

Careers & Asian Studies

Inside You'll Find:

- Information on language specialist and cultural competency careers
- Overview of major and minor fields of study available at Penn State
- Profiles of successful PSU alums with degrees in Asian Studies and our associated programs
- Contact information for our website and our professional academic advisor

<http://asian.la.psu.edu/>

Making it Work: Getting a Job with Asian Studies

A knowledge of one or more foreign languages, and a deep mastery of cultural knowledge, is an essential prerequisite to a number of careers.

Language Specialist Jobs:

For some jobs —such as translating (written sources,) interpreting (spoken language), and language teaching— language skills are the foundation of a career.

If you want to pursue one of these careers, you need at least **4 years of language study**, along with an array of courses dealing with Asian culture, politics, history, and literature.

Cultural Competence Jobs:

For other jobs — such as public sector work, business, journalism, travel industry work, and anything requiring foreign travel or work at a branch office in Asia — a combination of language expertise and other knowledge or skills may be necessary. For example, people with language skills plus a strong background in information technology, law, finance, health, and sales are much sought-after.

If you want to pursue one of these careers, you need **at least 2-3 years of language study**, along with an array of courses dealing



with Asian culture, politics, history, and literature.

The Asian Studies Program at Penn State University Park can provide you access to all of these important credentials.

Getting to the Job: Majors and Minors

The Asian Studies Program offers undergraduate majors and minors in Asian Studies, Chinese, and Japanese, and we anticipate a Korean minor by Spring 2015. We also offer four semesters of Hindi and are building that program.

Students who take courses in our department learn to think critically, to make literary, political, and historical judgments, and to understand the impact of the past on the pre-

sent, and of present choices on the future. Our language programs offer deep immersion in new cultural contexts, broaden linguistic and social horizons, and engage the changing and globalizing face of the planet. Students who choose our majors and minors prepare themselves for future employment in business, politics, teaching, and scholarship in Asia-related fields.

Asian Studies majors and minors are profoundly interdisciplinary, ranging across the humanities and social sciences; our curriculum includes classes in Applied Linguistics, Art History, Comparative Literature, English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, Theater, and more. By drawing on the best of the liberal arts tradition, we prepare our students both to understand the world, and to change it.



Our graduates go on to a wide range of satisfying careers in teaching, business, non-profit work, development, journalism, and other fields.

Cultural Competence Jobs

Cultural and linguistic competence is a set of behaviors, attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enables effective work in cross-cultural situations.

Cultural competence jobs include:

- Business (finance, HR, public relations)
- Journalism (foreign correspondent, photographer, editor)
- Public Sector Work (diplomatic corps, United Nations, armed forces, intelligence, immigration, customs, etc.)
- Travel Industry (tour guide, travel advisor, national park worker, visitor and convention bureau staff, hotel management, etc.)

Language Specialist Jobs

Language specialization is a multiyear commitment to gaining advanced level proficiency in the written and spoken language of one or more tongues.

Jobs in this sector require fluency and attentiveness to cultural nuance.

Language specialist jobs include:

- Translating (literary translation, business or technical translation) (kindergarten - 12th grade, charter school language programs, college or university)
- Interpreting (medical settings, court proceedings, diplomatic and cultural liaison relations)
- Graduate school (for advanced degrees in business, medicine, law, humanities, science, or social science)
- Language teaching

Credentials Available at Penn State

Asian Studies

Coursework focuses on the history, culture, and societies of Asia. Students become analysts of culture and history, learn how to relate the present to the past, and the past to the future. They analyze historical documents, learn to think contextually about social and ecologi-

cal change, and to understand the history of the world as a group of systems, and as a single system. Major and minor available.

Chinese & Japanese

The Chinese & Japanese programs allow students to acquire a strong working knowledge of the lan-

guage and to understand important aspects of Chinese or Japanese culture, with an emphasis on the contemporary period. Majors and minors available.

Korean

A minor in Korean has been proposed and is projected to be available by Spring 2015.

Success on the Job Market: What Our Alums Do Now

Our graduates go on to a wide range of satisfying careers in teaching, business, non-profit work, development, journalism, and other fields.

Here are what some of our alums are doing now:

- Associate at American Securities Opportunities Funds
- Events and Development Coordinator at Make-a-Wish Mid - Atlantic
- International Business and Protocol Officer, State of New Jersey
- Accounts Manager, Deposit Insurance Corporation of Japan
- Education Abroad Programs Manager, San Jose State University
- International Communications Coordinator, Riot Games
- Senior Recruiting Fellow, Teach for China
- Senior Consultant, Booz Allen Hamilton
- Doctoral Student, University of Hawaii

First Jobs: What Our Alums Do Straight Out of College

For many of our alums, their first job is in Asia. Many graduates find it very useful to spend a couple of years in Japan, China, India, Korea or elsewhere in East or Southeast Asia perfecting their language skills and building a professional network.

Another major pattern for

our alums is to pursue an entry level position with a North American branch office of an Asian-based company. Still others begin by starting their own companies and consulting firms.

Here are some of our recent alums' first jobs:

- Associate at Apple Store Leader Program, NYC
- Marketing Assistant at Reich & Tang, NYC
- Language Teacher at JoyTalk, Tokyo
- Data Entry, Kintetsu World Express, NYC
- Master's Student, Sogang University
- Japanese instructor, North Carolina Public School System
- ESL Instructor , Teach for America

Credentials Available at Penn State (cont'd)

Hindi

Coursework in Hindi is available through the fourth semester.

Double Majoring

Degrees in any of these fields can be paired very effectively with each other (Asian Studies/Japanese, e.g.) and with other majors

across the college. Students with double majors in an ASIA field, paired with Economics, Political Science, Communication, Business, Hotel Management, Health and Development have proven very successful, and we have a strong track record of placing students with double majors in an ASIA field and

either History or Comparative Literature into internationally competitive graduate schools.

Our students have won a wide array of prestigious fellowships, including the Boren Fellowship, the Critical Language Scholarship, and the Fulbright.



Liberal Arts Resources:

Career Enrichment Network
<http://laus.la.psu.edu/network>

Asian Studies, Chinese, and Japanese
<http://asian.la.psu.edu/undergraduate.shtml>

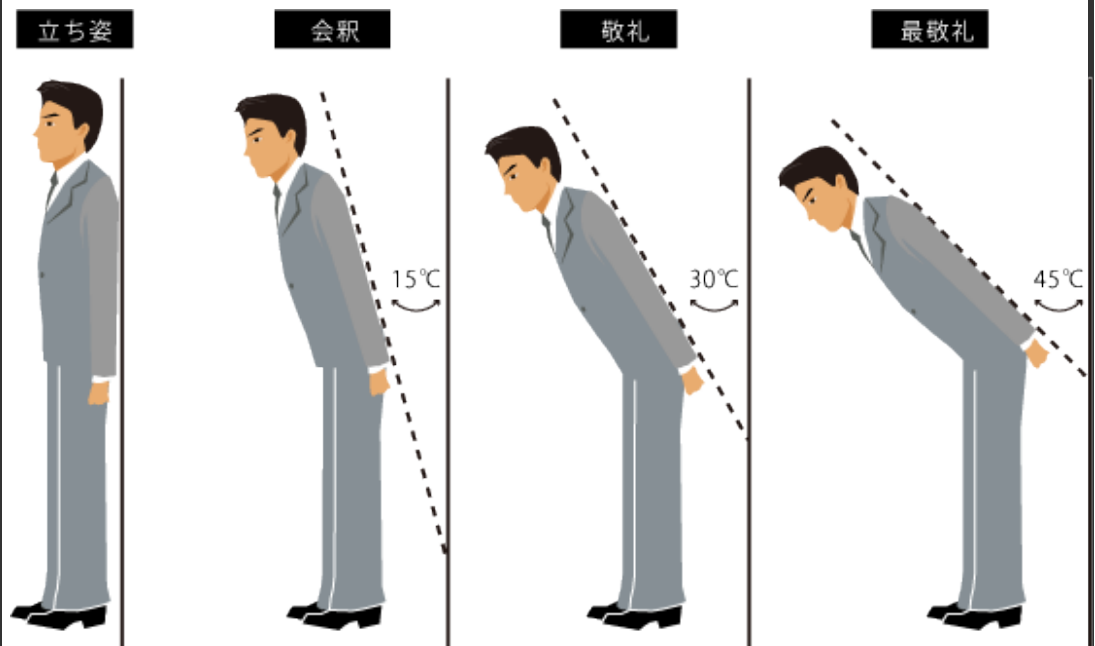
University Resources:

Career Services
www.sa.psu.edu/career

Education Abroad
<http://gpglobalea.gp.psu.edu>

Magdalena Rohling, mmr26@psu.edu, is the adviser for the Asian Studies Program.

You can make an appointment to meet with her using the following website: <http://www.la.psu.edu/advising-appt/>.



Suggested Further Reading

- Blythe Camenson. *Careers in Foreign Languages*.
- Elizabeth Kruempelmann. *Global Citizen: A Guide to Creating an International Life and Career*.
- Nina Segal & Eric Kocher. *International Jobs: Where They Are, How to Get Them*.
- Mary Anne Thompson. *The Global Resume and CV Guide*.
- Sherry Mueller & Mark Overmann. *Working World: Careers in International Education, Exchange, and Development*.
- Maria Pinto Carland & Candace Faber. *Careers in International Affairs*.
- Carline Feraille-Dumoulin. *A Career in Language Translation*.