of Arts and Sciences offers innovative undergraduate and graduate programs in Asian Studies, Chinese, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Japanese, and Korean.

Faculty Research and Teaching

Young-mee Yu Cho, Ph.D. Stanford: Korean linguistics, phonology, morphology, language acquisition, syntax/phonology interface, historical linguistics, language teaching, textbook development

Jessey Choo, Ph.D. Princeton: Medieval Chinese and Japanese history and religion, cultural memory, entombed epigraphy, everyday life, women and gender

Hee Chung Chun, M.A. Ewha Womans University: Korean studies and language pedagogy, biculturalism in language learning, heritage learners, cross-cultural pragmatics, second language acquisition

Jae Won Chung, Ph.D. Columbia: Korean literature, everyday life, visual culture

Jiro Harasaki, M.A. Columbia: Japanese language pedagogy

Suzy Kim, Ph.D. Chicago: Modern Korean history, North Korean social history, critical theory, gender studies, oral history

Peng Liu, Ph.D. Fudan University/Ph.D. Columbia: Chinese vernacular literature and religion, fiction and drama in late imperial China, Chinese Buddhist hagiographies, Daoist magic

Senko Maynard, Ph.D. Northwestern: Japanese linguistics, discourse analysis

Hieu Phung, Ph.D. Hawaii: Premodern Vietnamese and Southeast Asian history, environmental history

Satoru Saito, Ph.D. Columbia: Modern and contemporary Japanese literature, detective fiction, Japanese film, Japanese popular culture

Paul G. Schalow, Ph.D. Harvard: Classical and early-modern Japanese literature, Japanese women’s writing, literatures of trauma

Weijie Song, Ph.D. Peking University/Ph.D. Columbia: Modern Chinese literature and film, urban culture, environmental humanities, Chinese popular culture, Sinophone and diaspora studies

Wendy Swartz, Ph.D. UCLA: Medieval Chinese poetry, literary theory and criticism, comparative poetics

Haruko Wakabayashi, Ph.D. Princeton: Medieval Japanese cultural history, religion, visual culture, natural disasters

Xiaojue Wang, Ph.D. Columbia: Modern and contemporary Chinese literature, the cultural Cold War, late Qing fiction, film and visual studies, comparative literature

Yuan-chen Jenny Yang, Ph.D. Yale: Chinese linguistics, Chinese language pedagogy, pragmatics, semantics, syntax of Mandarin and Min dialect, sociolinguistics
Why Asian Languages?

The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures provides a first-rate education emphasizing cultural and linguistic competence so that students may prepare themselves for exciting careers in business, education, government, international relations, and other fields.

Faculty research interests cover a range of academic disciplines, periods, and topics. Our faculty regularly receive competitive grants from international funding agencies to conduct research and are invited to lecture and teach at universities around the world.

Students who study with our faculty build a solid linguistic and cultural foundation in one or more East Asian language and, at the same time, develop interdisciplinary and integrative ways of thinking analytically about East Asia in their classes.

Kathryn Slusarczyk, a junior majoring in Korean, says: “From language to electives, every class I’ve taken in Asian Languages and Cultures has also connected me with classmates, building both professional relationships and close friendships. I’m happy to be a part of such a great academic community.”

Study Asian Culture, History, and Literature

Majors and Minors

The department offers four undergraduate major and minor programs, requiring 12 courses for majors and 6 courses for minors. Check details about requirements, learning goals, and a complete list of courses at alc.rutgers.edu, or contact Professor Weijie Song, Undergraduate Program Director, at undergrad@alc.rutgers.edu.

Asian Studies 098

Majors and minors study past and current events in this important region of the world through language and interdisciplinary course offerings such as 098:250 “Global East Asia,” 098:262 “Asian American Experience: Identity and Ethnicity,” and 098:111 “Elementary Vietnamese.”

Chinese 165

Majors and minors study the rich cultural heritage and contemporary realities of China through a wide and coherent curriculum, including courses such as 165:220 “Chinese Classics and Thought: Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism,” 165:262 “Chinese Cinema,” and 165:361/362 “Business Chinese.”

Japanese 565


Korean 574

Majors and minors study Korea’s cultural heritage and exciting current scene through courses such as 574:230 “Introduction to Korean Cinema and Cinematic Language,” 574:203 “Elementary Korean for Heritage Speakers,” and 574:350 “North Korea in the Socialist and Post-Socialist Worlds.”

East Asia is an exciting place…

Explore it through Study Abroad!

Want to acquire new knowledge, friendships, and memories that will last a lifetime? Then we invite you to immerse yourself in an East Asian culture and language for a semester, summer, or year!

Rutgers currently has over 30 exchange agreements with universities in China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. The programs provide you with direct exposure to East Asia’s history, culture, and people, and are ideal for students who wish to experience speaking the language outside the classroom. Scholarships and financial aid make the study abroad experience affordable.

global.rutgers.edu/study-abroad