



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

East Asian studies is an interdisciplinary program that seeks to give the student broad yet intimate knowledge of the history, politics, economics, art and language of the major areas of East Asia. At the crux of the program is the language requirement, which provides the basis for postgraduate study or careers dealing with East Asia. Courses offer a full range of instruction in Japanese and Chinese, helping to create a foundation for a career in government, academics, international relations, international business, journalism, trade, finance, manufacture, law or diplomacy in the 21st century.

What makes the program distinctive?

The East Asian studies program is designed to expose students to and educate them about many different areas of East Asian culture. The program offers courses in arts, film, literature and contemporary life; in

addition, the department holds discussions about various aspects of East Asian culture, intended to broaden and deepen students' understanding of the region.

FAST FACTS

Current number of majors and minors: 64

Number of faculty: 14

Can you minor in this program? Yes

Emphasis within the major: China and Japan, with some courses covering Korea and Vietnam

Popular second majors: anthropology; biology; economics; fine arts; health: science, society and policy; history; politics

Website: brandeis.edu/programs/eastasia

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Language study

Courses offer a full range of language instruction in Japanese and Chinese, including literature courses.

Extracurricular events

The EAS colloquium organizes lectures throughout the year to introduce new research by experts in the East Asian fields. These lectures offer students the opportunity to learn from and interact with internationally renowned specialists.

Curricular offerings

EAS faculty members have particular strengths in the modern period, with special interest in cross-cultural relations. Faculty members are committed to imparting critical understanding of the recent past and the complex conditions that have shaped the East Asian region.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Study abroad

EAS majors and minors have a wealth of options when it comes to studying abroad. Approved study-abroad sites for majors include China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet and Vietnam. Scholarships are available to help students travel.

Student-run clubs

Brandeis has several student clubs to help students gain a better understanding of East Asian cultures. Some of these clubs include the Asian American Students Association, the Japanese Students Association, the Korean Students Association and the Southeast Asia Club.

Social events

Students initiate weekly “language tables” to practice elementary to advanced Chinese and Japanese as well as introductory Korean. Students and faculty members have co-hosted movie nights, sushi-making and dumpling-making parties and other social events to deepen appreciation for East Asian customs and cultures.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Distinguished faculty

The EAS program features many strong faculty members who encourage their students’ curiosity and help them to

understand East Asian culture from many perspectives. Professor **Yu Feng** teaches Chinese language, film, literature and religion courses and is the author and editor of several books, including “China Issues 2007.” Professor **Yui-Hui Chang** is a composer in the Brandeis music department and won the 2008 Aaron Copland Award, a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship and a 2009 Radcliffe Institute Fellowship. Currently she is working on a chamber ensemble piece combining Chinese and Western instruments. Professor **Gary H. Jefferson**, who is also affiliated with the economics department and the International Business School, focuses his research on institutions, technology, economic growth and China’s economic transformation. He is an honorary professor at Wuhan University, China, and among his recent publications is “The Sources and Sustainability of China’s Economic Growth,” a Brookings Paper on Economic Activity (2006).

AFTER BRANDEIS

Where are they now?

Recent grads include Yan Don ’08, Asia equities analyst at Bloomberg; Nadia Hemady ’05, M.A.’09, Ph.D. candidate in Japanese media cultures and gender studies at Duke University; Christina Omori ’04, consumer market researcher at The Boston Globe; Michael Pitt ’10, epidemiology research assistant at Channing Laboratory, Brigham and Women’s Hospital; and Clarissa Stewart ’10, assistant language teacher in the Japan Exchange and Teaching program.

Distinguished alumni

Roberta Lipson ’76 is the co-founder and CEO of Chindex, a pioneering medical supply firm that runs hospitals in several Chinese cities. Shortly after graduating from Brandeis, she was employed in China by Sobin Chemical Inc. coordinating marketing and sales of various equipment in China. After graduating, **Tobias Harris ’05** worked for Keiichiro Asao, a Democratic Party of Japan member. A Japanese politics specialist, Harris has been published in the Wall Street Journal Asia and the Far Eastern Economic Review and has provided commentary for CNBC Asia, Bloomberg, BBC and NPR.

“Professor Matthew Fraleigh really welcomed each student into the world of classical East Asian poetry. His vast knowledge and passion for the subject material made each class fascinating to sit through – especially for someone like myself, who has little understanding of East Asian studies. I enjoyed dissecting each poem in class. ... The connections we made as a class were greater than my personal accounts of each poem.”

*A former student on Fraleigh’s course
“Classical East Asian Poetics”*

