

M.A. in East Asian Languages and Cultures

University of Kansas



About our program

The M.A. in East Asian Languages and Cultures is an interdisciplinary degree focused on East Asia, designed to prepare students for 21st-century global citizenship. The program provides students with rigorous language training and in-depth knowledge of a selected East Asian country (China, Japan, or Korea), a broad knowledge of pre-modern and modern East Asian cultures, as well as advanced research skills and methods (30 credit hours, with thesis and non-thesis options).

Why our program?

Since the 1950s, we have been the premier East Asian research unit in the Great Plains, collaborating with partners in Art History, History, Politics, Linguistics, Sociology, and other departments to disseminate knowledge about East Asian languages, cultures, and critical perspectives throughout the region.

60+ faculty in EALC and related fields in other departments. Extensive [East Asian Library](#) and renewed [Asian Art collection](#). Teaching Assistantships and Study Abroad opportunities in language and culture courses.

For more info: Visit [EALC MA Program](#)
Contact [Keith McMahon](#), EALC Director of Graduate Studies.

Admission Requirements:

1. B.A., B.S., or equivalent undergraduate degree.
2. Minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
3. Two-years proficiency in an East Asian language preferred for admission.

How to apply:

1. Visit [How To Apply](#) and fill out the online graduate application fee.
2. Submit the following: (a) two-page statement of purpose, outlining your academic objectives, (b) CV/resume, (c) a writing sample, (d) three letters of recommendation, and (e) official transcripts for all post-secondary education.



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ealc.ku.edu/graduate

Meet our graduate faculty

Keith McMahon, Professor of Chinese Language and Culture, whose research explores gender and sexuality in China from antiquity to early modernity. His interests also include late imperial fiction, mythical cosmology, and historical narratives. Author of seven books, including *Saying All That Can Be Said*, winner of the Ming Studies Society book award. He is currently writing on cosmology, inner alchemy, and authority in a 16th-century Ming novel.

Faye Xiao, Professor of Chinese Language and Culture, studies gender, class, globalization, and Chinese culture in modern and contemporary times. She has published two monographs, including *Family Revolution: Marital Strife in Contemporary Chinese Literature and Visual Culture*, a co-edited volume, and is currently working on a third monograph, covering a range of topics including the contemporary youth economy, Chinese feminisms, and female leadership in modern Chinese literature and culture.

Yan Li, Associate Professor of Chinese Language and Culture, specializing in Chinese linguistics and second-language acquisition. Her research focuses on how adults learn Chinese, with emphasis on phonology, grammar, and evidence-based teaching strategies that enhance proficiency. She has published on Chinese function words and negation, including its interaction with scope in second-language learning. Her work also addresses curriculum design and technology-enhanced instruction, linking linguistic theory with practical pedagogy.

Crispin Williams, Associate Professor of Chinese Language and Culture, studies early Chinese language and culture with a particular focus on the analysis and interpretation of excavated early Chinese texts. He works primarily on the Wenxian 溫縣 covenant texts and is collaborating on the publication project for these materials. His own publications include articles on legal, religious, linguistic, and philosophical aspects of these texts.

Linda Galvane, Assistant Professor of Japanese Language and Culture, specializes in modern and contemporary Japanese literature and culture in conversation with Japan's premodern legacy. Other interests: body politics, material culture, Japanese film and performance, and comparative literature, including Western portrayals of Japan and (post) Soviet- Japanese literary connections. Currently, she is working on a book manuscript on excremental rhetoric in modern Japanese literature and culture.

Thomas McDonald, Assistant Professor of Japanese Language and Culture, studies modern and contemporary Japanese literature in interdisciplinary and comparative contexts, especially questions of language, translation, geopolitics, and philosophy in dialogue with cultural phenomena from East Asia, Central Europe, and Latin America. He has published articles on literary aesthetics and translation practice, translations from Japanese and Slovene, and original poetry, and he is currently developing a book project on Japanese-Korean writer and dancer Lee Yangji.

Yuka Naito, Associate Teaching Professor of Japanese, specializes in Japanese pedagogy and linguistics, with particular expertise in second language acquisition, pronunciation and prosody, sentence processing, and Japanese mimetics. Her teaching incorporates authentic experiences such as Japanese cuisine to cultivate students' cultural literacy and global awareness in the language classroom. She is also interested in how the brain processes music and language.

Kyoim Yun, Associate Professor of Korean Language and Culture, examines modern Korea through the lenses of anthropology, folklore, and history. Her research investigates cultural practices and social change, with particular focus on shamanism, Buddhism, and well-being. An interdisciplinary scholar, she has published widely in Korean studies, folklore, anthropology, ritual studies, and human geography. She is the author of *The Shaman's Wages* and is currently developing her second book project, tentatively titled *Wellness Tourism in South Korea: Retreats in Buddhist Mountain Monasteries*.

Eun Ah Cho, Assistant Professor of Korean language and culture, specializes in modern and contemporary Korean studies. Her research examines how literature, films, and media shape societal perceptions and discourses surrounding marginalized groups in South Korea. She has published articles and book chapters on the narratives and images of North Korean refugees through economic, cultural, and gender lenses. She has begun a new project that explores how aging Asian women's bodies are represented across different cultural texts and social discourses.

Ji-Yeon Lee, Assistant Teaching Professor and the Korean Language Coordinator, specializes in teaching Korean as a foreign language, with expertise in curriculum development, teacher training, and proficiency assessment. She has published articles on pronunciation instruction, the experiences of Korean women in U.S. higher education, and best practices for accessibility in Korean language classrooms. She is also a certified ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) tester and Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) rater in Korean.