

Chinese Language

The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures offers a PhD program in Chinese Language. The department only admits students into the PhD program.

As a rule, students wishing to enter the graduate program should have completed an undergraduate program comparable to the undergraduate major in this department. Students who do not have BA or MA degrees in East Asian Languages and Cultures, Chinese, or in similar fields can be considered for admission. If admitted, these students are often required to make up deficiencies in their course work. This can result in a lengthening of the normative time to degree (seven years).

The department only admits students into the PhD program. You must indicate that a PhD is your degree goal on the application materials. Students who have not completed an MA degree before beginning study at Berkeley will have to complete the requirements for the MA before proceeding to the PhD program. After completion of the MA requirements (coursework and thesis), students are evaluated for permission to proceed to the PhD portion of the program. Students who have completed an MA degree before beginning study at Berkeley may apply for admission directly to the PhD program. After one year in the PhD program, such students will be evaluated before being permitted to continue in the program.

UC Berkeley graduate students from other disciplines who are considering transferring into the degree program in Chinese language undergo the same faculty review as first-time applicants. Students in this category should contact the department graduate assistant (eadc-advicing@berkeley.edu) for instructions.

The length of time needed to complete an advanced degree in the department depends on financial considerations, the extent of the student's earlier preparation, and other factors. Under optimum conditions, the MA can be earned in two years and the PhD in an additional four to five years.

Step by Step

To learn how best to prepare for study at the graduate level in the humanities and the social sciences, current undergraduates may find Step by Step (<http://stepbystep.berkeley.edu/>) useful, a resource for UC Berkeley students to enrich their undergraduate academic experience and to prepare for graduate school.

Admission to the University

Applying for Graduate Admission

Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. A complete list of graduate academic departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/programs/list/>).

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application can be found on the Graduate Division website (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/>).

Admission Requirements

The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and
3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division's Admissions Requirements page (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/requirements/>). It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study and degree. Department contact information can be found here (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2023-24/graduate/degree-programs/>).

Where to apply?

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

Admission to the Program

Applications are reviewed and ranked by the entire faculty. The faculty makes its selection on the basis of academic records and on whether or not the applicant's academic goals can be met by the department's programs. Those chosen are recommended to the Graduate Division, which sets the number of students the department can admit, makes a final review of the applications, and issues an official letter of admission to the student. The number of students the department can admit is usually very small and standards for admission are highly competitive.

The Graduate Application is submitted electronically; the online application (http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/grad_app.shtml/) becomes available in September for admission effective the following year. See the Graduate Division (<http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/prospective/>) website for details. All applicants must use the online application.

Transcripts. Applicants will submit unofficial transcripts, GRE scores, and other admissions materials on-line as part of the application. Admitted students will be required to submit two copies of all official transcripts in envelopes sealed by the issuing institutions at a later date.

Letters of Recommendation. Three letters of recommendation are required. As part of the application you will have to submit the names and contact information for the letter writers. Letters in languages other than English should be translated into English, but the original letter, in the original language, must be included. The department recommends that letters of recommendation come from faculty members who can comment on the applicant's intellectual capacity, analytical skills, ability to write English, and general aptitude for scholarly work. Letters from nonacademic referees are rarely helpful. All letters must be submitted on-line by the recommenders no later than two weeks after the application deadline to ensure that they are included in the review process.

Academic Writing Sample. A writing sample in English must be included with the on-line application. The writing sample is intended to gauge an applicant's academic writing ability, and should be a paper that the student feels best represents the quality of his/her work. An ideal writing

sample will be around 20 pages on a topic related to East Asian studies, but a paper on another topic or of a different length may be acceptable.

GRE Test Scores. The GRE is required.

Applicants from Abroad. International applicants are urged to examine closely the requirements for certification and translation of records and TOEFL requirements provided in the Graduate Application and the information on legal residency and fees.

Application to Degree Programs

All prospective graduate students must apply for the PhD program. The department does not offer terminal MA degrees; instead, an MA degree may be earned while progressing toward the PhD.

Normative Time Requirements

Normative time to advancement: The total normative time to advancement is five years.

Normative time in candidacy: The total time in candidacy is two years.

Total normative time: The total normative time of the program is seven years.

Language Requirements

Chinese MA

Fluency in modern Chinese and a year of classical Chinese.

Chinese PhD

Reading competence in a language other than Chinese relevant to the program, chosen in consultation with the Primary Advisor. In most cases, the second language will be three years of Japanese. In exceptional cases, this requirement may be satisfied by competence in another language, normally demonstrated by three years of language study at Berkeley or its equivalent. (Coursework must be taken for a letter-grade.) Native speakers of a language other than English do not automatically fulfill the language requirement; the language must be appropriate to advanced research in the program.

MA Requirements

- EALANG 200, "Proseminar: Approaches to East Asian Studies" is required, normally in the first year.
- A minimum of three CHINESE graduate seminars will be required, for four units and for a letter grade. EALANG 200 will not count toward the three required seminars.

All courses required for the degree must be finished by the last day of the semester in which the student expects the degree to be conferred.

Students will have the option of taking additional seminars beyond the three required for the MA degree for two units, in which case no seminar paper is required. Each EALC seminar is structured with a 4 unit norm and a 2 unit option.

Students who will need to acquire a second language from scratch to satisfy PhD requirements (q.v.) will be advised to begin work on that language as early as possible.

MA Thesis

An MA thesis, usually based on a previous research paper and limited to 50 pages, is required. If the MA thesis involves a translation, the translation may be added as an appendix, which will not count toward the page limit.

Mechanism for Continuation or Termination at the MA level

A review of graduate students will take place in the middle and at the end of their first year and annually thereafter, and conveyed to the students in writing.

PhD Requirements

Two CHINESE graduate seminars, four units each, for a letter grade are required after completion of the M.A., as well as at least one graduate seminar outside the department in a cognate discipline, also for four units and for a letter grade. These three seminars must be taken before the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination (QE).

Qualifying Examination

The following will be required:

- Three written examinations on fields within the department
- One written examination on a field outside the department
- Oral examination

The purpose of the qualifying examination is to insure that the student possesses adequate breadth and depth of preparation needed to conduct dissertation research and teach. The student will normally choose reading lists in consultation with examiners and then meet regularly to discuss those readings with them. The written examinations will be based on those readings and discussions. The oral examination that follows is not meant to be a separate field of enquiry; instead, it is designed to pursue issues raised in the written segments.

The oral examination will take place one week after completion of the last written examination. It will last three hours and be attended by all four members of the Qualifying Examination Committee. It will be devoted to further investigation of issues raised in the written examinations.

Dissertation

A dissertation is required. Students should meet with their dissertation chairs to decide on appropriate timelines for research abroad and the completion of individual chapters. Students are not required to defend the dissertation once the dissertation committee has decided the dissertation is finished.

Chinese Language

Expand all course descriptions [+] Collapse all course descriptions [-]

CHINESE 220 Seminar in Philological Analysis of Ancient Chinese Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2019, Fall 2018

Readings vary from year to year and are drawn from a wide variety of philosophical and historiographical sources.

Seminar in Philological Analysis of Ancient Chinese Texts: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Seminar in Philological Analysis of Ancient Chinese Texts: Read Less [-]

CHINESE 221 Reading the Zhuangzi 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Spring 2019

This course sets out to examine a set of "focus chapters" from the Zhuangzi along several dimensions: 1) in the context of Warring States thought, 2) as independent stories that need to be puzzled through and read critically, and 3) tracing the influence of those chapters on subsequent periods of Chinese thought.

Reading the Zhuangzi: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Reading the Zhuangzi: Read Less [-]

CHINESE 222 Early Chinese Thought 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2017, Fall 2016

An analytical exploration of the central texts of Warring States (453-221 BCE) religion and philosophy.

Early Chinese Thought: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: At least one year of Classical Chinese

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Early Chinese Thought: Read Less [-]

CHINESE C223 Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

This seminar is an intensive introduction to various genres of Buddhist literature in classical Chinese, including translations of Sanskrit and Central Asian scriptures. Chinese commentaries, philosophical treatises, hagiographies, and sectarian works. It is intended for graduate students who already have some facility in classical Chinese. It will also serve as a tools and methods course, covering the basic reference works and secondary scholarship in the field of East Asian Buddhism. The content of the course will be adjusted from semester to semester to best accommodate the needs and interests of students.

Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C223

Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts: Read Less [-]

CHINESE 230 Seminar in Chinese Literary History 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Spring 2011, Spring 2008

Readings in major genres and authors of Chinese literature, with attention to relevant "nonliterary" (philosophical, scholarly, historiographical, etc.) sources where useful; period and thematic focus varies from semester to semester.

Seminar in Chinese Literary History: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Good reading knowledge of classical Chinese and consent of instructor. Previous course work in classical Chinese literature is desirable

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Seminar in Chinese Literary History: Read Less [-]

CHINESE 234 Texts on the Civilization of Medieval China 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

Course content varies with interests of students.

Texts on the Civilization of Medieval China: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Texts on the Civilization of Medieval China: Read Less [-]

CHINESE 242 Genre and Method in Traditional Chinese Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Introduction to the history of Chinese textual production. Detailed close reading of the texts and training in the methodologies of solving problems of lexicon, theme, structure, imagery, and metaphor.

Genre and Method in Traditional Chinese Texts: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Chinese 110B, and Chinese 100B or Chinese 100XB; or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Formerly known as: Chinese 242A

Genre and Method in Traditional Chinese Texts: Read Less [-]

CHINESE 254 Chinese Literatures and Cultures in Global Context 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2017

This course explores relations of Chinese literature and culture to other parts of Asia, Africa, Latin America, or the West, ranging from specific global transactions to comparative perspectives, and ranging widely across different historical periods. Specific topics vary from year to year.

Chinese Literatures and Cultures in Global Context: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Chinese Literatures and Cultures in Global Context: Read Less [-]

CHINESE 255 Late Imperial Fiction and Drama 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2021

This course examines the canonical texts of the late-imperial period, placing them in the context of literary culture of the Ming-Qing. The course focuses on a different set of texts each time it is taught; the aim is to introduce students to the primary issues in scholarship of late-imperial fiction and drama over a period of several years.

Late Imperial Fiction and Drama: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Late Imperial Fiction and Drama: Read Less [-]

CHINESE 257 Modern Chinese Literature 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2019, Spring 2015

Graduate seminar in modern Chinese literature. Topics vary from year to year.

Modern Chinese Literature: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Reading knowledge of modern Chinese

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Modern Chinese Literature: Read Less [-]

CHINESE 280 Modern Chinese Cultural Studies 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2016, Fall 2014, Spring 2014

Directed study of modern Chinese literary and media cultures. Course provides both historical coverage and a grounding in various theoretical problems and methodological approaches. Topics include print culture, cinema, popular music, and material culture; emphasis varies from year to year.

Modern Chinese Cultural Studies: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Reading knowledge of modern Chinese

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Modern Chinese Cultural Studies: Read Less [-]

CHINESE 282 Modern Chinese Film Studies 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2020

Directed study of modern Chinese film. Emphasis varies from year to year.

Modern Chinese Film Studies: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Reading knowledge of modern Chinese

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar and 2-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Modern Chinese Film Studies: Read Less [-]

CHINESE 298 Directed Study for Graduate Students 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Special tutorial or seminar on selected topics not covered by available courses or seminars.

Directed Study for Graduate Students: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

3 weeks - 5-60 hours of independent study per week

6 weeks - 2.5-35 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-28 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Directed Study for Graduate Students: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

CHINESE 299 Thesis Preparation and Related Research 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Thesis Preparation and Related Research: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of thesis supervisor and graduate adviser

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

3 weeks - 5-60 hours of independent study per week

6 weeks - 2.5-35 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-28 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Thesis Preparation and Related Research: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

CHINESE 601 Individual Study for Master's Students 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Individual study for the comprehensive or language requirements in consultation with the graduate adviser. Units may not be used to meet either unit or residence requirements for a master's degree.

Individual Study for Master's Students: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of graduate adviser

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-20 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-15 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Master's Students: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

CHINESE 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2016, Fall 2015

Individual study in consultation with the major field adviser, intended to provide an opportunity for qualified students to prepare for various examinations required of candidates for the Ph.D.

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-20 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-15 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Chinese/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: Read Less [\[-\]](#)