INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The South and Southeast Asian Studies major is a flexible, interdisciplinary program offering opportunities for both wide and comparative study of South and Southeast Asian cultures, literature, religion, and history. Students may choose from 13 languages for language study, including Bengali, Burmese, Filipino, Hindi, Indonesian, Khmer, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

• It is possible to create a mixed South/Southeast Asian combination in the major; please see the undergraduate faculty adviser to discuss this possibility.
• Already have an intended major but interested in South and Southeast Asian Studies? Consider adding a double major or minor.

“Without my SSEAS degree I never would’ve have interned at Wedu in Bangkok, and never would’ve realized that my desired career path is to help international students study in the US.”

– Blair Dishon, SSEAS alumna

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Immerse yourself in South and Southeast Asian language and culture through study abroad.
• Apply for a FLAS award to support your language study.
• Find scholarly resources, events, and research opportunities at the Institute of East Asian Studies, the Institute for Southeast Asia Studies, and the Center for Buddhist Studies.
SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES
Bachelor of Arts

FIRST YEAR
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
- Enroll in L&S 1 and HUM 10.
- Take the placement exam for your chosen language of study.
- Get 11 mentoring from graduate students with Berkeley Connect and L&S Mentors Program.
- Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
- Explore the Berkeley Language Center.
- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or student-run DeCal course.
- Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
- Visit the South/Southeast Asia Library collection at the Doe Library.
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
- Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad options in Asia with Berkeley Study Abroad.
- Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals.
- Shadow alumni during a winter externship.
- Learn about graduate and professional school. See Step-by-Step for planning help.
- Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.

SECOND YEAR
- Complete the lower division prerequisites in South or Southeast Asian language and Introduction to the Civilizations of India or Southeast Asia, and declare the major.
- Explore study abroad and schedule an appointment with the UG Faculty Advisor about using specific abroad courses toward the major.
- Check out the Southeast Asian Student Coalition.
- Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.
- Start attending South & Southeast Asian Studies department events.
- Continue exploring with a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP and SURF-SMART.
- Build your research skills in HUM W101: Research Bootcamp.
- Experience life at another UC or college on a gap year or fellowship.
- Undertake an optional DeCal course.
- Participate in an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Go on a service-learning trip with the Alternative Breaks Program.
- Apply to the Boren, Freeman-ASIA, or Critical Language Scholarship.

THIRD YEAR
- Focus on upper division requirements in your major and college advisor.
- Ask your major advisor about the South and Southeast Asian Studies honors program.
- Apply for a FLAS award to support your language study.
- Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply to the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.
- Curious about entrepreneurship? Enroll in HUM120: Entrepreneurship for All.
- Experience life at another UC or college on a gap year or fellowship.
- Work with peers and graduate students in HUM 191: Mentored-Research and Discovery Groups.
- Consider joining the Association of Asian Studies.
- Practice your language skills while helping others learn in the SLIC Language Exchange Program.
- Get support for your thesis project in the Townsend Honors Thesis Workshop.
- Explore resources from the Center for Southeast Asia Studies and Institute of South Asian Studies.
- Get international work experience with a Berkeley Global Internship.
- Study and intern in Washington D.C. with UCDC.
- Experience life at another UC or college on a gap year.
- Keep pursuing your interests through a fellowship or gap year after graduation.

FOURTH YEAR
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Complete any "bucket list" courses.
- Finish remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
- Complement your major with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.
- Hone your leadership skills with the Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders program.
- Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.
- Apply to the Fulbright ETA Program to teach English in Asia.
- Experience life at another UC or college on a gap year or fellowship.
- Undertake an optional honors thesis or independent study.
- Consider submitting your work to the Student Journal of Asian Studies.
- Keep pursuing your interests through a fellowship or gap year after graduation.
- Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.
- Apply to the Fulbright ETA Program to teach English in Asia.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Jobs and Employers
- Asst. Professor, Peking University
- Asst. Prof., Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa
- Associate Professor, UC Berkeley
- Associate Professor, UW-La Crosse
- Business Dev. Assoc., SF City and City
- Category Spc., Walmart E-Commerce Coordinator
- AmeriCorps External Relations Specialist, Year Up
- Foreign Svcs. Officer, US Dept. of State
- Paralegal, Los Angeles
- PL, ACHEE for S. Asian Americans
- Student Services Asst., UC Berkeley
- Visiting Professor, Brown University

Graduate Programs
- Asian Studies, PhD
- International Education, Masters
- Public Health, Masters

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates and South and Southeast Asian Studies Department.

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