



## Asian Languages and Cultures

### THE POWER

The vast continent of Asia is home to the majority of the world's population and to cultures with an ancient past and a vibrant present. The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures is an internationally renowned center for the exploration of the humanities of Asia. Students are invited to cross the boundaries of nations and of disciplines to explore the literature, film, language, religion, music, art, and history of this significant region in order to develop two vital qualities: deep local knowledge and broad global perspective. The department offers instruction in the languages and cultures of Asia (including Chinese, Filipino, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Javanese, Korean, Pali, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Thai, Tibetan, Urdu, and Vietnamese) so that our students may be enriched by the treasures of the past and participate in the exchanges of the future.

## THE OPPORTUNITIES

China is the world's most populous nation, followed by India. Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world. The religions of Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Taoism, Sikhism, Jainism, and Shinto all began in Asia. Asia is the source of some of the most enduring works of art and literature in history, as well as some of the most current cultural forms, from Hindi film music to Hong Kong action films to K-Pop. While our students have become scholars of Japanese poetry and of Chinese Buddhism, they have also gained the knowledge and skills to become leading Asia specialists, as well as to build careers in communications, international banking and law, and government service.

## THE IMPACT

The excellence of our department depends upon the generosity of our donors. In one sense, Asia is next door, but it is also far away—and our ability to take our students to Asia for study and to bring Asian scholars, writers, and artists to Ann Arbor is crucial to our success.

### **Endowed Professorship in Southeast Asian Buddhism**

***\$2.5M endowed***

Named professorships are the best means of attracting and retaining top faculty in specific areas of study. This gift will fully endow a named professorship in Southeast Asian Buddhism. The department is home to one of the most distinguished Buddhist studies programs in the world. As Buddhism continues to grow in importance, we seek to build strength in this field, with focus on Theravada Buddhism, as practiced in the Southeast Asian countries of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar.

### **Endowed Lectureships in Asian Languages**

***\$1M endowed each/\$50,000 annually***

Gifts are needed to ensure that we are able to continue instruction in less commonly taught languages from Southeast Asia. These language offerings provide our students with unparalleled opportunities to explore broadly and deeply the myriad cultures of Asia. The department seeks endowments for each language lectureship that will help preserve these rare opportunities in perpetuity for our students. Although Title VI funding from the U.S. Department of Education had enabled us to offer this training in the past, Congressional budget cuts have eliminated funding for many languages. We are seeking language lectureships in:

- Punjabi
- Hindi
- Urdu
- Thai
- Indonesian
- Vietnamese
- Filipino
- Tibetan

## **Graduate Student Fellowships focused outside of China**

*\$1M endowed/\$50,000 annually*

Our status as a recognized leader in Asian languages and cultures attracts the best applicants in the field to study in our program. Our ability to get the top students to come to Ann Arbor is linked to the competitiveness of our student funding packages, as well as our ability to give them time to immerse themselves in study. Fellowships help offset the marked difference between the funding packages that heavily endowed private institutions are able to offer their prospective graduate students and those available from a large, public institution like U-M. In addition, graduate students in Asian Languages and Cultures typically spend one or two semesters abroad for dissertation research. This research, along with the experience of living in the culture, is crucial to our students' research and teaching success.

## **Undergraduate Honors Thesis Research Support**

*\$500,000 endowed/ \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually*

Academic research cannot be limited to the campus environment. Undergraduate students writing their senior honors theses need to travel abroad to conduct their research. Because of limited resources, only a handful of international research grants are available for students each year. Private support would allow the department to extend this remarkable experiential opportunity to a greater number of deserving LSA undergraduates studying Asian languages.

## **Undergraduate Scholarships for Summer Study in Asia**

*\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually*

The very best way a student can gain a thorough knowledge of a language and a culture is to spend time studying abroad to experience full linguistic and cultural immersion. The opportunity to study in Asia significantly enhances the education of our students. We seek to provide scholarships that will allow our students to participate in a wide array of study abroad programs across Asia—in places like Beijing, Lhasa, Bangkok, Bali, Kyoto, Delhi, and Kathmandu. Gifts for a variety of undergraduate study abroad experiences will make it possible for more of our students to grow in language development and cultural awareness and to be able to participate in enriching research opportunities. A gift of \$10,000 will provide two students with scholarships for summer study in Asia.



## Undergraduate Student Organization Fund

*\$5,000 to \$10,000 annually*

Gifts will support a variety of co-curricular activities on campus related to Asian languages and cultures, such as guest speakers, discussion groups, panels, performances, student publications, exhibits, film screenings, and more. Funding for student organizations will make Asian cultures more visible on campus, encouraging undergraduates to learn more about the region and about possible careers.

### **WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT**

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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### CONTACT INFO

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