

Learning Goals: East Asian Studies

East Asian Studies promotes in-depth knowledge about the traditions, cultures, and contemporary societies of a diverse and dynamic region that plays an ever more prominent role on the global stage. The Major focuses particular attention on China and Japan, but Southeast Asia and Korea are also part of the Major's coverage. Students are exposed to a wide range of disciplinary approaches to the study of East Asia, including Anthropology, Art History, Economics, History, Language and Literature, Philosophy, Politics, Religion, and Music History. Besides interdisciplinarity, EAS emphasizes a broad temporal scope, cultivating interests from ancient times to the present. Students completing the major are expected to become conversant about a wide range of topics related to East Asia and to attain basic competence in at least one East Asian language.

As a regional studies program, EAS encourages participation in global learning, offering non-Eurocentric approaches to the Creative Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. Through exposure to East Asia, students sharpen their critical skills regarding the production of knowledge and sensibilities in traditions beyond Western influence. The objects of inquiry include poetic styles, artistic techniques, intellectual trends, gender constructs, political orders, and economic systems. While understanding East Asia in its own context is a primary goal, the Major also seeks to comprehend the particularities of the local community in relation to European and American ideas and agencies where relevant. The goal is to develop dynamic and nuanced concepts about the role of East Asia in the world.

Through the ages many parts of East Asia have had varied and extensive contact. By offering courses on different geographic sites and cultures, sometimes in a comparative or interactive context, EAS cultivates a deep appreciation for trans-Asiatic and intra-Asiatic forms of knowledge and action. Collaborations, Conflicts, and Interdependencies are studied as a vital part of engaging with significant historical and evolving developments across the region.

Core Skills: A Major in EAS will attain the following skills:

- Master the terminology and methodology of the component disciplines
- Develop proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing at least one East Asian language
- Examine phenomena in specific historical, cultural, economic, and political contexts
- Use primary and secondary sources to produce original arguments and analyses
- Think critically about visual, literary, and intellectual artifacts and documents
- Make agile connections from comparative and transcultural perspectives

Knowledge: A Major in EAS will acquire the following types of knowledge (encompassing the range of disciplines):

- Broad understanding of traditional and contemporary East Asia from local, international, and comparative perspectives
- East Asian experiences in History, Economics, Politics, and Culture
- Robust appreciation of the contribution and relationship of East Asia to the world

Social Justice: A Major in EAS

- appreciates cultural and ethnic tolerance and inclusiveness
- cultivates relations with peers and faculty who come from diverse backgrounds

Upon Graduating: A Brandeis EAS major will be prepared to:

- Pursue professions where knowledge of East Asian language and culture is valuable (e.g. education, diplomacy, international finance and business, journalism, museology, and translation)
- Embark upon graduate study in a number of academic disciplines
- Build bridges between American and East Asian communities or between communities within East Asia