Fellowships in Asia

If you’ve got an interest in learning more about Asia—even if you’ve never been there before—consider the following opportunities. Most awards are open to students in any concentration, but East Asian Studies concentrators are not eligible for the Luce Scholars Program. Language prerequisites vary by program and country, and some applications are due up to a year in advance (so plan ahead).

America India Foundation (AIF) Banyan Impact Fellowship
This program matches college seniors and young professionals with social and economic development organizations in such fields as education and public health for ten months of service in India.

Blakemore Freeman Fellowships
This award covers tuition and offers a stipend for U.S. citizens or permanent residents for an academic year abroad in full-time, intensive language study of an East or Southeast Asian language at pre-approved language programs. Seniors with compelling future plans are occasionally accepted; successful applicants generally have one or more years of graduate school or work or study abroad prior to applying.

Critical Language Scholarship Program
This program offers fully funded support for 8-week intensive summer language institutes in 15 critical-need foreign languages (including Bangla, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, and Urdu)—for U.S. citizens in any major, from first year on (through graduate students). Chinese and Japanese require two years of prior study (or the equivalent); Korean requires one year of prior study (or the equivalent); the other languages mentioned require no previous study.

EPiK (English Program in Korea)
Sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Education, this program places recipients in public schools across Korea, where they teach English and share their culture and knowledge. (More teaching experience is required for EPiK than for TaLK [see below].) If you apply to a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea, you should also consider this program.

Freeman-ASIA Scholarship
This award provides funding for U.S. undergraduates with demonstrated financial need to study abroad in East or Southeast Asia. Eligible applicants may also apply for the Gilman Scholarship.

Fulbright U.S. Student Program
Funds 9–12 months of research (any field), study (any field), creative or performing arts, or teaching (English) for U.S. citizens in up to 140 countries. Princeton would love to see more applicants for Asia (Central, East, South, and Southeast). Depending on the project or country, host-country language abilities might be required. Alumni who are not graduate students elsewhere in the U.S.A. are welcome to apply through Princeton University; no age restrictions.

Gaither Junior Fellows Program
This award is not in Asia but might be a good fit if you have knowledge of an Asian language or interest in international affairs vis-à-vis Asia. Provides a one-year research assistantship with scholars at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, DC. Applicants (seniors and alumni one year out who have not begun graduate study) select one program area; programs in previous years have included international affairs, China studies, Japan studies, and an economics program focused on Asia. Mandarin- or Japanese-language skills may be a plus, depending on the program. Applicants may hold any citizenship, may come from any concentration, and must be nominated by Princeton University.

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Ito Foundation Scholarship for Study in Japan
This award provides U.S. citizens with some financial need one to two years of study or research at a university in Japan. Basic conversational ability is required. Applicants may come from any concentration, must be seniors or alumni one year out, and must be nominated by Princeton University. This program is on hiatus for the 2022–23 award year and should next be accepting applications in fall 2022 (for the 2023–24 award year).

Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program
College graduates from more than 55 countries around the world may apply to serve as assistant language teachers (ALTs) or coordinators of international relations (CIRs) across the islands of Japan, from urban metropolises to rural hamlets. Interest in Japanese culture, teaching, and working with children are required; CIRs must have Japanese proficiency. Initial appointments are for one year but may be renewed up to four times.

Luce Scholars Program
Provides a yearlong individualized professional placement in Asia for U.S. citizens (and permanent residents) and recent alumni in any concentration except East Asian studies. Applicants may have studied an Asian language or taken Asia-focused courses, but they may not have “significant” experience in Asia (more than 18 weeks) since graduating from high school. Successful applicants can imagine how spending a year in Asia could be transformative to their professional careers. Applicants must be nominated by Princeton University. This program is on hiatus for the 2022–23 award year and should next be accepting applications in fall 2022 (for the 2023–24 award year).

Princeton in Asia Program
This program funds seniors and recent alumni of Princeton and other universities in a professional placement in Asia for a year. Placements are made with non-governmental agencies, public health organizations, businesses, and educational institutions.

Schwarzman Scholars Program
The up to 200 recipients chosen annually will complete a 1-year master’s degree at Tsinghua University (Beijing). As young leaders who want to have a positive impact on the world, Schwarzman Scholars will be selected based on their academic credentials, extracurricular interests, and leadership potential. Mandarin ability is helpful but not required.

Teach and Learn in Korea (TaLK)
This program provides a personal, professional, and educational experience in the Republic of Korea. All participants begin their scholarship term with an intensive, month-long training that provides a safe and supervised environment for our participants to adjust to their new surroundings. Citizens of Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, or the USA are eligible to apply. Overseas Koreans with permanent residency in these countries are also eligible. If you apply to a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea, you should also consider this program.

Yenching Academy Graduate Fellowships Program
This award offers a fully funded, intensive program in English for the interdisciplinary study of Chinese history and culture, as well as real-time issues in China’s development. As a college integrated within one of China’s leading universities (Peking University), the Yenching Academy prepares a diverse group of exceptional international and Chinese students with the knowledge of China that they need to fulfill their potential as global citizens and leaders.

Check out the searchable fellowships database in the Fellowship Advising section of the Office of International Programs website (https://oip.princeton.edu) for additional opportunities and awards tenable in Asia.