



# COMPARATIVE ASIAN STUDIES

PHD PROGRAMME



## ASIAN STUDIES IN ASIA

Officially launched in 2013, the Comparative Asian Studies (CAS) PhD programme was founded as part of a broader initiative to position the National University of Singapore as a leader in global Asian Studies. Attuned to Asia's interconnectedness and its deepening integration at the local level, the CAS PhD programme was established in recognition that future thought leaders would require a thorough understanding of Asian dynamics in breadth and depth. The opportunity to experience Asia from within, rather than viewing it from afar, provides a nuanced understanding about the region's dynamics and trajectories. Our position within and proximity to Asia's many regions constitutes a distinct advantage for CAS students.





## ACCESS TO OVER 200 SCHOLARS AND RESOURCES

Qualified candidates will have training in at least two geographical/cultural areas (South, East, Southeast, Northeast, West Asia) enabling them to explore the varying methods, debates, and issues that have shaped those respective fields comparatively.

Participating faculty members within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences represent one of the largest concentrations of Asia-focused scholars in the world. Together with the CAS PhD programme's innovative curriculum, participating candidates have the opportunity to not only engage with leading specialists of Asian Studies, but also to contribute to the process of producing knowledge about Asia from within the region.

# CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

- 3 core modules
- 5 elective modules: 3 from a “comparative specialisation” basket and 2 from a “free elective” basket offered by the Faculty’s Asian Studies departments and relevant disciplinary departments
- 2 Asian languages (1 at intermediate level and 1 at advanced level) offered by the Faculty’s Centre for Language Studies (exemptions may apply)
- Qualifying Examination (QE)
- Thesis submission and Oral examination





## ADMISSION CRITERIA

The programme welcomes students who have a deep commitment to transnational research and who are curious about places, peoples, and processes in the region that do not fit easily within the conventional approaches to the study of Asia.

Candidates should meet the following requirements:

- Possess a good Masters degree in a relevant discipline; or
- Have an NUS Honours degree (at least Second Class Upper Division) or equivalent in a relevant discipline (subject to approval by the Faculty).
- Have at least intermediate competence in 1 Asian language.
- For applicants whose native tongue and medium of university instruction is not English, to obtain an IELTS score of 6.0 or the following TOEFL scores:
  - ❖ 85 for the internet-based test (with a minimum score of 22 for the writing section); or
  - ❖ 580 for the paper-based test; or
  - ❖ 237 for the computer-based test.

# SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

There are scholarships available on a competitive basis. In addition, financial aid is also available through the various tie-ups with external organisations.

- Scholarships:  
<https://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/research/scholarship.html>
- Financial Aid:  
<http://www.nus.edu.sg/admissions/graduate-studies/scholarships-financial-aid-and-fees.html>

## INTAKE AND APPLICATION

- Annual intake begins in August.
- Application period starts from May to November (refer to website for actual dates).
- Applications can be submitted online or via hardcopy. More details on the application procedures can be found at <https://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/research/appndeadline.html>.

## FURTHER QUERIES

To find out more about the programme, please visit our website at <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cas>.

You could also write to us at [fasbox58@nus.edu.sg](mailto:fasbox58@nus.edu.sg).

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**NUS**  
National University  
of Singapore

Faculty of Arts  
& Social Sciences