East Asian Languages and Civilization, PhD

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD East Asian Languages and Civilizations (Chinese)

The PhD program in East Asian languages and civilizations is a research-intensive, transdisciplinary, area-based degree in the study of traditional and modern languages and cultures of China and Japan. Students may focus on:

- comparative cultural studies
- cultural history or linguistics
- literary criticism
- literature
- thoughts

In every case, students will be expected to acquire a solid grounding in the classical and modern versions of the primary language of their area.

At a Glance

- College/School: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Location: Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, two foreign language exams, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

The program requires a minimum of 84 credit hours, of which 30 credit hours from an earned master's degree program that is directly relevant to the doctoral program may be counted toward that requirement. A minimum of 30 credit hours of coursework and 24 credit hours of research are required beyond the master's degree level. If a student already has a master's degree, it will not be necessary to complete the existing
School of International Letters and Cultures master's degree program in Asian languages and civilizations. However, the student will be required to satisfy all course requirements for the master's degree.

All students, whether specializing in Chinese or Japanese, must comply with the following requirements:

- complete a minimum of six courses selected from advanced courses in literature, religions or intellectual history
- complete five seminars
- complete SLC 500 Theory and Methodology in East Asian Literature and Culture
- complete 12 credit hours of core requirements
- submit a dissertation and pass an oral defense of that dissertation
- demonstrate reading knowledge of a second pertinent Asian language and one pertinent European language, aside from English
- pass written and oral comprehensive examinations in four fields, three of which must be selected from areas that are well-represented within the East Asian languages and civilizations doctoral graduate curriculum

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution. Applicants specializing in Chinese should have completed at least three years of modern Chinese and one year of classical Chinese. Applicants specializing in Japanese should have completed at least three years of modern Japanese and one semester of classical Japanese.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.30 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.30 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. personal statement
4. writing sample
5. speech sample in Chinese or Japanese
6. resume or curriculum vitae
7. GRE scores
8. three letters of recommendation
9. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

The writing sample, which should be no more than 15 pages, should represent the applicant's thinking as well as writing skills, and it should be on a topic connected with Chinese, Japanese or East Asian culture.

The speech sample is required if the applicant is applying for teaching assistantship funding. The speech sample should be a recorded message approximately four minutes in length, in Chinese or Japanese, on a topic of the applicant's choosing. (Applicants are asked to not read the message. This is to help the committee evaluate the level of proficiency, and the message should realistically reflect the applicant's spoken Chinese or Japanese). Recordings should be emailed to SILC@asu.edu.

Applicants should see the department website for more information.

Contact Information

School of International Letters and Cultures | LL 440
silk@asu.edu | 480-965-2715