



Asian Languages and Cultures

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. Students majoring in Asian Languages and Cultures will gain proficiency in a foreign language, understand the structure and use of languages, and become familiar with the literature, history, and culture of this emerging region.

Whether specializing in East, Southeast, or South Asia, concentrators have established themselves in careers ranging from government to human services to the arts. The Bachelor’s degree also provides a firm basis

for graduate work in the humanities, social sciences, law, or business. For students focusing their programs on a particular field, coursework in such areas as Asian religions, literature, cultural studies, or linguistics offers additional knowledge and abilities applicable across a wide range of professions.

Related fields include Linguistics, Political Science, History, Archaeology, Museum Studies, International Studies, and Anthropology.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Communication Skills

- Reading and writing a second language
- Reading for content and structure
- Understanding historical language change
- Writing clearly and carefully
- Explaining complex concepts
- Speaking to groups

Analytical Skills

- Weighing values
- Interpreting data
- Reading critically
- Comparing interpretations
- Evaluating evidence

Interpersonal / Cross-Cultural Skills

- Communicating between cultures
- Adapting to other cultures
- Working as part of a team
- Understanding foreign value systems
- Listening carefully
- Interviewing nonjudgmentally
- Developing flexibility

Research /Project Development Skills

- Gathering information
- Summarizing ideas
- Using original sources
- Compiling /Recording data
- Working with research subjects
- Establishing hypotheses
- Evaluating research results

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations or campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Other options include off-campus employment or volunteering in the community.

Study abroad experiences are particularly helpful to foreign language concentrators to improve proficiency and gain intercultural skills. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.

FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

ALC concentrators develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, cross-cultural skills may be equally useful whether working as a language teacher, a corporate recruiter, or a freelance journalist.

Communication Skills

Foreign correspondent
Professional association editor
Film critic
Technical writer
Academic press editor
K-12 teacher
College instructor 
Language lecturer 

Analytical Skills

Trade lawyer/broker 
Grants and contract manager
National Security Agency analyst
Legislative committee staff person
Trade development officer
State Department officer

For more career information, see O*Net at online.onetcenter.org

Many concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by Asian Languages and Cultures graduates.

Interpersonal/Cross-Cultural Skills

Overseas business representative
Tour director
Manager of translation/language service
Manager, language school
Immigration officer
Student exchange program coordinator
Bilingual program teacher
International student advisor

Research/Project Development Skills

Market researcher
Corporate travel planner
Information manager 
Special events coordinator
Museum/gallery curator
City cultural events planner
Special collections librarian

 = Further Study Required

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

An intermediate level of language study is a requirement of the concentration; undergraduates with native or near-native ability are not encouraged to concentrate in their respective languages. The core courses in the modern languages of East, South, and Southeast Asia are designed to develop basic proficiency of reading, writing, aural comprehension, and speaking.

Complete information on course offerings and requirements may be found in the LSA Bulletin. Languages taught in ALC include:

Chinese	Vietnamese
Japanese	Filipino
Korean	Hindi
Thai	Sanskrit
Indonesian	Tibetan
Javanese	Urdu
	Punjabi

Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

202 S. Thayer Street, Suite 6111
734-764-8286
lsa.umich.edu/asian

Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
lsa.umich.edu/advising

NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

To explore opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: lsa.umich.edu/cgis or globalportal.umich.edu/study.php

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account: careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3

The Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: maizepages.umich.edu

On campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at: studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: connect2community.umich.edu

The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
careercenter.umich.edu
facebook.com/careercenter.umich
twitter.com/careercenter
linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan