

Language requirements (beyond language of specialization) of 9 peer institutions, as of October 2008. Note that in some cases requirements differ depending on field of study, not all of which are listed in the summary; and that requirements in the language of specialization have not always been listed below.

Summary

Harvard: Second Asian (2-3 years) and classical of language of specialization (1-2 years)

Columbia: Vary significantly depending on area and modern/premodern (see below)

Michigan: Second language, Asian or European (reading)

Stanford: Second language, Asian or European (reading); classical Chinese (1 year) for J premod.

Cornell: European (reading; can be waived), second Asian (2 years)

Chicago: European or second Asian (2 years modern or 1 year classical)

Berkeley: Second language (reading; 3 years or equiv.)

Princeton: European (reading)

Yale: European (reading)

HARVARD: http://ealc.org/grad_handbook.html#coursework

Chinese: Fourth-year level in Modern Chinese; second-year level in Literary Chinese; third-year level in Japanese or another East Asian language.

Japanese: Fourth-year level in Modern Japanese; first-year level in Classical Japanese; second-year level in Literary Chinese (for premodernists.) Note: A second year (two half-courses) of Classical Japanese may be substituted for the fourth year of Modern Japanese.

Korean: Third-year level in Modern Korean; third-year level in Modern Japanese; first-year level (for modernists) or second-year level (for premodernists) in Literary Chinese.

Language requirements may be satisfied by coursework, examination, or by otherwise demonstrating (e.g., by writing a seminar paper in which sources in the primary language are successfully employed) the necessary level of ability. Bear in mind that in some examination fields professors set other specific requirements that must be met before proceeding to generals. Details on these requirements are found in the listings for each field in the Description of Fields (Section XIII).

All language requirements must be completed prior to taking the General Exam. A minimum grade of B- is required of all required language courses. If a student drops below that, he/she must seek promotion by permission of the instructor.

COLUMBIA: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ealac/graduate_program_requirements2.html

Language requirements: All entering students must take a language placement exam during registration period of the fall semester. Language requirements are listed below by field:

Chinese Studies requirements: Fifth-year modern Chinese, or the equivalent; two years classical Chinese, or the equivalent. For premodern literature: three years of Japanese or the equivalent; for all students: one European language, chosen in consultation with the adviser, or two years of a second Asian language in either classical or modern form in consultation with the adviser. Second European language, if required by the adviser.

Japanese Studies requirements: Fourth-year Japanese or the equivalent; one year of classical Japanese or the equivalent; one semester of Kanbun or one year of classical Chinese. For all

students: one European language, chosen in consultation with the adviser, or two years of a second Asian language in either classical or modern form, in consultation with adviser. Second European language, if required by the adviser.

Korean Studies requirement: Fourth-year Korean or the equivalent. For all students: three years of Japanese or the equivalent; for students in premodern literature: one year of classical Chinese or the equivalent. Second European language, if required by the adviser.

MICHIGAN: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/asian/grad/phd/#language_requirements

The specific language requirements will be determined in consultation with the Graduate Advisor. Generally, the student will be required to demonstrate a high degree of proficiency in the Asian language most relevant to the student's research plans. In some cases this will involve both modern and pre-modern forms of that language.

Students are also required to demonstrate at least reading proficiency in a second modern or pre-modern language relevant to their proposed research. This requirement can be satisfied by completion of approved sequences of coursework in the language or by passing an approved test whose results are evaluated by a faculty member appointed by the Graduate Program Committee. In that case, that appointed faculty member would notify the Graduate Program Committee of the results of the test in writing.

STANFORD: <http://www.stanford.edu/dept/asianlang/cgi-bin/?q=node/108>

Chinese specialists: Demonstrate proficiency in both modern and classical Chinese through either successful completion of third-year Chinese (through CHINLANG 103) and advanced classical Chinese (through CHINLIT 223) at Stanford, or by passing examination to certify that they have attained the equivalent level of proficiency.

Japanese specialists: Demonstrate proficiency in both modern and pre-modern Japanese through either the successful completion of fourth-year Japanese (through JAPANLNG 213) and classical Japanese (JAPANLIT 246 and 247) at Stanford, or by passing examinations to certify that they have attained the equivalent level of proficiency.

Acquire or demonstrate reading proficiency in at least one supporting language (normally either East Asian or European), to be chosen in consultation with their advisor(s) in accordance with their particular research goals. Reading proficiency must be certified through written examination or an appropriate amount of coursework, to be determined on a case-by-case basis. Students specializing in premodern Japanese literature will normally be expected to demonstrate proficiency in classical Chinese equivalent to one year of classical Chinese at Stanford, and to acquire proficiency in kanbun by completing JAPANLIT 248 and/or 249. Coursework must be completed with a letter grade of B or higher. When deemed necessary by the student's advisor(s), working knowledge of a third language may also be required.

CORNELL <http://lrc.cornell.edu/asian/graduate/EAL/>

Fluency in one East Asian language. This means reading, writing and speaking fluency in the modern language and at least a year of classical language study.

At least a reading knowledge (a minimum of two years of course work) of a second Asian language and of one European language (in addition to English). The European language requirement may be waived in some cases at the discretion of the student's special committee.

CHICAGO http://ealc.uchicago.edu/grad_requirements.shtml

Students will be expected to demonstrate mastery of the language of the civilization they are studying. At a minimum, this will normally entail completion of all language courses the Department offers in that language or their equivalent.

All students will be expected to acquire or demonstrate competence in a second language, normally an East Asian language, chosen in consultation with their advisor/s as best suited to their research interests. At a minimum, this will normally entail satisfactory completion (with a grade of B or higher) of two years' study of a modern language or one year of a classical language, although students are encouraged to take more where possible. If an East Asian or European language is acquired elsewhere, the student must pass an examination designed by the relevant program with a "high pass" or its equivalent.

In the event that specialization requires the working knowledge of a third language (Asian or non-Asian), the student will be asked to certify proficiency through classes and/or examinations.

BERKELEY <http://ealc.berkeley.edu/graduate/requirements.htm>

Chinese Ph.D.: Reading competence in a language other than Chinese relevant to the program, chosen in consultation with the Primary Advisor. In most cases, the second language will be three years of Japanese. In exceptional cases, this requirement may be satisfied by competence in another language, normally demonstrated by three years of language study at Berkeley or its equivalent (F3.2). Native speakers of a language other than English do not automatically fulfill the language requirement; the language must be appropriate to advanced research in the program (F3.2).

Japanese Ph.D.: Reading competence in a language other than Japanese relevant to the program, chosen in consultation with the Primary Advisor. Competence will normally be demonstrated by three years of language study at Berkeley or its equivalent (F3.2). Native speakers of a language other than English do not automatically fulfill the language requirement; the language must be appropriate to advanced research in the program (F3.2).

PRINCETON <http://eastasia.princeton.edu/East-Asian-Studies-Department-at-Princeton/Graduate-Program/Graduate-Program-Requirements.html>

Every student in the department is required to demonstrate competence in two foreign languages, one in the East Asian language appropriate to the field of specialization (Chinese or Japanese), the other in a European language. Competence in Chinese or Japanese is evaluated upon arrival and monitored through the course work. The European language requirement must be fulfilled prior to taking the general examination. In addition, some students may be required to acquire special skills, including additional languages, which will be determined in consultation with faculty advisers. For example, students in the China field are expected to achieve competence in the use of Japanese language as a research tool. Language training of this sort may be completed before or soon after the general examination.

YALE <http://www.yale.edu/eall/gradprogram.html>

All students must prove their proficiency in French, German, Russian, or another European language that the director of graduate studies deems appropriate, by the beginning of the second year. In some cases, with the approval of the director of graduate studies, students in Chinese literature may substitute modern Japanese and students in Japanese literature may substitute

modern Chinese for a European language. By the end of the third year, students specializing in premodern Japanese literature must pass a reading test in literary Chinese. At the end of the second full academic year, the student must take a written examination in the language of his or her specialization, including both its modern and premodern forms.