The University of Texas at Austin

Department of Asian Studies

Information for Master’s/PhD students in Asian Cultures and Languages
2017 - 2019 Graduate Catalog
Table of Contents

Administration and Governance ................................................................. 3
Student Responsibilities ............................................................................... 4 - 5
Degree Programs & Requirements ............................................................ 5 - 6
Individual Program of Work ...................................................................... 6
Coursework .................................................................................................. 6 – 7
Language Requirements ............................................................................ 7 - 8
Grades & Grading ....................................................................................... 8
Portfolio Programs ...................................................................................... 8
Withdrawal and Leave of Absence ............................................................ 8 – 9
Doctoral Candidacy ..................................................................................... 9 - 10
Graduation ................................................................................................... 10
Professional Development .......................................................................... 10 - 11
Annual Report ............................................................................................ 11
Going Abroad .............................................................................................. 11
Institutional Review Board ........................................................................ 11
Funding and Financial Aid ......................................................................... 11 - 12
Parental Accommodation .......................................................................... 12
Statement on Equal Educational Opportunity ......................................... 12
Campus Resources ..................................................................................... 12 - 13

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The information in this brochure is available online at http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/asianstudies/ and may be printed freely.

This handbook, and the Asian Studies Graduate Program website, reflect changes in effect for the 2017-2019 Graduate Catalog. Every effort has been made to insure the accuracy of the material herein. In the event of discrepancy between printed or web materials and the contents of the official 2017-2019 Graduate Catalog, the Graduate Catalog takes precedence.
Administration and Governance

**ROLE OF THE GRADUATE ADVISER**
The current Graduate Adviser is Dr. Rob Oppenheim. His office is located in WCH 5.134.

The Graduate Adviser administers the graduate program, is Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee and the Graduate Admissions Committee, and is the program's principal representative to the Graduate School.

The Adviser assists each student in selecting a faculty mentor and then works with that student and mentor in planning a program of study tailored to every student's individual needs and interests. Students should make appointments to meet with their mentors at least once every semester.

In the latter part of each long semester, the Graduate Adviser meets individually with every student to plan the next semester's work.

The Graduate Studies Committee sets policy for the graduate program in all matters except admissions. The committee is composed of the Graduate Adviser and several faculty members across campus who teach on Asia.

The Graduate Admissions Committee has responsibility for admission to the graduate program. It is composed of the Graduate Adviser and selected faculty who teach on East and South Asia.

The Graduate Studies Committee must approve any significant change in the Department's graduate program.

**ROLE OF THE GRADUATE COORDINATOR**
The Graduate Coordinator is Abby Black. Her office is in WCH 4.128.

The Graduate Coordinator handles the day-to-day technical aspects of graduate life — adding and dropping courses, finding out rules and regulations, etc. The Coordinator is the first person you should seek help from for any bureaucratic problem.

**OMBUDSMAN**
The current Ombudsman is Dr. Heather Hindman. Her office is WCH 4.104C.

Asian Studies appoints a professor each year to serve as Ombudsman. The function of the Ombudsman is to assist students with problems they might encounter regarding student-teacher relations, sexual harassment, or other similar non-academic problems within the Department.
**Student Responsibilities**

The most important responsibility of each student is to be familiar with the degree requirements as set forth in the official publications of the Graduate School and the Asian Studies programs.

General and specific requirements for degrees in the Graduate School may be altered in successive catalogs, but students are bound only by the requirements of the catalog in force at the time of their admission to graduate study. Students may choose to fulfill the requirements of subsequent catalogs, in which case they must fulfill all of those requirements, not part of them. Graduate catalogs may be found online at [http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/graduate](http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/graduate).

The department's graduate office maintains a paper file for each student. Students may see all material in their files except the confidential letters of recommendation.

**EMAIL**

Every graduate student must have an email address on file with the Department. Email is considered an official form of communication by the University of Texas at Austin and will be the main means by which the Department notifies students of upcoming events, fellowships, meetings, etc.

Information about the free-to-students UTMail (utexas) email addresses is found online at [https://it.utexas.edu/](https://it.utexas.edu/).

**MAILBOXES**

Each graduate student has a mailbox located in the hallway of the fifth floor of the WC Hogg building. Students are responsible for checking their boxes occasionally for flyers, notes, and other materials.

**WEBSITE**

The Department of Asian Studies posts items of interest to students on its homepage, located at [http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/asianstudies/](http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/asianstudies/). Students should be sure to access the site often to stay informed about happenings in the Department. Items of interest include dissertation defenses, speakers, seminars, and updates about students and faculty.

**STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

The University's expectations for student conduct are grounded in the University Code of Conduct: "The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community."

University students are also expected to uphold the Student Honor Code: "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity."
Information about UT’s policies on Academic Integrity is located at

The University’s standards of conduct are described at

**Academic Dishonesty and Scholastic Dishonesty**
“Academic dishonesty” or “scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two classes without the prior permission of the instructor), or the attempt to commit such an act.

Information about scholastic dishonesty can be found at http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/ and

**Degree Programs**
The Department of Asian Studies offers the following degree programs:
- Master’s of Arts in Asian Studies
- Master’s of Arts in Asian Studies dual-degree programs in conjunction with the LBJ School of Public Affairs
- Master’s of Arts in Asian Studies dual-degree program in conjunction with the Red McCombs School of Business
- Master’s in Asian Cultures and Languages
- PhD in Asian Cultures and Languages

**Asian Cultures and Languages MA/PhD program**
The Asian Cultures and Languages MA/PhD program requires a minimum of 48 credit hours of coursework and consists of two phases.

The first phase (Master of Arts) requires thirty credit hours of coursework, including the report course. In December of the second year in the Master’s program, students will receive a formal review to determine if they may continue on to the Doctoral program. Successful completion of the Master's Report, which shows the student’s ability to conduct independent research, is required for admission to the PhD phase of the Asian Cultures and Languages program. The Master’s report is a one-semester project during which the student writes a report on a given topic or body of material. Master’s report should be at least 50 pages in length. The Master’s report requires the approval of a faculty supervisor and a second reader. The supervisor must be a member of the Graduate Studies Committee.
The PhD phase of the program requires at least 18 credit hours of coursework beyond the Master’s degree, in addition to dissertation courses. The major and minor areas of specialization must be approved by the Graduate Adviser.

Master’s in Asian Cultures and Languages Degree Requirements
- 9 hours in the student’s area of specialization (e.g., Japanese culture, Indian religion, Chinese literature, etc.)
- 3 hours graduate research methods (e.g., historiography, literary theory or criticism, etc.)
- 3 hours in general Asian historical or cultural background of the major area
- 6 hours in advanced Asian language courses (third-year level or beyond)
- 6 hours of electives
- 3 hours of Master’s Report

PhD in Asian Cultures and Languages Degree Requirements
- 15 hours in the student’s major and minor areas of specialization
- 3 hours graduate research methods of the appropriate discipline (e.g., historiography, literary theory or criticism, etc.)
- Completion of the research language
- Dissertation courses

Individual Program of Work
All students have an online Program of Work (degree audit). This document lists all required courses for your degree and all courses you have taken to fulfill those requirements. You may access your web-based Program of Work through UT Direct at https://utdirect.utexas.edu/ogs/gdp/.

Time to Degree
A suggested timeline for completing the MA/PhD is posted at http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/asianstudies/graduate/resources/acl-maphd-timeline.php.

According to the College of Liberal Arts policy on time to degree and graduate student funding, posted at http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/research/news/8030, programs must petition the College for permission to fund students past the sixth year of study.

Coursework
The majority of the coursework for the MA/PhD should be graduate seminars with substantial content on Asia. Students are encouraged to enroll in graduate seminars with Asian Studies faculty.

At the discretion of the Graduate Adviser, graduate students may take individual instruction conference courses. These courses should not comprise the majority of the student’s course
work and should be on topics that are not offered in organized graduate courses. The student should find a faculty member to supervise the course; the topic of the course should be within the faculty member’s research interests. The grading policy and other requirements are left to the discretion of the instructor. The student and faculty member should complete the graduate conference course agreement form located on the Asian Studies website and submit it to the Graduate Coordinator so that the student may be registered.

A Master’s student in the Department of Asian Studies may count up to nine hours of upper-division undergraduate coursework toward his/her degree. The first number of a course indicates the number of credit hours (e.g., 3, 4, 5). The second number indicates whether the class is lower-division (0 or 1), upper-division (2-7) or graduate (8 or 9). Students may not count lower-division courses toward a graduate degree.

It is permissible for a graduate student to take an upper-division course for graduate credit. This may be necessary if many faculty are on leave and there is a shortage of organized graduate courses. Graduate students enroll in a graduate conference course number and attend all scheduled meetings of the undergraduate class, plus at least 4 additional meetings with the professor outside of regular class meeting times. Graduate students attending undergraduate courses are required to do an additional research paper with bibliography including extra materials not required of undergraduate students. Whether or not other undergraduate requirements are waived (such as exams) is left to the instructor’s discretion. The student and faculty member should complete the Undergraduate Course for Graduate Credit form located on the Asian Studies website and submit it to the Graduate Coordinator so that the student may be registered.

All coursework for the Master’s degree must be completed within six years.

Once they have formally entered candidacy, Ph.D. candidates must register for dissertation hours each semester. Dissertation hours begin with the research course, either ANS 399R, 699R, or 999R, which may only be taken once. This is followed by the writing course, ANS 399W, 699W, and 999W, which be may taken as many times as necessary. PhD candidates must be registered for a dissertation course during the semester in which they intend to graduate.

Language Requirements

Master’s students who demonstrate third-year language proficiency before admission to the Master’s program may have the language course requirement waived, pending approval of the Graduate Adviser. Please note that the required subject matter will be waived but not the hours.

All PhD students are expected to demonstrate fifth-year proficiency in one Asian language prior to defending the dissertation.
Competency in at least one modern foreign language that will be used in research is required. The research language may be a European language, such as French or German, or a modern Asian language. If the student chooses to study an Asian language as his or her research language, the language should be one that is pertinent to the student’s professional development, such as Hindi for students whose primary language of study is Sanskrit. The choice of language(s) and the required level of proficiency are determined by the mentor and dissertation supervisor in consultation with the graduate adviser.

**Grades and Grading**

Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in both departmental courses and courses taken outside the department. Most students receive the grade of A or B in their coursework. The grade of C, which is seldom given, denotes unsatisfactory performance. Any course in which a student earns less than a C will not be counted towards his/her degree.

If a student receives a grade below B- in his/her primary language of study for two consecutive semesters, the student may be dismissed from the program.

A student is expected to complete a course in a single semester. In rare instances, for nonacademic reasons and at the discretion of the instructor, a temporary delay of the final course grade, symbol X, may be recorded. The student must complete the course requirements by the last class day in his or her next long-session semester of enrollment, and the instructor must report a final grade by the end of the grade reporting period in that semester. If these deadlines are not met, the symbol X is converted to the symbol I (permanent incomplete), and the course will not count towards the student’s degree.

Graduate students have the option of taking up to 20% of their total credit hours for their degree on a credit/no credit basis. For most Master’s students, 20% of the total credit hours is equivalent to six credit hours. A student may not take courses in his/her primary language of study for credit/no credit.

**Portfolio Programs at UT-Austin**

Portfolio programs are opportunities for students across the campus in any discipline to obtain credentials in a cross-disciplinary academic area of inquiry while they are completing the requirements for a master’s or doctor’s degree in a particular discipline. A portfolio program usually consists of four thematically related graduate courses and a research presentation; for master’s portfolio programs, a practical experience related to the portfolio program may replace the presentation. For a complete listing of portfolio programs available at UT, visit [https://gradschool.utexas.edu/academics/programs/portfolio-programs](https://gradschool.utexas.edu/academics/programs/portfolio-programs).

**Withdrawal and Leave of Absence**

If you must drop all of your courses due to an emergency or other unforeseen circumstances, you must complete at Withdrawal Petition and Refund Request Form (available from the Graduate Coordinator). Prior to withdrawing, you should meet with the Graduate Adviser to discuss your situation. Students who withdraw will receive the symbol W instead of a grade in
all courses that were in progress for the semester. Further information about withdrawal policies and procedures is available at https://gradschool.utexas.edu/academics/policies/withdrawals.

Students seeking a Leave of Absence (LOA) should meet with the Graduate Adviser to discuss the circumstances surrounding the leave. Requests for leave are approved on an individual basis and may be granted for a period up to one year. Students must apply for a Leave of Absence prior to the first class day of the semester for which they wish to take leave. Further information about Leave of Absence policies and procedures is available at https://gradschool.utexas.edu/academics/policies/leaves-of-absence.

In order to re-enroll as a graduate student after a withdrawal or Leave of Absence, you must apply for readmission at https://gradschool.utexas.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/graduate-readmission unless you are absent only for a summer session.

**Doctoral Candidacy**

To become a doctoral candidate, students must:

1) complete and pass written **COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS** and an oral defense of those exams,
2) complete a **DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS** [format guidelines and content expectations available separately], including a review and revision process, and
3) submit the administrative **CANDIDACY APPLICATION** to the Graduate School.

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS**

In consultation with their doctoral supervisor, students will take exams in three or four areas relating to their research, coursework, and/or professional plans. Students and supervisors will develop a schedule for taking comprehensive examinations at or near the time they have completed their coursework requirements. This schedule should be communicated to the Graduate Coordinator and Graduate Adviser.

An exam committee consists of either three or four other examiners, one for each exam, including the chair. The chair should be the student’s dissertation supervisor and should coordinate the committee as needed. Committee members, also known as examiners, should have expertise on their exam topic. Most examiners ask students to create the initial exam list as part of the process (i.e., learning how to learn a field). Other examiners provide basic lists covering the topic to students and work with them to customize that list to the student’s interests. In either case, the examiners and student should agree on a final exam list well in advance of the exam date, ideally three months or so. Changes to the list at that point are permissible by mutual consent of the student and examiner. Typically, such lists consist of 15-20 book-length works and 20-30 article-length studies on the exam topic, but examiners may set a longer or shorter list.

The Comprehensive Examinations usually consist of written essays with citations and bibliography, responding to the three or four exam questions. The committee may ask for
other types of response or exam formats by working with the Graduate Adviser. In consultation with the examiners for each list, the chair/supervisor will fix the number of questions (sometimes only one question is given on a single exam; sometimes a choice of two, with other arrangements possible) based on the student’s needs, background, and plans. In recent years, the standard has become four exams. Typically, a student is given between eight and thirty-six hours per exam (with correspondingly different expectations), though other arrangements may be made between exam committees and students. The exam committee will determine the timing and distribution of the questions, but students should complete all their exams within one academic term (fall, spring, or summer). Exemplary exam responses are available for student consultation with the Graduate Coordinator.

Approximately two weeks after completion of the last exam question, the committee will conduct an oral defense of all the exams. At the defense, students respond to questions about their written answers and related topics. The examiner for each exam will take the lead on their exam, though all examiners are expected to read all the exams and may ask questions relating to any exam. A typical defense lasts from one to two hours.

**Dissertation Prospectus**

Students will, in consultation with their supervisor and the Graduate Adviser, select five faculty members to form a dissertation committee. They then prepare a dissertation prospectus under the guidance of the chair of the committee, who is also the student’s dissertation supervisor. When complete, the prospectus is distributed to the entire committee.

The dissertation prospectus should be a detailed, coherent description of the following (more detailed guidelines and exemplary recent prospectuses are available with the Graduate Coordinator):

- The main argument and research focus of the dissertation
- The methodology to be employed
- A survey of existing scholarship on the subject
- Preliminary chapter arrangements

Approximately two weeks after the prospectus is submitted, the committee will schedule a hearing and all members of the student’s dissertation committee should be present. At the hearing, the committee may require revisions of the prospectus. Any required revisions must be re-submitted to the committee or chair for approval. Ideally, the comprehensive examinations and the dissertation prospectus are completed in the same academic term. Committees may even schedule a single oral defense of both, if circumstances permit. Students must complete their prospectus no later than the academic term following their comprehensive examinations. For example, if you finish exams in the spring, you must submit your prospectus by the end of that summer term. Finally, students draft a summary based on the approved prospectus to submit with their doctoral candidacy application.

**Candidacy Application**

At this point, the dissertation supervisor will email the Graduate Adviser and Graduate
Coordinator to let them know that the student has completed all of the requirements and is ready to formally apply to the Graduate School to enter candidacy. With the Graduate Adviser’s approval, the Graduate Coordinator will then direct the student to complete the online candidacy application.

**Graduation**

At the beginning of the semester in which the student plans to graduate, they should consult the Graduate School’s Deadlines and Submission Instructions webpage, located at https://gradschool.utexas.edu/academics/graduation/deadlines-and-submission-instructions, to become familiar with all of the required forms for graduation.

Students arrange the scheduling of the oral dissertation defense. The Request for Final Oral Examination form is due to the Graduate School at least two weeks prior to the dissertation defense. All committee members must sign the Request for Final Oral Examination. The student should submit the final draft of their dissertation to all committee member at least four weeks before the defense. Possible outcomes of the defense are: Pass, Reconsideration, Not Pass, and Fail. After the dissertation defense, the student will revise their dissertation prior to submitting it to the Graduate School. Revisions often take two weeks to complete, so it is recommended that students defend their dissertation no later than two weeks before the end of the semester.

The deadline for submission of the dissertation is the last Friday in which class is in-session of the semester in which the student intends to graduate.

**Professional Development**

All Asian Studies graduate students are expected to engage in professional development. Professional development includes applying for external fellowships and grants, attending and presenting at conferences and workshops, publishing original research, participating in outreach activities at local schools, auditing courses, and completing internships. Students should consult with their mentor to determine when they should complete professional development activities and which activities to complete.

**Annual Report**

All graduate students in Asian Studies must submit an Annual Report in the spring semester. The Annual Report includes information on degree requirements completed and professional development performed. The faculty mentor provides a written evaluation of the student’s progress on the last page of the report. The Graduate Studies Committee reviews all of the Annual Reports and provides students with feedback on their performance over the past academic year. The Annual Report form can be found on the Graduate Student Forms and Links webpage of the Asian Studies website at http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/asianstudies/forms-and-links/grad-student.php.
Going Abroad

All Asian Studies graduate students are encouraged to study abroad for a minimum of ten weeks to complete language study or conduct research.

Students going abroad for an academic reason, including language study, conducting research, or attending conferences, must abide by the “Student Travel Policy for International Locations” located at https://world.utexas.edu/risk/policies/student. The current policy requires students to register their travel at https://world.utexas.edu/risk/policies/student/itr.

Students who plan to be abroad for one or more long semesters should consult with the International Office about registering for Independent Study and Research (ISR). Students enrolled in ISR may a registration fee that is significantly less than the cost of regular tuition and are considered full-time students. The ISR website is located at http://world.utexas.edu/abroad/programs/isr.

Students should consult the UT Restricted Regions list prior to planning travel. Students traveling to a Restricted Region must obtain prior permission from the International Oversight Committee. Proof of permission is required when a student applies to graduate. Information about Restricted Regions is located at https://world.utexas.edu/risk/policies/restricted-regions.

Institutional Review Board

The IRB is responsible for conducting initial and continuing reviews and providing oversight for all research activities involving the use of human subjects performed on the campus or at any location under the purview of The University of Texas at Austin. Students whose research involves human subjects, including interviews, should consult with the IRB https://research.utexas.edu/ors/human-subjects/.

Funding and Financial Aid

The Department of Asian Studies strives to fund as many graduate students as possible. Priority for funding is given to PhD students and Master’s students in Asian Cultures and Languages who are making progress towards their degrees. Graduate students may be funded through fellowships; grants; and student employment such as teaching assistant (TA), graduate research assistant (GRA), or assistant instructor (AI) positions. Students are expected to apply for funding from other UT departments and external agencies. More information about funding may be found on the Asian Studies website at http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/asianstudies/graduate/financial-aid.php.

Academic Accommodation for Graduate Student Parents

The College of Liberal Arts provides academic accommodation for graduate students who become parents during their course of study. The policy and request for accommodation form are located at http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/research/news/8159.
Statement on Equal Educational Opportunity
The University of Texas at Austin is committed to an educational and working environment that provides equal opportunity to all members of the University community. In accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, citizenship, and veteran status. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is also prohibited pursuant to University policy.

The Office of Institutional Equity supports the establishment and maintenance of a nondiscriminatory work and educational environment. This includes, but is not limited to all policies, practices, and conditions of employment and education. Hires, promotions, transfers and terminations are made without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, citizenship status, Vietnam Era or special disabled veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. http://equity.utexas.edu/about-oie/

Campus Services

Faculty Innovation Center offers workshops and programs to assist graduate students in becoming better instructors. http://facultyinnovate.utexas.edu/

Counseling & Mental Health Center (CMHC) provides counseling, psychiatric, consultation, and prevention services to all UT students. Services are low-cost and confidential. https://cmhc.utexas.edu/

Division of Recreational Sports http://www.utrecsports.org

Gender and Sexuality Center provides opportunities for all members of the UT Austin community to explore, organize, and promote learning around issues of gender and sexuality. The GSC offers faculty and staff mentors to LGBTQ and women students and hosts training sessions on gender and sexuality issues. http://diversity.utexas.edu/genderandsexuality/

Graduate School administers all graduate programs at UT and gives final approval on all graduate student matters. The Graduate School website has many services and resources available to you. https://gradschool.utexas.edu/

Graduate Student Assembly is the elected governing body of The University of Texas’ approximately 12,000 graduate students.

Legal Services for Students http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/lss/

Liberal Arts Career Services http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/lacs/

Liberal Arts Grants Services http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/research/grants-contracts/
Multicultural Engagement Center is a student resource office that educates and empowers students to be leaders and agents of social change. [http://diversity.utexas.edu/multiculturalengagement/](http://diversity.utexas.edu/multiculturalengagement/)

Sanger Learning and Career Center also offers a variety of resources and tools to assist graduate students. [http://ugs.utexas.edu/slc/grad](http://ugs.utexas.edu/slc/grad)

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) determines eligibility and helps implement reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities at the University of Texas at Austin. We also engage in outreach across campus in order to make campus a more inclusive, accessible and welcoming environment for people with disabilities. For more information, see [http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/](http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/).

Student Emergency Services works with campus and community organizations to provide a number of services to assist students, and in some cases their families and friends, during an emergency or crisis situation. [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/)

Student Veteran Services [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/veterans/](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/veterans/)

University Health Services (UHS) provides healthcare services to all UT students. Services are low-cost and confidential. [https://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/index.html](https://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/index.html)

Even more campus services [https://gradschool.utexas.edu/services-and-resources](https://gradschool.utexas.edu/services-and-resources).