

What about a major in...?

# Asian Languages and Literatures

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
CLA COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## What is Asian Languages and Literatures?

As a student in Asian Languages and Literatures you study an Asian language (Chinese, Hindi, Urdu, Japanese, Korean) as well as methods of literary and cultural analysis. The language study can provide you with advanced spoken and written skills that allow you direct access to both the people and cultures of Asia, where over half the world's population lives. The analytical courses provide you with a theoretically sophisticated understanding of the rich literary and cultural texts—from the accepted literary canon to popular culture and film.

The major has six different concentrations (Chinese literature, culture, and media; Japanese literature, culture, and media; South Asian literature, culture, and media; Social formations; Visual and aural cultures in Asia; Written cultures in Asia) each of which introduces you to a broad range of language, literary and cultural texts. Along with courses in your ALL concentration, you are allowed related electives outside the department; you are also asked to take at least one course related to another area of Asia. You pursue deeper, concentrated study in your upper level courses, which leads to your senior project. Study abroad is strongly encouraged and can contribute credit to the major.

## What are the major requirements?

Go to [www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html](http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html) and select “undergraduate majors.”

## How do I declare an Asian Languages and Literatures major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser (located in 415 Folwell Hall), a professor, or a teaching specialist, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon an Asian Languages and Literatures major, meet with the department adviser in 415 Folwell Hall to complete a Major Program Declaration form.
3. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your CLA student community to learn more about your new major's declaration process.

## What can I do with a major in Asian Languages and Literatures?

### Skills

Asian languages and literatures majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers. These skills include:

- Competence in at least one Asian language
- Knowledge of Asian literature and culture
- Ability to articulate ideas clearly and persuasively
- Ability to think critically
- Ability to collaborate effectively within diverse groups

## For more information:

### About the Asian Languages and Literatures major:

Undergraduate Advising  
415 Folwell Hall  
(612) 625-9574  
<http://all.umn.edu/>  
all@umn.edu

### About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Languages and Mathematics Student Community  
114 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-7540  
<http://langmath.class.umn.edu/>

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program  
19 Johnston Hall  
(612) 625-2300  
<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/>  
mlk@class.cla.umn.edu

### About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community Learning Center  
135 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-7577  
<http://cclc.umn.edu/>  
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

### About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division  
20 Nicholson  
(612) 624-5522  
<http://cla.umn.edu/honors/>  
honors@class.cla.umn.edu

### **Employment**

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Business—marketing, human resources, sales, recruiting, international business
- Education—teaching, research, student affairs
- Government—public information, campaigns, policy, elected official
- Social services—social work, therapy, ESL instruction
- Nonprofit—fundraising, programming, management
- Law—litigation, advocacy, lobbying

The civilization of Asia is among the oldest and richest in human history, but also among the most influential in today's increasingly globalized world. With roughly sixty percent of the world's population residing in Asian countries, it does not go too far to say that Asia has become an unavoidable subject of study. Majoring in Asian languages and literatures offers a valuable opportunity to learn about Asia and develop an understanding of economic, political, social, and cultural trends that will importantly shape the twenty-first century.

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

### **Remember!**

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

**Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!**