



School of Literatures, Cultures, & Linguistics  
3070 Foreign Language Building  
707 South Mathews Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801  
slclgradservices@illinois.edu  
217-244-5783

## Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for the interest you have expressed in graduate study in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. You will find a broad range of specializations among our faculty, whose strengths reflect both traditional and new approaches in our field. The research interests of our faculty are varied and cover a wide range of East Asian subjects.

The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures offers academic programs in the languages and the humanistic cultures of *China, Japan, Korea*, and of the *East Asian region*. Applicants are expected to have a strong background in at least one East Asian language. Please take a moment to look at our website, where you will learn more about our department, including our graduate programs and application requirements.

**Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures:** <http://www.ealc.illinois.edu/>

**Graduate Programs:** <http://www.ealc.illinois.edu/programs/graduate/>

### ADMISSION

**Applications are accepted for fall admission only.**

Admission to the graduate programs in East Asian Languages & Cultures is handled jointly by the Department, Graduate College, and the Student Services office of the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics.

**Graduate College:** <http://www.grad.illinois.edu/>      **SLCL Student Services:** <http://www.slcl.illinois.edu/>

The University of Illinois has implemented a web-based application procedure. Go to the Graduate College's application website and you will see links to information for applicants as well as application instructions and the link to the application itself. Please complete the online application form for the **FALL 2021 TERM**. The online application will accept uploads of the following required application materials—**do not send them to the department**.

**Online application website:** <http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply>

#### ❖ PERSONAL STATEMENT/STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The statement of purpose is an important element in the application package for graduate study. We would like 2-3 pages detailing your field of interest and the relation between your studies and/or work experience to date, your current interests, and your reasons for wanting to obtain a graduate degree in East Asian Languages & Cultures from our department. For those applying to the PhD, please include a detailed description of the research project you plan to

pursue in our graduate program.

#### ❖ RESUME OR CV

#### ❖ ACADEMIC DOCUMENTS

Provide scanned copies of your transcripts (a complete list of all courses taken and grades received) as well as any certificates of degree completion or diplomas for all the post-secondary schools you have attended (undergraduate and graduate programs). English translations should be provided when applicable, preferably from the school attended. We will accept translations done by the applicant. They should follow the same format, line-by-line, as the original document. Official documents (original or “attested” copies) will be required **if you are admitted**.

#### ❖ WRITING SAMPLE

A paper of 10-20 pages or an excerpt of similar length from a longer paper is required. The sample should showcase the applicant's academic ability. Please upload to the online application in the Program Specific section.

#### ❖ LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please provide three (3) letters of recommendation, preferably from professors familiar with your work. When you fill out the online application, you will need to include email addresses for all of your references. They will automatically receive an email from the online application with instructions on how to upload their letters of reference to your online application. If they don't receive this email or have trouble uploading their letters, they should email **SLCL Student Services**: [slclgradservices@illinois.edu](mailto:slclgradservices@illinois.edu).

The information you submit online, as well as the application fee (**\$70 for domestic applicants, \$90 for international**), goes directly to the Graduate Admissions office. The online application materials will then be made available to the SLCL Student Services office, which will prepare your application file for the department's admission committee to review.

#### ALSO REQUIRED

##### **ATTENTION: Tentative Policy on GRE and English Proficiency during the Pandemic**

For the 2020-2021 application season, the EALC Department is not requiring the GRE general test, and such scores will not be considered by the readers of applications in their deliberations. Select applicants will get further notice on how their English proficiency will be tested. Please also find information on UIUC's new policy concerning *Covid-19 English Proficiency Requirement Updates* at the website of UIUC Graduate College (<https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/o4c>)

#### ❖ GRE SCORES

The GRE is required, but there is no minimum score. It must be taken no more than 5 years prior to your first semester at UIUC. GRE scores should be sent by ETS to **the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, institution code #1836**.

#### ❖ ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAMS

All applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a **TOEFL iBT or Academic IELTS** score report. The test must be taken no more than 2 years prior to your first semester at UIUC. **Minimum score requirements for admission to EALC with financial aid provided are 103 total with a minimum of 24 in the speaking section on the TOEFL iBT or 7 total with a minimum of 8 in the speaking section on the IELTS.**

This requirement may be waived if you have completed at least 2 academic years of full-time study or have completed a graduate degree at an English-language university in an English-speaking country no more than 5 years prior to your first semester at UIUC. The requirement may also be waived if you were raised in and/or went to school in one of the countries on this list: <http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/exemptcountries>.

***These waivers are for admission purposes only and do not provide an exemption from the English proficiency requirement for non-native English speaking teaching assistants.***

**In order to hold a teaching assistantship (our most widely available source of financial aid), all applicants whose native language is not English MUST PASS the speaking section of the TOEFL iBT with a minimum score of 24, or the speaking section of the IELTS with a minimum score of 8.**

***This requirement is not waived like the admissions requirement above and any teaching assistantship award “will be conditional” upon our receiving proof of your passing English speaking ability.***

We would appreciate receiving your official score report by the application deadline or shortly thereafter, so please arrange to take any of these tests as early as possible in the application process. Have ETS send the TOEFL iBT score report to the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, institution code #1836**. If you took the Academic IELTS, please upload the score report to your online application.

## FUNDING

**In order to receive full consideration for all financial aid opportunities, your application must be complete** (with all of the above materials in place) **no later than January 4, 2021 at 11:00pm Central Daylight Time (same time zone as Chicago)**. All admitted applicants are considered for financial aid based on their application materials and available funds. Financial aid may be awarded in the form of fellowships, assistantships, or a combination of the two.

The University of Illinois has many opportunities for funding beyond those provided by the department. The Graduate College's financial assistance web page has more detail about the sources of funding available to graduate students. There is a fellowship database that lists fellowship funding potentially available to you. Students who are studying certain specific languages may want to look at the fellowships available through the FLAS Fellowships program.

Grad College financial assistance: <http://www.grad.illinois.edu/prospective/financial>

Fellowship database: <http://www.grad.illinois.edu/fellowships>

FLAS program: <http://www.flas.illinois.edu/>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any academic or professional questions regarding the content of the graduate programs in East Asian Languages & Cultures, please contact the Director of Graduate Study, Associate Professor Shao Dan ([danshao@illinois.edu](mailto:danshao@illinois.edu)).

Should you need assistance with the application process itself, please contact SLCL Student Services ([slclgradservices@illinois.edu](mailto:slclgradservices@illinois.edu)).

We look forward to receiving your application and wish you the best in all your educational endeavors!

Sincerely,

The Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
707 South Mathews Avenue, Room 2090 FLB  
Urbana, IL 61801

