INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The East Asian Religion, Thought and Culture (EALC) major trains students in the philosophical and religious traditions that help shape and inform the many aspects of East Asia’s diverse cultures. The major trains students in a way that is grounded in a familiarity with the texts, languages, and cultures of East Asian societies, while also examining how these traditions have been (and might better be) brought into humanistic disciplines.

UC Berkeley is a world-renowned center for the study of East Asian Humanities. Whether you want to master Chinese or Japanese, immerse yourself in the literary and cultural traditions of East Asia, absorb the profound insights of its philosophical and poetic texts, or come to a deeper understanding of the modern and contemporary histories and media cultures of this complex and vital region, EALC has something for you.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

- If you are interested in language or culture and want to complement your studies of religion and philosophy, ask about our minors in Buddhist Studies, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Tibetan.
- If you are interested in the philosophy and religion of a specific culture, discuss a plan of study with your major advisor to create a focus through your upper division coursework.
- Visit the Institute of East Asian Studies, the C.V. Starr East Asian Library, and other Friends+Partners of EALC.
- Publish your work in the Berkeley Student Journal of Asian Studies.

"EALC not only nurtures me into a young scholar but also a more complete person."

– Yisheng Tang, EALC student
### Explore your major

- **FIRST YEAR**
  - Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
  - Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
  - Enroll in L&S 1 and HUM 10.
  - Take a placement exam for the foreign language you choose to learn.

- **SECOND YEAR**
  - Complete the prerequisite lower division elementary foreign language sequence and one core course to declare the major.
  - Begin the lower division intermediate foreign language sequence.
  - Review the major guidelines for study abroad.

- **THIRD YEAR**
  - Review your degree progress with your major and college advisor.
  - Focus on upper division core, tools and methods, and supplementary disciplinary breadth course requirements.
  - Ask your major advisor about the EALC honors program.

- **FOURTH YEAR**
  - Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
  - Complete any “bucket list” courses.
  - Finish remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
  - Complement your major with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.

### Connect and build community

- **FIRST YEAR**
  - Get involved in mentoring with Berkeley Connect and L&S Mentors Program.
  - Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
  - Check out the Berkeley Language Center.
  - Sign up for the Buddhist Studies email list.

- **SECOND YEAR**
  - Join student groups like the East Asian Union.
  - Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.
  - Check out the Institute of East Asian Studies.
  - Practice your language skills in the SLC Language Exchange Program.

### Discover your passions

- **FIRST YEAR**
  - Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or student-run DeCal course.
  - Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
  - Explore the collections of Berkeley’s CV Starr East Asian Library.

- **SECOND YEAR**
  - Continue exploring with a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
  - Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP and SURF-SMART.
  - Build your research skills in HUM 194: Research Bootcamp.

### Engage locally and globally

- **FIRST YEAR**
  - Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
  - Explore study, internship, and research abroad options in Asia with Berkeley Study Abroad.
  - Visit the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco.
  - Explore the Oakland Asian Cultural Center.

- **SECOND YEAR**
  - Contribute to a community organization with an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
  - Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
  - Apply to the Boren, Freeman-ASIA, or Critical Language Scholarship.

### Reflect and plan your future

- **FIRST YEAR**
  - Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
  - Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
  - Set up a Handshake account and sign up for CareerMail.
  - Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series.

- **SECOND YEAR**
  - Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals.
  - Shadow alumni during a winter externship.
  - Learn about graduate and professional school.
  - See Step-by-Step for planning help.
  - Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.

### WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

- **Jobs and Employers**
  - Career in Corporate Environment
  - Import/Export Business
  - English Teacher
  - Graduate Programs
  - Business School
  - Law School
  - MA in Asian Studies
  - PhD in Buddhist Studies
  - PhD in Chinese

- **Graduate Programs**
  - Business School
  - Law School
  - MA in Asian Studies
  - PhD in Buddhist Studies
  - PhD in Chinese

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

**Updated Last: 082720**