China Studies at the University of Pittsburgh

The University of Pittsburgh has a long history of involvement in the field of China Studies, dating from the pre-World War II era. At present there are 17 China specialists on the University’s faculty and a large number of graduate students working on higher degrees in China Studies.

Members of the China faculty are engaged in many different research projects ranging from the early history of Chinese civilization to the economic culture of present-day China. The music, literature, thought systems and visual arts of China are well covered by China specialists in the humanities faculty. The wealth of these combined interests is reflected in the faculty-produced Contemporary Chinese Societies (Columbia University Press), a CD-ROM about Chinese culture and society, which recently won the prestigious Buchanan Prize.

The China Studies Program maintains active relationships with academic institutions throughout the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of China on Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan. Our teaching and research programs are thus enriched by numerous long- and short-term academic exchanges and collaborative projects.

Academic Programs and Degrees

The University of Pittsburgh’s China Program has faculty members in the following disciplines: anthropology, art history, economics, film and media studies, history, language and linguistics, law, library science, literature, musicology, public and international affairs, political science, religious studies, sociology, and women’s studies. Courses with Chinese content are offered in these fields at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The program thus allows students to gain a background in Chinese Studies from a liberal arts and career-oriented perspective.

Individual departments offer the BA, MA and PhD degrees with concentrations on China. Also, the Asian Studies Center offers an Interdisciplinary Master of Arts in East Asian Studies that combines a focus on China with advanced language training and an integrated course of study in the social sciences and humanities.

Chinese Language Program

The undergraduate Chinese Language Program comprises four years of course offerings. Each level offers training in speaking, reading, and writing. Classes are small, and most instruction in speaking is provided by native instructors. Topically specialized reading courses are available for qualified graduate students with the requisite skills. Chinese Language Program students have opportunities to study abroad during the summer or the academic year. The China Studies Program and Nationality Rooms Program provide a limited number of Summer Language Travel Awards to assist students who wish to gain field experience by spending a summer in Taiwan, Hong Kong or the PRC.
Scholarships and Fellowships

Each year, the China Program awards up to three Chancellor’s Fellowships in China Studies. The fellowships provide full tuition and a stipend of $16,000, and are awarded for one to three years.

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, provided through a grant by the U.S. Department of Education Title VI Program, also provide full tuition and a stipend. Contact the Global Studies Center for more information. A small number of tuition remission scholarships are available each year for graduate students in any field of China Studies. The C.Y. Hsu Summer Research Grants provide funding for graduate student research.

Graduate students can also apply to the China Council for funds to assist in pre-dissertation research and to present papers at professional conferences. In addition, individual departments offer support in the form of teaching assistantships and teaching fellowships. Other forms of University aid are also available.

Library Resources

The East Asian Library at the University of Pittsburgh has been ranked as one of the top 14 East Asian libraries in the United States, with particular strengths in Chinese and Japanese-language sources covering a wide range of fields, as well as a growing Korean-language collection.

The library subscribes to periodicals from and about China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Departmental libraries such as the Frick Fine Arts Library also have extensive holdings on East Asia. In addition, the Media Services Center of Pitt’s University Library System maintains a large collection of films, videos and DVDs on East Asia.

HAIHUI ZHANG
Head East Asian Librarian
haihuiz@pitt.edu

Study Abroad

The University of Pittsburgh is a member of the Council on International Educational Exchange’s China Cooperative Language and Study Programs Consortium. Besides semester and academic year opportunities for educational exchange with various universities in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, the University sponsors the Pitt-In-China summer study tour; and an exchange program with the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Students may also use University-awarded and U.S. Department of Education fellowships for study abroad. Our extensive set of relationships with Chinese colleges and universities is of great benefit in arranging suitable placements for students with particular interests.

China Studies Faculty

For the most up-to-date information on China Studies Faculty, visit the Asian Studies Center website: www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc/academics/faculty

XIUYING ZOU
Public Services Librarian
xiz42@pitt.edu

Links

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