ASIAN STUDIES
OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

The Asian Studies minor encourages students to bring their study of Asia outside of the classroom through study abroad and internships. Credit for study abroad programs or internships connected with Asia may be applied to the minor with the director’s prior approval.

Rutgers supports a range of study abroad programs in the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia, including sites in Jordan, India, China, South Korea, and Japan. Such programs often include language study as well as courses in history, culture and other subjects. Scholarships are available through individual programs as well as through the Center for Global Education (http://globaleducation.rutgers.edu) and other organizations.

Newark and surrounding areas, including New York, contain many organizations devoted to promoting cultures and arts of Asia, strengthening economic ties with its regions, advocating political and social activism, and engaging with immigrant communities. These include the Newark Museum, Asia Society, United Nations, Museum of Chinese in America, and others. While often unpaid, internships with such organizations can be valuable for learning about particular career fields. With prior approval of the Asian Studies director, such experiences may also be used as credit for the minor.

To discuss the Minor in Asian Studies at Rutgers University—Newark contact:

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Why Minor in Asian Studies?

Anyone with an interest in actively engaging our rapidly globalizing world – whether from across the globe or here in Newark – should consider pursuing a minor in Asian Studies.

Students who minor in Asian Studies can expect to gain an invaluable perspective on world regions that will increasingly dominate global discussions of business, governance, international relations, the environment, and religious and cultural diversity in the 21st century. Notably, the most pressing challenges of our time are playing out in Asia as countries across this vast continent negotiate the ongoing opportunities and challenges of an uncertain globalization.

Yet, Asian Studies involves more than studying distant regions; it also means understanding the ways in which globalizing connections have affected local societies, including that of the United States, in wide and far-reaching ways. Students who minor in Asian Studies can explore issues ranging from international trade and U.S. involvement in Asia to the diverse histories and trajectories that have constituted the immigrant experience in America and elsewhere.

By providing the historical background and analytical tools to address such issues, minoring in Asian Studies can, therefore, position students to understand some of the most compelling questions of our time as well as regions that will continue to have a global impact. It is especially suitable for students planning careers in any field involving contact with East Asia, South and Southeast Asia, Near East and the Middle East, including business, law, teaching, or social work.

A Personalized Course of Study

In consultation with the director of the Asian Studies minor, students can construct a personalized course of study according to their academic, professional, and personal interests. The minor requires 18 credits of coursework. Six (6) credits must be history courses on East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Near East, or Middle East. The additional 12 credits can be satisfied with any Asia-related courses from across the humanities, social sciences, and languages. A grade of C or higher is required for each course applied to the minor. A list of courses that can be used to satisfy the Asian Studies minor requirements can be obtained in the Department of History or by visiting this webpage: http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/asiastudies-minor-course-list.

The director will consider other classes with Asia-related content for minor credits. If you have a question about whether a particular class can count, be sure to consult the director of the minor in advance.

Languages

Students can also receive credit for the Asian Studies minor through language study in Arabic, Chinese or Japanese through the Center for Modern Languages, which is housed in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies. Formal instruction in these languages at Rutgers can form the basis for a study abroad experience or other language program.