East Asian Languages and Civilizations

Department Website: http://ealc.uchicago.edu

Program of Study

The Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations (EALC) offers a BA program in East Asian studies that introduces students to the traditional and modern civilizations of China, Japan, and Korea, and provides them with the opportunity to achieve a basic reading and speaking knowledge of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. This program is interdisciplinary and students may take relevant courses in both the humanities and the social sciences.

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in EALC. Information follows the description of the major.

Before declaring their major in EALC, students must meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies (typically before the end of their second year) to discuss their areas of interest.

Program Requirements

Students must complete 1300 units toward an EALC major. Up to 300 of those units may be granted via petition based on the completion of a higher-level language course. No courses may be double-counted toward general education requirements or minor requirements. 

NOTE: The specific requirements described below will apply to students beginning with the Class of 2021.

Students who plan to major in EALC are strongly encouraged (but not required) to meet the general education requirement in civilization studies by taking EALC 10800-10900-11000 Introduction to the Civilizations of East Asia I-II-III.

Language Requirement

To graduate with an EALC major, students must demonstrate competency in a primary East Asian language that is equivalent to the intermediate (second-year) level of the language. Credit for 20100-20200-20300 or the equivalent is required in the major.

Topics in EALC

All students are required to take three "Topics in EALC" courses (EALC 10500-10799). These courses are meant to introduce students to issues in East Asian studies.

Electives in the Major

Students are required to complete seven additional courses (700 units) in the major. Up to 300 units may be additional language credit. Many students will take an additional year of their primary East Asian language or a year of a secondary East Asian language. A beginning language sequence in the primary East Asian language cannot be counted toward the major; beginning sequences are acceptable for secondary languages. This language credit must be earned by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

Two quarters of Classical Chinese or Classical Japanese may count either as language or as content courses.

Students who complete their general education requirement in civilization studies with a sequence other than EALC 10800-10900-11000 Introduction to the Civilizations of East Asia I-II-III may take any of those courses as an elective in the major. Students may also take additional Topics in EALC courses as electives in the major.

A maximum of six approved courses taken while studying abroad may be counted toward program requirements by petition to the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Language Credit Earned by Petition

Students with extant proficiency who place into and successfully complete a higher-level course (i.e., 20200 or higher) may petition to receive credit for the language courses between 20100 and the University of Chicago course completed. Credits granted via this petition process may be used toward major requirements, with limits.

Students may use up to 600 units total of language course work toward their major, but credit for no more than three of those courses (300 units) may be granted via petition on the basis of completing a higher-level course. No matter the language proficiency, all students must earn credit for at least 10 courses (1000 units) toward the major via course enrollment. The College also requires a minimum of 3800 units of credit earned by course enrollment.

Summary of Requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three courses in a second-year East Asian language*</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three &quot;Topics in EALC&quot; courses+</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven elective courses related to East Asia§</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Units</td>
<td>1300</td>
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* Credit may be granted by examination.
+ EALC 10500-10799
§ Up to three of which may be a further year of the same language or a year of a second East Asian language

Grading

Students must receive quality grades in all courses taken to meet requirements in the major. No P/F grades are offered in language courses.

Bachelor’s Thesis and Honors

Students who have maintained an overall GPA of 3.25 or higher are eligible for honors. Students who do not wish to be considered for honors are not required to submit a bachelor’s thesis for graduation. However, all students are eligible to write a bachelor’s thesis upon submitting an acceptable proposal to the department. Students typically choose an adviser for their BA project in Spring Quarter of their third year. The project must be approved by both the adviser and the director of undergraduate studies early in the student’s fourth year, typically by third week of Autumn Quarter. Interested students should consult the director of undergraduate studies for details concerning the proposal.

To be eligible for honors, students must enroll in Autumn and Winter Quarters of EALC 29500-29600 Senior Thesis Tutorial I-II. EALC 29500 Senior Thesis Tutorial I may count as one credit (100 units) toward the major; EALC 29600 Senior Thesis Tutorial II may count only as general elective credit. The BA paper must be substantially complete by the end of Winter Quarter. The BA paper may draw on material from other courses in the major; however, to receive credit for the Senior Thesis Tutorial and to be considered for honors, the student must write a paper that represents significant additional work. The BA paper is read by two members of the department and, if judged to be of A quality, the student is recommended for graduation with honors. Length and scope of the project should be agreed upon in consultation with the adviser. Use of original language material is desirable but not required.

Students may not use the BA project or paper from another program for the optional BA in EALC. Students who wish to discuss an exception to this policy should consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies before the end of their third year. Consent to use a single paper or project requires the approval of both program chairs on a form available from the College adviser.

Minor Program in East Asian Languages and Civilizations

Students in other fields of study may complete a minor in EALC. The minor in EALC requires a total of seven courses chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. No more than three of these courses may be in an East Asian language (neither first-year modern language courses nor credit by petition may be used for this language option). Students who plan to pursue an EALC minor are encouraged to take EALC 10800-10900-11000 Introduction to the Civilizations of East Asia I-II-III to meet the general education requirement in civilization studies.

Students who elect the minor program in EALC must meet with the director of undergraduate studies before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor by submitting a form obtained from their College adviser. Students choose courses in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. The director’s approval for the minor program should be submitted to the student’s College adviser by the deadline above on a form obtained from the adviser.

Courses in the minor (1) may not be double counted with the student’s major(s) or with other minors and (2) may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Trajan.

Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.