

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for the interest you have expressed in graduate study in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC) at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). 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 EALC offers academic programs in the languages, social sciences, and 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 semester admission only.

Admission to the graduate programs in EALC is handled jointly by the Department, Graduate College, and the Graduate Student Services office of the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics (SLCL).

Graduate College: <http://www.grad.illinois.edu/>

The University of Illinois uses an online application. To submit your application, go to the Graduate College's 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 upcoming fall semester. 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>

STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

Academic

Please write a statement that answers the following questions (1,000 words max):

- a. How has your academic background, including any training, research, or other educational experiences, prepared you for graduate study?
- b. What are your intellectual and research interests? What scholarly questions are you interested in exploring while in our graduate program?
- c. Which faculty members' research aligns with your own research interests? Specify which faculty members you would like to work with?
- d. How will our graduate program help you achieve your academic and professional goals?

Personal

Please answer the following questions:

- a. Please describe any experiences and/or challenges that may have shaped your intellectual and personal development.
- b. Provide insight into your potential to contribute to a community of inclusion, belonging, and respect in which scholars with diverse perspectives, abilities, and experiences can learn and collaborate productively and positively.

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

A resume that provides a comprehensive list of your educational, teaching, work, and research credentials and achievements.

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. If you are admitted, official documents (original or “attested” copies) will be required.

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

GRE Scores (recommended, but not required)

The EALC Department recommends that you submit GRE scores as part of the application process. We evaluate the entire application, so low scores are not in themselves taken as a disqualification for admission.

The information and application fee you submit online 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

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 7.5 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: <https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c#Exemptions>. ***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 11:00 pm Central Daylight Time (same time zone as Chicago) on December 15, 2024. 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 Studies, Associate Professor Roderick Wilson (riwilson@illinois.edu).

Should you need assistance with the application process itself, please contact SLCL Graduate Student Services (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 (EALC)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
707 South Mathews Avenue, Room 2090 LCLB
Urbana, IL 61801
USA

