

## The Study of Asia

In recognition of Asia's varying social landscapes, historical experiences, and contrasting worldviews, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) offers a PhD programme that is specifically tailored to explore the complexities and multi-faceted trajectories of Asia in comparative perspective – the Comparative Asian Studies PhD (CAS-PhD). This CAS-PhD is a research-based, interdisciplinary degree programme designed to provide graduate students with a competitive and comprehensive training in the study of Asia.

## Connecting The Region's Vast Peoples, Cultures and Worldviews

The programme's distinctive curricular structure combined with an exceptional selection of participating faculty members (featuring over one hundred regional specialists in East, South, and Southeast Asia) provide specialised training for qualified candidates who strive to develop competitive expertise in more than one area of Asia. These candidates will have training in at least two geographical/cultural areas (South, East, Southeast, Northeast, West Asia) enabling them to explore the varying methods, debates, and issues that have shaped those respective fields comparatively. Every candidate will also be exposed to scholarship and conversations drawn from Inter-Asia Studies that highlight the interconnectedness within the broader Asia region.

## Who Can Apply?

Applications are invited from candidates who meet the following requirements:

- 1) Possess a good Masters degree in a relevant discipline; or
- 2) Have an NUS Honours degree (at least Second Class Upper Division) or equivalent (e.g., a 4-year Bachelors degree with an average grade above B) in a relevant discipline, subject to approval by the Faculty, on a case-by-case basis.
- 3) Have at least intermediate competence in 1 Asian language at the point of application and be prepared to develop that competence to "advanced" level, and to undertake the study of another language to "intermediate" competence.
- 4) For applicants whose native tongue and medium of university instruction is not in English, to obtain an IELTS an IELTS score of 6.0 or the following TOEFL scores:
  - 85 for the internet-based test (with a minimum score of 22 for the writing section); or
  - 580 for the paper-based test; or
  - 237 for the computer-based test.

## CAS-PHD Curriculum

Applications are invited from candidates who meet the following requirements:

- 3 core modules
- 5 elective modules: 3 from a "comparative specialisation" basket that focuses on comparative Asian Studies methodology and current research, and 2 from a "free elective" basket, which includes a broad range of graduate modules offered by the FASS Asian Studies Division, by relevant disciplinary departments (e.g. Economics, Geography, History, Political Science or Sociology), and from other faculties\* such as the School of Design and Environment, School of Business and Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy).
- Languages - students will be required to study or test for proficiency in 2 Asian languages, offered by the Faculty's Centre for Language Studies
- Thesis submission and Oral Examination

*\*Only where appropriate and with the approval of the Programme Convenor and the faculty/school concerned.*



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## Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships are available on a competitive basis. Generous funding opportunities for conferences, fieldwork and student exchange programmes are also available for PhD students in the Faculty.

## Careers

The CAS-PhD prepares select candidates with the analytical tools, knowledge, and critical insight to understand an increasingly complex and dynamic Asia. Graduates of the programme will be well-positioned for jobs in consulting, development/capacity-building, policy formation, and the academe.

## Intake & Application

There is only one intake per year in Semester I which begins in August. The application period will be from 16 May (in the year preceding the intake) to 1 November (in the year preceding the intake).

## Asian Studies in FASS

CAS-PhD students will benefit from the FASS' substantial foundation in Asian Studies. The FASS is home to over 200 scholars from multiple disciplines, all engaged in a diverse range of research topics on various aspects of Asia. The FASS Asian Studies Division alone has more than 60 faculty members from 5 area studies departments and programmes.

**Department of Chinese Studies**  
<http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/chs/>

**Department of Japanese Studies**  
<http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/jps/>

**Department of Malay Studies**  
<http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/malay/>

**Department of South Asian Studies**  
<http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/sas/>

**Department of Southeast Asian Studies**  
<http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/sea/>

They are augmented further by a broad spectrum of Asian research interests of over 150 scholars housed in the departments and programmes of the FASS Humanities and Social Sciences Divisions.

**FASS Divisions**  
<http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/about/structure-departments.html>

## Find out more about The Comparative Asian Studies PHD

**Overview & Admissions**  
[http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/sea/grad/phd\\_cas.html](http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/sea/grad/phd_cas.html)

**Academic Requirements**  
[http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/sea/grad/phd\\_cas-acadreq.html](http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/sea/grad/phd_cas-acadreq.html)

Write to us at: [seabox4@nus.edu.sg](mailto:seabox4@nus.edu.sg)

# COMPARATIVE ASIAN STUDIES

