

Welcome!

# Pacific and Asian Studies



## New Students' Handbook

Version 3.0







Welcome to the New Students' Guide to the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies! Here you'll find information on the department, our programs, our courses, what you can do with a degree from us, and some suggestions for how to benefit the most from your courses here.

## *Contents*

1. What is PAAS?	page 3
2. Why Does Asia Matter?	page 5
3. What Can PAAS Do for You?	page 7
4. How Does PAAS Work?	page 9
5. What kinds of Courses Does PAAS Offer?	page 13
6. What Are Some Course Choices?	page 16
7. What Can You Do with a PAAS Degree?	page 19
8. Do You Want to Have Some Fun?	page 21
9. Ready to Learn More About PAAS?	page 23



# WHAT IS PAAS?



PAAS stands for Pacific and Asian Studies—we are the place to go to when you want to learn about China, Japan, Indonesia, and some Pacific islands. Whether you want to travel in Asia, study there, work there, or simply want to know more about this extremely important part of the world, PAAS is your first choice for Asian Studies at the University of Victoria.



## PAAS Choices!

1. Interested in Asian Languages — Chinese or Japanese? We teach these.
2. Interested in Literature, Theatre, Cinema, History, Spirituality, or Social Issues? That's us!
3. Want to go on an exchange to Asia? Sign up!
4. Want to combine Asian Studies with Business, Law, or Economics? Great idea!
5. Interested in your heritage, or the non-Eurocentric world? You're in the right place!
6. From Buddhism to Lu Xun and everything in between—PAAS!



## About our Department

We are a multi-disciplinary department in the Faculty of Humanities. We teach the languages, literatures, theatres, films, history, religions, and social issues of this part of the world—we offer courses filled with intense academic knowledge *and much awesomeness.*

Our faculty members are trained in a wide range of approaches to scholarship. We're all accessible and dedicated to helping you achieve your goals, and we'll give you the academic tools you'll need to bring your dreams to life.



# WHY DOES ASIA MATTER?



5000 years of history—More than 33% of the world's population  
—Economic growth and power—Profound philosophies and religions—Incredible cultural diversity—Technological innovation—Tradition, stability, and change—*Anime*, music, fashion, and food—*This is One Cool Part of the World!*



Next, let's look at some of those points. Think about this: with more than 1/3 of the world's population, Asia is an area that almost every company, government, organisation, and person will interact with, every day, in many, many ways.

Asia has 5000 years of history—that's a lot of time to develop some pretty impressive ways of thinking about things, writing about things, designing things, and building things—like architecture, literature, philosophies, religions, governments, and cities. If you're interested in any of these, Asia's a great part of the world to study.

It's no secret that technological innovation comes from all over the world, and it's no secret that Asian countries are at the forefront of bringing technology to daily life. From talking elevators in Tokyo to maglev trains in Shanghai, from robots to video games to smart phones and even smarter cars, Asia right now has the technology you'll be using tomorrow.

Want to be entertained? Asian cinema, theatre, and music are redefining genres everywhere. Like *anime*? Of course you do—によ !

*You don't really want to be left  
out of all this, do you?*





# WHAT CAN PAAS DO FOR YOU?



*We know you have many choices ahead of you, and we also know you're interested in many, many different things.*

*To help you decide why PAAS is right for you, let's think about some questions about what you might like to do in the future—*



Do you want to travel to one of the most diverse, oldest, technologically innovative, intensely fascinating, and important parts of the world?

Do you want to live there, work there, build your future there?

Do you want to develop great academic skills in research, analytical thinking, and writing?

Do you want to discover your roots, or plant some new ones?

# *Then you need to be in PAAS!*

We offer language training, so you can survive when you get to Asia...

We offer courses in culture, history, and philosophy, so you can understand why Asia has developed the way it has...

We teach you how to research, how to think analytically, and how to write so that you can impress your employers with your skills...

We give you a perspective on the world—and how you can make your own place in it—so you can build the kind of life you want...

We help you understand diversity, and how you, too, contribute to it, so you can join the global community in your own back yard.

We give you the world, and help you earn great grades along the way!






# HOW DOES PAAS WORK?



Your university program has a few different parts: there are requirements that every Humanities student needs, and then there are parts that are specific to what you want to do—the parts that make up your Major, Minor, or Honours degree.

PAAS is the place for you to specialise...





We offer the following programs leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts:

- Major Program
- Honours Program
- General and Minor Programs
- Certificates in Language and Cultural Proficiency: Chinese or Japanese

An undergraduate degree is designed for both general education and professional purposes. Your degree in PAAS will give you:

- A working knowledge of one Asian language;
- A general knowledge of the history, narratives, philosophies, and cultures of the Asia-Pacific region seen from an Asian perspective in a global context;
- A more specific knowledge of one country or region covered by the department;
- The concepts and ideas essential to understanding the region;

- Training in analytical skills;
- Training in the foundational skills of academic research, rhetoric, and writing;
- A respect for the cultures of Asia and the world conceived of on their own terms.


For the Major, you'll start off with taking our core courses:

—PAAS 100 Introduction to Pacific and Asian Studies: this is our foundation; take it in your first semester, and you're all set.

—PAAS 200 Introduction to Theories and Methods in Pacific and Asian Studies: the basics of thinking, researching, and writing at university. Take it at the same time as PAAS 100, or in your second semester, and watch your grades go through the roof!

—PAAS 300, or 301, or 302, or 304 Theoretical and critical thinking about Asian societies, aesthetics, and literature: Choose one of these, to get advanced training in analytical thinking about history, societies, aesthetic, or narrative arts (literature, drama, film)





—PAAS 400 Advanced Research Seminar: take this in your 4th year, and get the chance to show off every skill you’ve mastered during your time in PAAS.

Along the way, you’ll choose an Asian language, and get a solid foundation in speaking and reading.

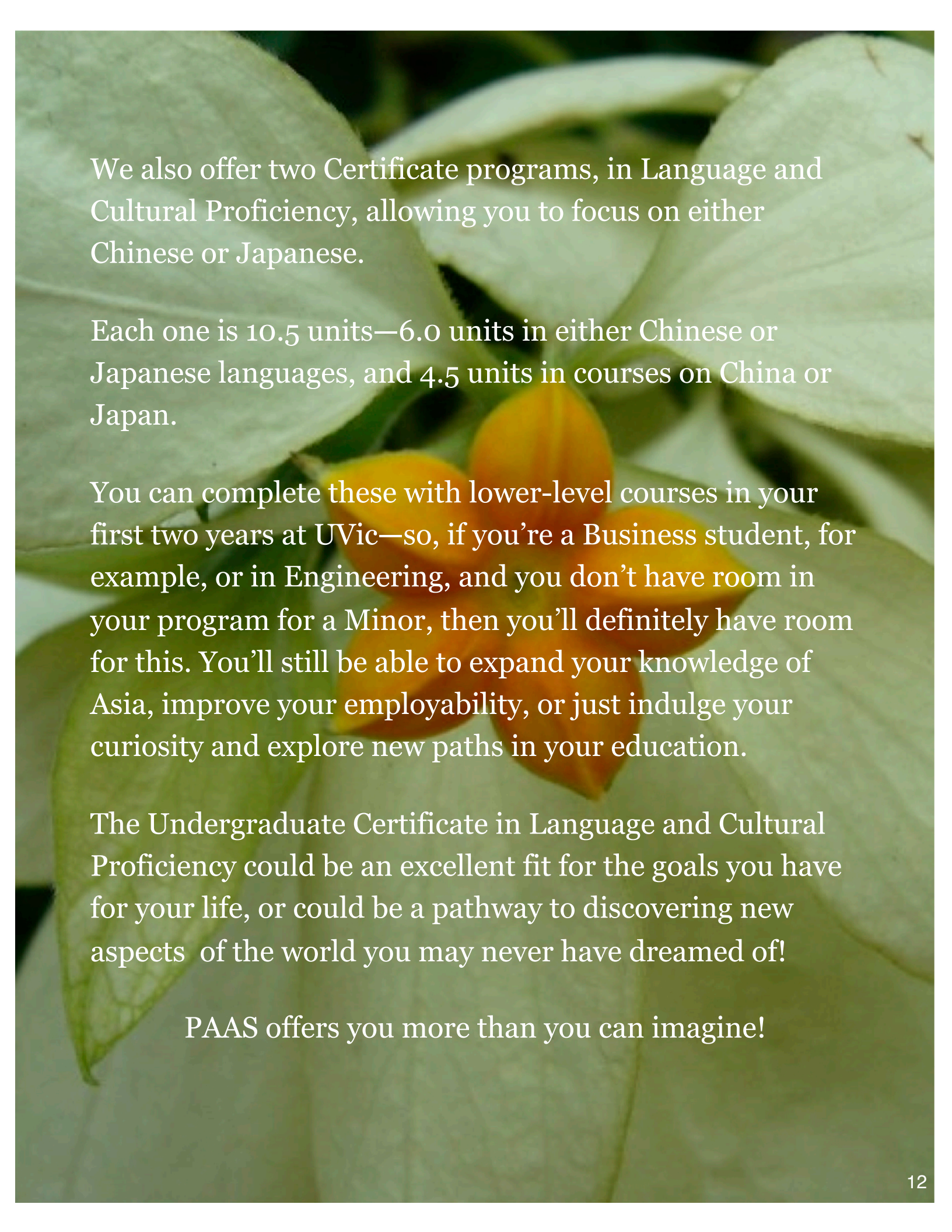
The rest of your courses—eight at the 3rd and 4th year level—are all your choice.

For the Honours program, you’ll do the same as the Majors, but you’ll add one extra 3rd or 4th year course, as well as PAAS 499, Honours Thesis.

We have four General/Minor programs to choose from—Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies, Southeast Asian Studies, or Pacific and Asian Studies. They have a bit less language than the Majors (the PAAS Minor doesn’t have language at all), there are fewer core courses, and there are fewer course requirements in total, too.

You can combine a Major with one of our Minors, or with a Minor in another program, to make your university degree as interesting to you as you want!





We also offer two Certificate programs, in Language and Cultural Proficiency, allowing you to focus on either Chinese or Japanese.

Each one is 10.5 units—6.0 units in either Chinese or Japanese languages, and 4.5 units in courses on China or Japan.

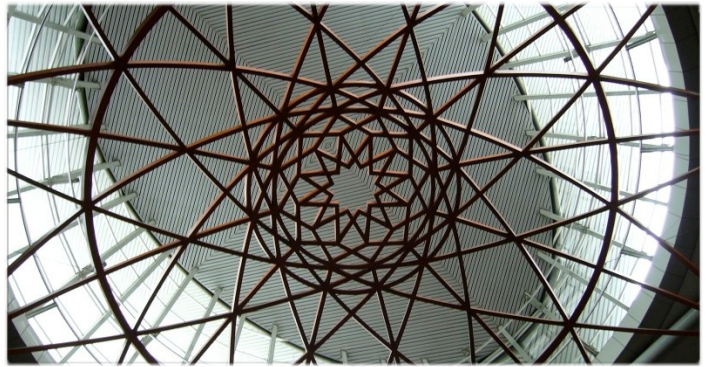
You can complete these with lower-level courses in your first two years at UVic—so, if you're a Business student, for example, or in Engineering, and you don't have room in your program for a Minor, then you'll definitely have room for this. You'll still be able to expand your knowledge of Asia, improve your employability, or just indulge your curiosity and explore new paths in your education.

The Undergraduate Certificate in Language and Cultural Proficiency could be an excellent fit for the goals you have for your life, or could be a pathway to discovering new aspects of the world you may never have dreamed of!

PAAS offers you more than you can imagine!




# WHAT KIND OF COURSES DOES PAAS OFFER?



A university education is built on a solid foundation of courses—and there are dozens of courses to choose from in Pacific and Asian Studies. You'll get academic training in the Humanities: skills you'll be able to bring to your other courses, as well as to carry with you through your life.





We offer lots of courses on a huge range of subjects related to Asia. Most of our courses are taught in English—but of course our language courses are taught in either Chinese, Indonesian, or Japanese, and give you great training in an Asian language.

- If you like literature and texts, try some of these:

—PAAS 101, Text, Manipulation, Propaganda: discover how everything from TV commercials to poetry to propaganda to kung fu movies work...

—PAAS 353, Survey of Classical Chinese Literature: literally thousands of years of literary development, from poetry to prose and everything in between...

—PAAS 356, The Literature of the People's Republic of China: themes in contemporary Chinese writing, from the creation of the PRC till today.

—PAAS 370, Indonesian Literature: translations of the best novels and short fiction from Indonesia.

—PAAS 371, Narrating Southeast Asia: Novels, Films, and History: putting narratives into their historical context, pointing towards the future.

—PAAS 385, Love and Sex in Japanese Culture: *wait till you're over eighteen!*

—PAAS 386, Premodern Japanese Literature: ever wonder why you were forced to write haiku?

Take this course to discover how beautiful haiku can really be!

—PAAS 388, Modern Japanese Literature: fascinating, stuff, from images of corrupted Nature to social alienation and personal redemption...

—PAAS 488, Japanese Fantasy: creating other worlds inside the mind...

- Prefer theatre? Then have a look at:

—PAAS 373, The Theatre of Indonesia: puppets, gamelan, and more!

—PAAS 393, Premodern Japanese Theatre: Noh, ghosts, demons, and gods...

—PAAS 486, Modern Japanese Theatre: modern ghosts, demons, and gods!


- Interested in film?

—PAAS 202, Topics in Asian Cinema: themes and ways of seeing from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan...

—PAAS 357, Topics in Contemporary Chinese Cinema: from wu xia to postmodern experimentation...

—PAAS 393, Humanism in Japanese Cinema: personal choice, social responsibility, and creating meaning through action—in glorious black and white!





—PAAS 487, Trends in Japanese Cinema: feminism, power, individualism, and really cool music—even a few ghosts, just for fun.

- Plenty to choose from for history, religion, or culture, too!

—PAAS 150 and 151, Aspects of Chinese Culture I and II: from bone script to capitalism with a socialist face—China has it all.

—PAAS 170 and 171, Southeast Asian Culture and Societies I and II: how does the world's largest Muslim population really live—find out here!

—PAAS 180 and 181, Premodern and Modern Japan: everything from samurai to anime, and training in academic skills, too.

—PAAS 204, Introduction to Asian Religions: Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism: shaping the ideas of Asia for 3000 years...

—PAAS 205 Indigenous peoples in the Indo-Pacific Region: find out how seafaring peoples separated by thousands of kilometres of open ocean can be interconnected...

—PAAS 295, Islam in the Asia-Pacific: local influences and adaptation in one of the world's most important belief systems.

—PAAS 350, Chinese Economy, Politics, and Culture: markets, internationalism, and the Great Firewall of China, all under one roof...

—PAAS 380, Japanese Economy, Politics, and Culture: does manga really influence the Japanese economy (Hint: yes!)

- Linguistics, too:

—PAAS 279, Introduction to the Chinese Language and Linguistics: systems of speaking, systems of thinking, intertwined in daily life.

—PAAS 289, Introduction to the Japanese Language and Linguistics: social stratification and its relationship to language...

- And many, many more, as well as a wide range of courses in the Chinese and Japanese languages.

- Have a look at our Web site for more:

<http://web.uvic.ca/pacificasia>



# WHAT ARE SOME COURSE CHOICES?



Choosing courses to take is one of the most exciting parts of being a student—true, there are requirements you have to get through, but the best thing about PAAS is that *you* get to choose courses that interest you. *You* build your program from the courses *you* want—you get to study Asia for *your own* reasons. What are your choices?





Generally, we recommend a few steps along the way to completing your degree. These recommendations help you accomplish the program requirements quickly and smoothly, so you can build on the foundation they give you.

- In your first year, we recommend that you get started on some key courses: your first-year language courses, in either Chinese or Japanese. These are important for everything you'll do with your studies of Asia—they help you understand the ways of communicating, thinking, and interacting in a variety of Asian contexts. Choose a language, and start making it your own.

We also suggest that you complete PAAS 100 and 200 early in your time with us; you can do these courses together in the same semester if you want to accelerate your education, or take them in sequence in your first year. Doing these courses early will help you expand your horizons and develop your own interests for the other courses you'll do with us.

- In your first and second years, take some of our first-year culture courses, to help you determine how Asian countries have influenced each other, in terms of their arts, literature, ideologies, religions, and philosophies—these courses introduce aspects of Asia that you'll encounter in other courses in much deeper ways, so they give you a great starting point for thinking about how *you* want to explore Asia in your own way.

Look into our other first- and second-year courses, too, on Texts and Propaganda, Topics in Asian Film, Asian Religions, and much more—for preparation for your Major, or for your interest. You'll discover new ways of thinking about ideas that have thousands of years of development behind them, but which still shape the world around us today.



In your second, third, and fourth years, you'll be able to take courses centred on one specific country, or which incorporate aspects and themes from Asia as a whole. We have courses on Japanese literature, Chinese theatre, Indonesian Cinema, religions and philosophies of Asia, globalisation, capitalism, intellectual history, social issues, Japanese animation, and much more.

- We recommend taking courses on a single country, to give you a deep knowledge of that country's history and forms of self-conception and expression, but we also recommend taking a thematic approach to your education—if you're interested in Asian cinema, we offer courses that will allow you to see how similar themes are handled in many different ways in China, Japan, or Indonesia. Literature? Have a look at how Chinese models influenced and grew in pre-modern Japan by taking courses on the pre-modern lit of both those countries. Interested in how globalisation affects Asia as a whole, to make it more tightly integrated with itself and other parts of the world? We offer courses that allow you to explore exactly this.

Whichever path you choose—getting a focussed, specialised in-depth knowledge of one particular country, or an integrated, general overview of Asia as a whole, your education will enrich you and prepare you for where your studies of Asia will take you.





# WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A DEGREE IN PAAS?



An education has tremendous intrinsic value for itself, but you can easily combine your interests with your career. Your degree in Pacific and Asian Studies can open a huge range of career options for you—dream it, and we'll help you do it. What sort of career options, you ask? Well...



*Anything!* We give you a solid foundation to help you think about your future. Our language courses help you understand how Asian languages work, to prepare you for a career as an interpreter or translator—we focus on communication and student-centred learning, to help you succeed as completely and as quickly as possible. We have exchange programs in China, Taiwan, Indonesia, and in Japan to help you immerse yourself in Asia to accelerate your language and cultural studies, and to give you direct experience that makes your resume stand out from the crowd.

Our courses train you in research, analytical thinking, problem solving, and writing—these are incredibly important skills for almost any job—from accounting to marketing to law to politics to working for aid organisations, civil rights groups, immigration societies, or other non-governmental organisations.

Graduates from our department have made great careers for themselves in the Canadian military, in banking, in government, as lawyers, as teachers, as scholars—in every field and in countries all over the world.

Your degree in Pacific and Asian Studies can combine with a Minor or Major in another field to make your skills even more impressive.

*There are no limits to what you can do with your degree in PAAS—if you can imagine it, we can help you do it!*





# DO YOU WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN?



Education isn't just about academics—it's about forming a relationship with the world around you. Part of that comes from meeting people and making friends who share your interests and who can give you new ideas and points of view. You can meet people in class, but you can also join the Pacific and Asian Studies Students' Society.



During your time with us, join the Pacific and Asian Studies Students' Society to meet people with the same interests and dreams that you have —PASSS puts on events all year round, like movie nights, tours to galleries, Lunar New Year dinners, and even the Asian Language Speech Contest. PASSS members can help you with your studies, can help you decide whether an exchange is right for you, and which one, can help you get to know Victoria if you're new here, and can basically make you feel welcome, comfortable, and at home in the department and the university.

*Want to guarantee a great time at UVic? Join PASSS!*





# READY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PAAS ?



Come to our Website:

<http://web.uvic.ca/pacificasia/index.php>

Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Uvic-Department-of-Pacific-and-Asian-Studies/256574484365341>

© 2012 Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, University of Victoria

Photographs copyright Timothy Iles





Asia's past isn't stuck in the past—the living traditions of the Pacific-Asian region are visible in every aspect of life. Festivals, celebrations, and rituals mark the passage of time, from season to season, but there are thousands of ideas and customs that fill the every-day world of Asia, too. Pacific and Asian Studies will show you things you've never dreamed of.



# The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies

*Faculty of Humanities  
University of Victoria  
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada*

