Learn how to conduct research with a high level of cultural and linguistic knowledge, receive extensive experience in a local vernacular environment, and develop the abilities to think critically and deal with complex ideas.

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. Students may focus on:

- comparative cultural studies
- cultural history
- linguistics
- literary criticism
- literary thought

In every case, students are expected to acquire a solid grounding in the classical and modern versions of Chinese.

At a Glance

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

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

Required Core (3 credit hours)
CHI 501 Proseminar: East Asian Humanities (3)

Concentration (6 credit hours)
CHI 514 Advanced Classical Chinese (6)

Other Requirements (39 credit hours)
CHI 502 Academic Writing (3)
CHI 598 Topic: Proseminar: Chinese Literary History (3)
CHI 598 Topic: History of the Chinese Language (3)
CHI 598 Special Topics (15)
CHI 691 Seminar (15)

Electives (24 credit hours)
CHI 799 Dissertation (12)

Additional Curriculum Information
15 credit hours of CHI 598 Special Topics must be comprised of five courses, and 15 credit hours of CHI 691 must be comprised of five seminar courses. Other requirements and elective coursework for the degree are to be chosen in consultation with the program chair.

Courses for the other requirements may be substituted with the approval of the academic unit.

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 must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.30 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.30 (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 must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of their current residency.  

The writing sample, which should be no more than 15 pages, should represent the applicant's skills in thinking and writing, 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.  

Tuition Information  
When it comes to paying for college, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about ASU tuition and financial aid options to find out which will work best for them.  

Application Deadlines  

Fall  

Career Opportunities  
Professionals with this degree can confidently move into academic, business and international fields. The skills they possess are valued for teaching positions, translation work, and career opportunities in a larger sector such as government, diplomacy and international business.  

Career examples include:  

- historians  
- interpreters and translators  
- lawyers
• reporters and correspondents
• social and community service managers
• teachers or professors of area, ethnic and cultural studies
• teachers or professors of foreign language and literature

Contact Information

School of International Letters and Cultures | DH 318
silc@asu.edu | 480-965-6281