About Us

The Department of Asian & Asian American Studies is an interdisciplinary community of scholars working in the humanities, social sciences, and language studies. We are among the few academic units in the United States to include the study of both Asia and Asian America as part of our core mission, and are proud of our role as part of a world-class public research university in the New York metropolitan area, only fifty miles east of NYC.

Additional Resources

Beyond our core faculty, students also have opportunities to work with our affiliated faculty in other departments, such as Art, English, Music, and Sociology, as well as with scholars at several affiliated centers, including the Mattoo Center for India Studies, the Center for Korean Studies, the Japan Center, and the Center for Multilingual and Intercultural Communication. In addition, there is a rich array of co-curricular programming sponsored by the Wang Center and the Confucius Institute at Stony Brook.

Contact Us

Professor Gregory A. Ruf
Graduate Director
Department of Asian & Asian American Studies
Gregory.Ruf@stonybrook.edu
631-632-4030 (Dept. Office)
www.stonybrook.edu/aaas

Graduate School
Stony Brook University
2401 Computer Science Building
Stony Brook, NY 11794-4433
631-632-4723
https://grad.stonybrook.edu
At a Glance

Mission: Prepare students to become informed citizens of their communities by equipping them with requisite skills of cultural competency and providing them with experiences in working resourcefully and collaboratively.

Curriculum Overview: Combination of theories and methods from anthropology, communication, cultural studies, diaspora studies, history, intellectual history, linguistics, literary studies, philosophy, and religious studies.

"Faculty) are incredibly supportive of student individual interests, but also encourage you to go outside your comfort zone without pushing too hard. Great support contributes to a low stress environment where students can feel comfortable achieving goals at their own pace."

Prospective Students

We welcome applicants from any background seeking to develop advanced professional skills for careers involving Asia and Asian America. The resources available at Stony Brook go far beyond the classroom setting, offering personalized mentorship and unique opportunities for experiential learning.

"The interdisciplinary nature of this MA program is one of its greatest strengths. It enriched my experience through the courses, with classmates and professors from diverse backgrounds and gave me opportunities to realize different academic disciplines and perspectives."

Academic Program

The 30-credit curriculum includes 24-credits of course work and 6-credits of thesis/project work. Students will complete:

- A pro-seminar in research methods
- One course in each of the five categories:
  1. Language & Cross-Cultural Communication
  2. Religions & Philosophies of Asia
  3. Culture & Heritage
  4. Politics & Society
  5. Contemporary Asian Diaspora
- A thesis or final project
- An optional language track is provided for students with a strong interest in a particular Asian language

More About the Program

Annual Student Symposium

These department-sponsored public events are organized by our graduate students, offering an experiential learning opportunity in event planning, conference preparation, and public speaking.

Open Table Lunches

Our regular ‘brown bag’ lunch gatherings allow students to meet informally and chat freely, enhancing interaction between peers and faculty and fostering a stronger sense of community.

Admission Requirements

Applicants for admission to our M.A. program are expected to hold a Bachelor’s degree (in any field), and possess a keen interest in Asia and/or Asian America. Experience living in Asia, background knowledge of the history of a particular country or region of Asia, or familiarity with a particular Asian language are all a “plus,” but are not required for admission.

Prospective applicants should submit the following materials:

- Undergraduate Transcript
- Official Report on GRE Scores
- Personal Statement of Interest and Purpose (500-1000 words)
- Three (3) Letters of Recommendation
- Official Report of TOEFL Scores (for international applicants from non-English speaking countries)

How to Apply

Our Master’s program reviews applications for admission on a rolling basis, although candidates are strongly encouraged to submit all materials by March 1. An online application link may be found at our Department homepage: www.stonybrook.edu/aaas