



# Asian Languages and Cultures

BA

Why study Asian Languages and Cultures?

## Asia is a diverse continent with powerful histories and compelling modern cultures.

From the ancient origins of Chinese civilisation through to K-pop and the latest Japanese robots, Asian nations comprise some of the world's fastest-growing and most powerful economies. Achieve an understanding of how the Asian region operates through studying its languages and cultures and gain a more profound international perspective.

### CHINESE

The second largest economy in the world and the largest in the Asia-Pacific region. As Aotearoa New Zealand's number one trading partner, China continues to become more important.

### JAPANESE

Anime, sushi, manga, Pokémon – our daily lives are inundated with creations from Japan, the world's third largest economy.

### KOREAN

Korea combines a rich history, cutting-edge technology and lively pop culture and holds a unique place in contemporary international relations.

### ASIAN STUDIES

Gain a deep understanding of Asia, focusing on its politics, history, pop culture, geography, religion, philosophy and economies.



**“Studying a language gives you access to other cultures and equips you with the invaluable ability to communicate across borders. It opens doors to new opportunities, whether it's working in international business, diplomacy, or fostering meaningful relationships with individuals from other cultures.”**

KAREN HUANG  
Senior Lecturer

Careers

Japan, China and South Korea are becoming increasingly important trading partners of Aotearoa New Zealand and people with proficiency in these languages and an understanding of the cultures are in high demand. Knowing another language is a great way to distinguish yourself from other graduates and boost your employability.



You can study languages as part of one of the following programmes; if you already have some ability, we will place you into a level which is right for you. You can take Asian Studies as one of your majors in the BA or study the Asia region as part of a Global Studies degree.

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

[auckland.ac.nz/arts/ba](http://auckland.ac.nz/arts/ba)

A major in Chinese, Japanese, Korean or Asian Studies, combines language skills with knowledge of the region including language, history, politics and culture. Or, if you want to study a language while majoring in other Arts subjects you can take a Modern Language module, allowing you to take advantage of study abroad opportunities and enrich your BA journey.

### BACHELOR OF GLOBAL STUDIES

[auckland.ac.nz/arts/bachelor-of-global](http://auckland.ac.nz/arts/bachelor-of-global)

Learning another language is a key component of the Bachelor of Global Studies (BGlobalSt). This programme combines language and area study with a consideration of contemporary global issues.

### CERTIFICATE OR DIPLOMA IN LANGUAGES

[auckland.ac.nz/arts/dip-lang](http://auckland.ac.nz/arts/dip-lang)

You can take a language as part of a Certificate in Languages (CertLang) or a Diploma in Languages (DipLang). Both are usually taken in conjunction with another degree, including the BA.

### 360 INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

[auckland.ac.nz/360](http://auckland.ac.nz/360)

Study at a foreign university for up to two semesters while earning credits towards your degree. We have a range of partner universities in China, Japan and Korea to choose from: [auckland.ac.nz/360](http://auckland.ac.nz/360)

### Get excited about your course options:

- Japanese Language\*\*
- Exploring Japan
- Beginning Modern Chinese\*
- Rethinking China
- Korean for Beginners\*
- Korea through TV, Drama and Film
- Images of Asia
- New Zealand and Asia



### Complementary majors include:

Chinese, Korean, or Japanese

+

Asian Studies

Communication

Politics and International Relations

\*Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit our website. Published June 2025.

\*\*If you have studied a language before, you may be able to start at a higher level depending on the results of a placement test.

“I have always had a strong interest in cultures and languages and wanted to pursue my interests at a higher level, which eventually led to the decision to major in Japanese.

“One of the reasons why I love my degree is that it involves both Japanese language and cultural studies courses. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to learn about and engage with Japanese culture from new perspectives. The Japanese major emphasises the tie between culture and language to be essential in engaging with Japanese language learning at a meaningful level.”

KERRY KANG

Student: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Japanese + Education

