ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATIONS - MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

The MA program in Chinese is designed to offer students maximum general exposure to the long sweep of Chinese literary and cultural history, as well as the opportunity to delve into the study of a particular period, field, topic or genre. With six professors covering literature and culture from early China through the medieval period and contemporary China, the program is truly comprehensive in scope. The program focuses especially on preparing students for PhD study and careers in sinology. Since 1991, more than 50 graduates of the Chinese MA program have gone on to doctoral study here or at other first-rank institutions in the U.S.

The MA program in Japanese is designed to provide advanced-level training in Japanese language, literature and civilization, with the aim of preparing students for both Japan-related professional careers and doctoral study in Japanese literature and culture. The program boasts four professors with specializations in the literature and performing arts of classical, medieval, early-modern and modern Japan. In recent years, our MA students have gone on to PhD programs in Japanese literature, art history and religious studies at this and numerous other first-rank institutions in the U.S. and abroad.

For more information, visit the department’s Prospective Students (http://www.colorado.edu/alc/graduate), Chinese (http://www.colorado.edu/alc/graduate/chinese) and Japanese (http://www.colorado.edu/alc/graduate/japanese) webpages.

Concurrent Degree Program

BA/MA in Chinese or Japanese and Asian Languages and Civilizations

The concurrent BA/MA (Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts) degree program in Chinese or Japanese recognizes the need for master’s-level training upon entering the job market in a variety of sectors that call for highly advanced proficiency in the Chinese or Japanese language, knowledge of the culture of China or Japan and its literature, and the skills acquired by BA and MA graduates in the humanities: research, analysis, interpretation, translation and communication.

This degree offers a challenging and focused academic experience for exceptional students (particularly those who enter the university with significant preparation in Chinese or Japanese studies from high school or with other backgrounds, or those who participate in study abroad opportunities at CU) who demonstrate the ability to express their ideas clearly, both orally and in written form, using standard English. Highly motivated students who are accepted into the program begin graduate work no later than the senior year and earn both the BA and MA in five years. Students must have a minimum 3.25 GPA for all courses taken at CU Boulder and should have completed all MAPS and core requirements by the end of the sophomore year.

The application is open only to CU Boulder students. Students must submit the written application for admission (http://www.colorado.edu/graduateschool/academic-forms), along with a statement of purpose, a writing sample and three letters of recommendation, at least one from a full-time member of the Chinese or Japanese faculty, by Sept. 1 of their junior year (or, in exceptional circumstances, during the student’s senior year) to the director of graduate studies in Chinese or Japanese (https://www.colorado.edu/alc/graduate/advising). Applications will be reviewed by the graduate faculty of Chinese or Japanese. Students interested in applying for this option must consult with the department’s undergraduate academic advisor (https://www.colorado.edu/alc/undergraduate/advising) early in their career at CU to establish their program of study.

Please refer to the Chinese BA/MA (https://www.colorado.edu/alc/graduate/chinese) and Japanese BA/MA (https://www.colorado.edu/alc/graduate/japanese) pages on the department website for specific information about requirements and curriculum.

Dual Degree Program

Dual MA in Asian Languages and Civilizations and History or Religious Studies

The Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations participates in a dual master’s program with the Departments of History (http://www.colorado.edu/history/graduate-students/ma-programs) and Religious Studies (http://www.colorado.edu/rlst/graduate/dual-ma). Students admitted to the MA programs in these departments may apply to complete a second MA in one of the other programs. Such degrees serve the needs of students who seek a truly interdisciplinary experience among intellectually affiliated departments. Students interested in exploring this option should contact the director of graduate studies in Chinese or Japanese (https://www.colorado.edu/alc/graduate/advising) for specific requirements.

Requirements

The MA in Asian languages and civilizations offers specializations in Chinese or Japanese.

All entering students in the Chinese program must take CHIN 5010 at the earliest opportunity. Students employed as teaching assistants also must take CHIN 5980 or JPNS 5980. Selection of courses beyond these is made in consultation with the director of graduate studies in Chinese or Japanese (https://www.colorado.edu/alc/graduate/advising).

Prospective graduates will be required to present either 24 hours of approved course work plus a master’s thesis (Plan I), or 30 hours of approved course work without a thesis (Plan II). The 24 hours must be completed at the 5000 level or above. Up to six credits from other departments may be completed at the 3000 or 4000 level at the discretion of the department.

Specific requirements for the MA in Chinese (https://www.colorado.edu/alc/graduate/chinese) and Japanese (https://www.colorado.edu/alc/graduate/japanese), as well as a full list and description of graduate courses (https://www.colorado.edu/alc/courses) offered, are available on the department website.