

# Study Abroad for Asian Studies Majors

(510) 642-0333 • [asianst.berkeley.edu](http://asianst.berkeley.edu)

*Whether it's engaging in studies of Chinese economic development at Fudan University or exploring the temples and historic sites in Kyoto, Japan, study abroad offers an experience of a lifetime for Group in Asian Studies students. The Group in Asian Studies encourages its students to add an international dimension to their education by participating in Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA). Opportunities to study in Asia are abundant, and students are encouraged to take advantage of them. With proper academic planning, students can have the experience of a lifetime with no loss of time in completing their degrees.*



## Why study Asian Studies abroad?

Asian Studies students are given much flexibility in their educational path. Because this area-studies based major is interdisciplinary, students can tailor their curriculum to best fit their interests. The benefits from studying abroad include:

- Taking advantage of unique academic and experiential opportunities in Asian Studies, such as taking courses of interest not readily available on the Berkeley campus
- Participating in a different educational system and getting a comparative perspective on Asian Studies
- Increasing language proficiency
- Improving critical thinking skills
- Expanding world view by experiencing another culture first-hand
- Developing self-confidence and independence
- Enhancing résumés and/or applications for graduate school
- Preparing for a career in an internationally competitive world

Returning students often describe their time on BSA as one of the most empowering and transformative experiences of their lives.



## When can I study abroad?

It is possible for Asian Studies students to go abroad at almost any point in their academic careers, but the particular term and length of time that you study abroad depends on what courses you have taken and plan to take. One year of language study is required prior to BSA. Students interested in language study can go abroad as early as their sophomore year. Students wanting to fulfill upper-division requirements should, in most cases, go abroad after completing pre-requisites and basic upper-division requirements (such as the History and Theories and Methods requirements).

Transfer students who enter UC Berkeley in the fall of their junior year are normally able to participate starting the spring term of their junior year.

Graduate students may apply to study or pursue research at most BSA-affiliated host institutions, and may participate in the short-term language programs. For more information, visit:

[studyabroad-prod.berkeley.edu/academics/academicPlanning/gradStudents.php](http://studyabroad-prod.berkeley.edu/academics/academicPlanning/gradStudents.php)

**Cost:** Study on BSA can be comparable to the cost of study at UC. In some cases, it is less. BSA participants pay UC fees and continue to receive UC financial aid while abroad. Furthermore, BSA students are eligible for special grants and scholarships from UC, the host country, and other sources.

**Plan ahead:** Applications typically are due six months to a year prior to the program's start date and some programs have academic or linguistic prerequisites that must be satisfied in advance. Please check the BSA website for guidance on "how to apply": [studyabroad.berkeley.edu/how-to-apply](http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/how-to-apply)



## Where can I study abroad?

Asian Studies students planning to complete a portion of their major abroad have a wide variety of options. Many of BSA's partner universities have specific Asian Studies departments/programs or offer relevant courses through a variety of departments. The type of program you choose can depend on language proficiency, academic goals, and time constraints. We highly recommend EAP in China or Japan for those who need to work on their two-year language requirement.

Asian Studies programs GAS recommends include:

### China:

- Beijing Normal University (BNU)
- Fudan University, Shanghai
- Peking University, Beijing

### Hong Kong:

- The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- The University of Hong Kong

### Taiwan:

- National Taiwan University, Taipei

### Singapore:

- National University of Singapore

### Japan:

- Doshisha University, Kyoto
- International Christian Univ., Tokyo
- Kyoto University
- Meiji Gakuin University, Yokohama
- Osaka University
- Sophia University, Tokyo
- University of Tsukuba
- Tsuru University

### Korea:

- Yonsei University, Seoul



## What classes can I take?

Students wanting to fulfill major requirements abroad should consult closely with the Asian Studies advisor. Pre-requisite courses (AS10 and the lower division history) should be completed at home and are recommended prior to participation in BSA. We accept up to 12 semester units for the major and two courses for the minor upon approval by the major advisor.

The Group in Asian Studies has determined that BSA courses may be used to fulfill the following requirements:

- Language Courses: Most Japanese and Chinese language classes will satisfy GAS language requirements
- Upper Division: Easily taken abroad, a variety of area-based studies courses can fulfill History and Theories and Methods requirements, as well as elective units

**Course credit:** Students will earn UC credit for BSA courses they complete abroad. However, application of credit to major requirements is subject to the discretion of the department. To search for program and course options, go to the BSA website: <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/programs> and follow the links to courses offered through UCEAP and Berkeley Abroad.

**What happens when I return?** Plan to meet with your faculty and/or major advisor upon your return to have your coursework approved. Be sure to bring back course materials such as syllabi, reading lists, and exams, as these will help when petitioning for major or GE credit.

**I'm interested! What are the next steps?** Asian Studies students interested in study abroad through BSA should first research program options on the BSA website ([studyabroad.berkeley.edu](http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu)), then meet with the Asian Studies advisor to discuss departmental regulations and the academic planning.