School of East Asian Studies.

Postgraduate courses
One of Europe’s leading centres for East Asian studies

The School of East Asian Studies at the University of Sheffield is one of Europe’s leading centres for the study of contemporary East Asia. We have been teaching and researching East Asia for over 50 years, and have a long tradition of academic excellence and pioneering teaching methods.

Our research is diverse and interdisciplinary, with a strong emphasis on language. We have expertise spanning China, Japan and Korea, with particular strengths in the business, history, politics, societies, cultures and economies of contemporary East Asia. Our academic staff are internationally-renowned specialists in their fields, and many of them are fluent in at least one East Asian language. Whether you are interested in learning about Japan, Greater China, the Korean peninsula or East Asia more widely, you will be able to tap into the new knowledge generated by our research team.

Why Sheffield?

We combine language skills with the study of East Asian business, politics, culture, media and history.

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About the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

In the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, we explore what makes us human through the study of languages, cultures, histories and ideas. We are known for our interdisciplinary approaches, our innovative learning and teaching practices and our extensive engagement with external partners and communities. We have a track record for research excellence that attracts students from all over the world.

The work we do is at the heart of understanding human society. We believe that an understanding of people’s lives, experiences, beliefs and values - both past and present - is absolutely vital when tackling the greatest issues facing humanity today. As a student here, you will be a core member of this vibrant intellectual environment, becoming an independent and critical thinker, as well as an excellent communicator and interpreter of human behaviour.

The diversity of our research interests is expressed through the departments that make us up: we encompass the study of History, Archaeology, Music, Philosophy, English, East Asian Studies, and Language and Cultures. We are home to the Digital Humanities Institute, the Humanities Research Institute and a number of interdisciplinary research centres which conduct cutting-edge, world-leading research, both individually and collaboratively.

The breadth of our interests means we are able to provide unique opportunities for multidisciplinary research, working together to tackle global challenges and provide new insights into our understanding of the world.

Varied and flexible courses that incorporate language study

The breadth of our research is reflected in the masters degrees we offer and we encourage you to explore the areas that most interest you. Whichever course you choose, you’ll have the option to specialise in China, Japan or Korea, or to take a broad approach by studying the East Asian region as a whole.

Our courses are designed to allow you to study an East Asian language as part of your degree, whether you are a complete beginner or already have some knowledge. We offer flexible, innovative and highly-rated language programmes in Chinese, Japanese and Korean at a variety of levels for non-native speakers.

Along with developing your language skills, our courses will also provide you with core skills in critical thinking, independent research, effective communication and an international perspective, with a deeper knowledge of the East Asian region, its culture and working environment.

A lively and international postgraduate community

As a postgraduate student in the School of East Asian Studies, you will be part of a vibrant community of students from all over the world.

We want you to get the most out of your degree, so we encourage you to get involved with all the additional opportunities on offer here. We host regular guest lectures and seminars, and many of our research clusters offer opportunities for masters students to get involved.

Outside of the department, there are hundreds of student-run groups, societies and clubs you can join, including the Postgraduate Students’ Society, an interdisciplinary society who organise trips, events and other social activities to help you settle into postgraduate life at Sheffield.

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Our courses.

Our diverse courses cover East Asian business, international relations, political economy and media, as well as culture, language and history.

East Asian Business

MSc | PG Diploma | PG Certificate
1 year full-time

Gain in depth insight into the business practices and environments of East Asia, with the option to focus on China, Japan or Korea.

This course combines the comparative study of economic development and business environments in East Asia. You will study East Asia’s business practices and position in an international business market, as well as learning key negotiation and cultural communication skills. We offer individual options on China, Japan and Korea, allowing you to focus your studies on a particular country or to take a broad approach by studying all three. You will also be able to enhance your course even further with optional language modules, or through modules on East Asian politics, economics, society and management.

I wanted to understand the political, economic, and social aspects of business in East Asia, particularly in China and South Korea. I love China, and the course has revealed that I love South Korea too! I have enjoyed learning in-depth about culture, society and the various aspects of East Asian Business and its impact in the region. I loved the Work and Organisation in East Asia module as it has inspired me to write a dissertation that I am passionate about and enjoy. I also really enjoy that I have been able to continue my language skills and add Korean to the list!

Georgetta Evans

Politics and Media in East Asia

MA | PG Diploma | PG Certificate
1 year full-time

Explore the significance of the media in shaping the political, cultural and socio-economic climates of East Asia.

Investigate the major international and political issues in East Asia, and the role the media plays in influencing these developments. You’ll look at the main structures, actors and ideas shaping international politics in East Asia today, focusing on themes such as regional identity, leadership and changing power dynamics. You’ll also explore key ideas surrounding media and culture, including globalisation, representation, memory and propaganda. The course encompasses both practical and theoretical training, with the opportunity to specialise in either politics or media depending on your interests. You’ll be learning from expert academic staff, some of whom have first-hand experience of working in the media industry in East Asian countries.

I definitely think Sheffield is the most beautiful and safe city I have ever lived in. The University specialises in completely different disciplines than the university I went to for my undergraduate course. Whereas before I had studied a lot of history and society, now I have studied politics, international relations, media, economics, and other general contemporary issues, so I feel like I now have a much broader set of skills and knowledge. I feel it is a great privilege to work with world renowned scholars who are all experts in their field. My supervisor brings a huge amount of expertise and passion to his work and I am grateful to be able to work with him.

Hannah Luder
Social Research

MA
1 year full-time, 2 years part-time
Train as a highly skilled researcher with a specialist interest in East Asian Studies.

Run jointly with the Sheffield Methods Institute, this course is designed to develop you into a highly skilled researcher, fully prepared for a research-related career covering East Asia. You will receive advanced research training, which you will then apply in context through optional modules relating to the cultures and languages of East Asia. This course can be studied as a stand-alone masters degree, or as a prerequisite to PhD study in the White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership.

International Relations and East Asia

MA | PG Diploma | PG Certificate
1 year full-time, 2 years part-time
Deepen your understanding of international relations and global politics within the East Asian region.

This course will explore the prominent issues in international relations and global politics with a specific focus on the East Asian region. You’ll develop a thorough awareness and understanding of the political, economic, societal and cultural factors, and examine the major structures, actors and ideas shaping international politics in East Asian contexts. You can enhance your course further by studying an East Asian language - we offer a flexible language programme in Chinese, Japanese and Korean at a variety of levels for non-native speakers.

For more information about our masters programmes, visit our website: sheffield.ac.uk/seas/taughtpostgrad

“I have always been fascinated by East Asia but did not want to limit myself to studying only one country or language. The MSc East Asian Business provided a good opportunity to learn about several countries, their cultures and also about something more practical. Sheffield is one of the few universities that offer a course like this.”

Mateusz Kołodziejczyk
Education is for everyone, for life
Wherever you are in your career and your life, if you’re ready for a world-class masters we’d love to hear from you.

Our greatest strength is each other
Sheffield is an inclusive, supportive community where people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities study together. You can’t have a world-class university without this kind of openness and diversity.

You have to think global
We use our knowledge to help the whole planet, so there’s a global dimension to everything we do. This clarity of purpose is why a degree from Sheffield is so highly respected.

We believe in you
You’re part of the next generation of professionals who will change society for the better. Our job is to prepare you for that. We’ll push you to amaze yourself and we’ll support you every step of the way.

Join the world class.
My research interests are in the social and cultural geography of East Asian development. More specifically, my research has focused on the theory and practice of permanent employment in large organisations, work and its representation in popular culture, and population, environment, and regional development in post-industrial society. Currently, I am teaching on the masters modules Media and Public Communication in Japan and Work and Organization in East Asia. To accommodate students’ different learning styles and needs, I like to vary the mode of my teaching through a mixture of lectures, seminars, individual and group work, and analysis of visual materials. I hope that students will come to my class wanting to discover something new about the world, to confront themselves and their preconceived ideas, and wishing to use their education for the benefit of themselves and others.

Dr Peter Matanle,
Senior Lecturer in Japanese Studies,
Director of Research and Innovation

I have a background in Chinese law, having practiced law in China for seven years before undertaking my PhD research. Because of this, my research focuses on Chinese corporate governance from a legal perspective, encompassing Chinese (business) law and Chinese business and management. I am also interested in the subjects of law and development, and law and finance. I teach on the postgraduate module Contemporary Chinese Business and Management. I aim to make my teaching relevant to students’ personal experience and to events and debates in the real world. I encourage my students to take ownership of their learning, driving it forward in response to stimulating questions, theories and challenges to conventional wisdom.

Dr Zhong Zhang,
Lecturer in Chinese Studies

I am a musicologist with research interest in globalization, music, and identity formation in modern Korea and East Asia. My research on popular, art, and religious music is interdisciplinary, engaging with debates in history, sound studies, postcolonial studies, media studies, and religious studies. I have published on singing and Christian publics in modern Korea, colonial circulation of music from Japan to Korea, and production networks in K-pop, among others. At postgraduate taught level, I teach on media, culture, and society in East Asia and am especially keen to explore new media ecologies with my students. Previous to my post at Sheffield, I was a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University and a visiting assistant professor at New York University.

Dr Hyun Kyong Hannah Chang,
Lecturer in Korean Studies

To see profiles for all our expert academic staff, visit our website: sheffield.ac.uk/seas/staff
Our graduates work in a huge variety of careers. They are city brokers and accountants, chief executives and company directors, business analysts and marketing specialists. They are journalists, teachers, television producers, event planners, NGO professionals and interpreters. Many have also gone on to complete a PhD, specialising in subjects as diverse as media, economics, literature and politics.

Careers Service
The Careers Service supports your development throughout your course and for up to three years after you graduate. Whatever you want to do, wherever in the world you choose to build your career, we can help.

We cover everything, from figuring out what you want to do to beyond your degree to succeeding at interviews. There are lots of opportunities to network with employers in your field, and we’ll help you find the kind of work experience that’s right for you. We can also help you to find paid, part-time employment that fits around your studies.

Find out more about The Careers Service by visiting our website: sheffield.ac.uk/careers

Our masters programmes aim to prepare you for an international career, equipping you with the analytical skills and cultural knowledge to succeed in a diverse range of fields, both in East Asia and the UK.
Sheffield is a surprising place. For a big city to have such a strong sense of community is unusual. We’re as creative as we are friendly, with independent shops, bars, cafés and art spaces tucked around every corner. Then there’s the fact that a third of the city is inside the Peak District National Park, an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Most of our student accommodation is located in one of the city’s greenest residential areas, a short walk from the main campus. Here we provide accommodation especially for postgraduate students, including en suite apartments and houses – near good schools – for students with families. There are also plenty of affordable private accommodation options in the lively, community-minded neighbourhoods that surround our University.

At the heart of everything is our Students’ Union. It’s here to support you with practical help and advice on every aspect of student life. There are over 400 student societies to try out or join, hundreds of sports teams and one of the UK’s biggest student volunteering programmes.

With a little guidance from us and lots of freedom to explore, you’ll find this adds up to a unique experience, one that sees you form strong relationships with your fellow students, deepens your ties to the community and lets you discover what it means to be part of something.
You can apply for all of our masters degrees online through the University of Sheffield website. You will need to include certain documents to support your application, including evidence of your previous qualifications, and a personal statement.

For more information on how to apply, visit our website: sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/apply

Entry requirements
A minimum of a 2:1 honours degree (or equivalent) is usually required.

English language requirements
For applicants whose first language is not English, IELTS is the preferred test of language. You need an overall IELTS score of 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 in each component.

For a full list of the English language qualifications we accept, please see our website: sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/english-language

Alternative pathways for international applicants
Pre-masters courses: If you are an international applicant and do not already meet the entry requirements for your chosen degree, you can apply to study a pre-masters pathway programme with the University of Sheffield International College (USIC). The course includes academic subjects, study skills and English language preparation, and has been designed specifically to prepare you for taught postgraduate study at the University of Sheffield.

You can find more information on the USIC website: usic.sheffield.ac.uk

English language courses: Our English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC) provides pre-sessional English language courses for international applicants wanting to improve their language skills in order to meet University of Sheffield entry requirements. The course is designed to improve your academic English skills (writing, reading, speaking and listening), as well as other essential skills you will need at university, such as essay writing, note-taking, group discussions and preparing and delivering presentations.

For more information, visit our website: sheffield.ac.uk/eltc

How to apply.

Fees
At the University of Sheffield, we value talent, which is why we invest in scholarships (£4m in 2018–19) for exceptional UK and international students.

Government loans are available for UK and EU masters students studying eligible courses. If you did your first degree at Sheffield, you could get a discount on your tuition fees.

Find out more about loans, scholarships and other funding on our website: sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/funding
The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it's current and relevant. Individual modules may be updated or withdrawn in response to discoveries made through our world-leading research, funding changes, professional accreditation requirements, student or employer feedback, curriculum review, staff availability and variations in student numbers.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication, for the reasons detailed above, changes may need to be made to modules, courses, entry requirements and fees between the date of this publication and the start of your course.

This publication is correct as at the time of print, but please see www.sheffield.ac.uk for the most up-to-date information about undergraduate/postgraduate study at the University. If there is any inconsistency between this publication and www.sheffield.ac.uk, the information on www.sheffield.ac.uk should be taken as correct.