

Asian Studies

The Asian Studies major provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the diverse religious traditions, philosophies, and cultural practices across Asia. Students explore major belief systems such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Islam, as well as the historical and contemporary contexts in which these traditions have developed. The program also emphasizes the study of Asian art, literature, politics, and society. Graduates gain critical thinking and cross-cultural communication skills, preparing them for careers in education, international relations, religious studies, and cultural organizations.

Typical Industry Sectors:

1. Higher Education and Academia
2. Religious Institutions and Organizations
3. Nonprofit and Cultural Organizations
4. Government and International Relations
5. Publishing and Media

10 Sample Entry-Level Job Titles:

1. Religious Studies Research Assistant
2. Cultural Affairs Coordinator
3. International Relations Assistant
4. Museum Curatorial Assistant (Asian Art and Culture)
5. Educational Outreach Coordinator
6. Program Coordinator (Cultural or Religious Organizations)
7. Translator/Interpreter (Asian Languages)
8. Policy Analyst (Asian Affairs)
9. Communications Assistant (International Organizations)
10. Public Relations Assistant (Cultural Institutions)

5 Hard Skills:

1. Knowledge of Asian Religions and Philosophies
2. Language Proficiency (e.g., Mandarin, Sanskrit, Japanese)
3. Cultural Research and Analysis
4. Cross-Cultural Communication
5. Understanding of Asian History and Politics

5 Soft Skills:

1. Critical Thinking
2. Adaptability
3. Communication
4. Cross-Cultural Sensitivity
5. Problem-solving

Additional Training or Certifications:

While an undergraduate degree in Asian Studies provides a broad foundation, further education, such as a Master's or Ph.D. in Religious Studies, Asian Studies, or International Relations, can open doors for advanced academic or policy-related careers. Certifications in areas like translation, cultural competency, or international development can enhance career prospects. Internships or fieldwork experience related to Asian cultures or religious institutions are also valuable.

Student and National Organizations:

1. American Academy of Religion (AAR)
2. Association for Asian Studies (AAS)
3. Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies
4. Asian Studies Association (ASA)
5. American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies (ACISIS)