Regional Studies—East Asia
Student Guide

Regional Studies—East Asia (RSEA) is the oldest East Asian studies Master's degree program in the United States, with a history of more than sixty years. RSEA is a competitive program that provides basic preparation for specialization in the languages and societies of East Asia, both for future doctoral candidates and for those preparing for nonacademic careers.

Many senior scholars of East Asia at leading universities around the world were trained in RSEA. Historically, about a third of our degree recipients have gone on to pursue higher degrees in academia, while the career paths of the remainder are diverse, in keeping with the variety of academic interests of RSEA students. Some work in government or international agencies, or find employment in business or finance, both in the U.S. and East Asia. Others go on to various professional schools. RSEA has also provided specialized training in East Asian studies for journalists, management consultants, NGO employees, museum curators, high school teachers, and many others in the nonprofit or private sectors. RSEA regularly attracts students from the Japanese Foreign Ministry and, from time to time, similar agencies in other countries, as well as Foreign Area Officers in the U.S. military.

This Guide provides basic information on the academic aspects of the program, along with more specific advice and guidelines to help make students' experience of the program more productive and enjoyable.

With warm welcome,

Michael Szonyi, Chair
Karen Thornber, DGS
Administration of the Program

The RSEA program is overseen by a Chair, a Director of Graduate Studies, and the Standing Committee appointed by the Dean of Humanities in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. The Committee consists of faculty in East Asian Studies from a number of academic departments.

The Committee reviews all applications to the program and establishes and upholds the standards for degree candidates. In addition, the Committee meets during the year to review the academic progress of students and discuss matters of academic concern.

The Program Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the program, oversees the academic life of RSEA students, and serves as a liaison to Harvard offices that deal with admissions, financial aid, registration, housing, and other key elements of student life.

Since RSEA is part of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS), it is governed by its policies and procedures. These are found in the GSAS Handbook, which is available at gsas.harvard.edu. It is the responsibility of each student to conform to GSAS requirements and be aware of the information contained in the GSAS Handbook.

Students meet at least once each semester with the RSEA Program Administrator to review their course selection and progress toward fulfilling RSEA requirements, and to discuss any other issues related to the program. If any questions or problems arise, students are urged to take them up promptly with the RSEA Administrator, who is always ready and willing to provide information or advice.
The Practical

The Program Administrator and Staff Assistant have offices at 1730 Cambridge Street, Suite 105 (aka CGIS-S105). This is home base for all RSEA students. The office is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, throughout the year, and students are welcome at any time.

All RSEA students are given a mailbox in the mailroom (1730 Cambridge Street, Room 156), where they may receive messages, professional mail and other Harvard materials. Students should collect their mail regularly.

Your Harvard email account will be used for official communications, so you should make every effort to monitor it daily. We encourage students to use their Harvard email account to correspond within Harvard, since non-Harvard emails are often filtered. Harvard’s spam filters can be overzealous and will filter legitimate as well as illegitimate emails. We recommend you review your quarantined emails daily.

Harvard websites provide students with up-to-date information and news. The RSEA website (rsea.fas.harvard.edu) is a primary resource for programmatic questions and needs, including a calendar displaying key RSEA deadlines. In addition to providing an overview of the Graduate School, the GSAS website (gsas.harvard.edu) is a valuable source of information on all aspects of student life. It includes links to the GSAS Office of Student Affairs, the Graduate Student Center in Dudley House, listings of all student organizations including the Graduate Student Council, and the monthly GSAS Bulletin.

Students should also familiarize themselves with the FAS Registrar’s website (registrar.fas.harvard.edu), where they can find the Courses of Instruction. The Registrar’s Graduate Records Office is responsible for processing petitions to add or drop a course, cross-register, apply for the degree, etc. Forms for these and many other purposes may be obtained on the website. Many forms require a signature from the RSEA Administrator, and should be brought to the RSEA office well in advance of the deadline.

HMDC Harvard (in the basement of CGIS-N Knafel) offers computer facilities and an onsite help desk. Students with a valid ID may register to use the computer lab during its extended business hours. Printing at a reasonable cost is also available.

Your Harvard ID may also be used to make copies or to purchase items, including food from Harvard dining services. You can add money to your Crimson Cash account much like a debit card through the website (cash.harvard.edu).

The RSEA program has an assigned Financial Aid Officer at GSAS, Ms. Lisa Simpson, (617/ 495-5315), who assists students on a one-to-one basis with all financial issues, including advice on various loan programs, fellowship applications, and work-study.
**Academic Advising**

On entering the RSEA program, each student is assigned an academic adviser. All RSEA advisers are Harvard faculty with a specialty in East Asia whose academic interests are matched as closely as possible to those expressed in the student’s application. While questions about program logistics and requirements should generally be addressed to the Program Administrator, all students should meet with their academic advisers before the end of the first week of classes to discuss the academic aspects of their study plan and to have their study card signed.

The academic adviser remains constant throughout the student’s course of study, unless the student changes the focus of his/her interest and requests a new adviser or the adviser is on leave and cannot continue advising the student. Students are also free to consult with any member of the faculty with interests relevant to their own. Most Harvard faculty are very happy to give their time to discuss topics of mutual interest, and students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. If possible students should try to meet faculty during their office hours, but if this is not possible faculty will usually try to find another time to meet.

The academic adviser may or may not also be the student’s A.M. thesis adviser, depending on the choice of thesis topic. Thesis advisers are chosen by mutual agreement between student and faculty members. The thesis adviser is generally a faculty member whose academic field or area of interest coincides with that of the student’s thesis topic. Students should provide their thesis adviser with information and deadlines regarding the RSEA thesis process. Regular discussion is vital to the successful completion of the thesis.

Last, but not least, the RSEA Chair and DGS are also available to meet with RSEA students in formal and informal venues to advise and guide them during their time at Harvard.

**Bureau of Study Counsel (BSC)**

The Bureau, located at 5 Linden Street, covers both academic concerns and personal growth. From the Harvard Reading Course, ESL Peer Counseling, and Workshops to confidential consultation, the BSC helps graduate and undergraduate students gain perspective on their academic life. Its website (bsc.harvard.edu) is full of valuable information.

**Degree Requirements**

To receive the A.M. in Regional Studies—East Asia, a student must satisfy the requirements established by GSAS for all master’s degree candidates as well as those additionally determined by the RSEA Committee. The RSEA requirements include course requirements, the language requirements, the residency requirement, and the thesis requirement.
Course Requirements:

By the time they graduate, most RSEA students complete significantly more than the minimum of eight RSEA-approved courses (and in many cases as many as sixteen). This summary of the basic course requirements necessary for the A.M. degree indicates the minimum expectations of the RSEA Committee.

All A.M. graduates must successfully meet the following requirements:

• A minimum of eight courses of which six are East Asian studies courses. East Asian studies courses are defined as courses where a minimum of 51% of the course material is focused on East Asia. Courses that focus solely or primarily on East Asia automatically qualify for RSEA East Asian course credit. Other courses that may count for RSEA East Asian course credit are those that deal with East Asia as part of a broader context as well as courses that provide the theoretical underpinnings of a particular discipline, such as anthropology, comparative literature, or history. For such courses to count for East Asian course credit, the student’s final paper or project should deal with East Asia. If the East Asian focus of a course is not clearly stated in the course title, students must submit a petition (template is available at rsea.fas.harvard.edu) to the RSEA Program Administrator by the end of the semester that the course is taken, for approval by the RSEA Committee.

• A minimum of six Harvard FAS courses. RSEA students are also free, within GSAS guidelines, to take up to two courses per semester (no more than half their enrollment) through cross-registration at other schools.

• No more than two language courses may be used to meet the eight course requirement; such courses must be at least at the fourth-year level in the case of the student’s primary East Asian language, or in the case of the student’s secondary East Asian language, these courses must be at least at the second-year level. Students are not required to include language courses in the A.M. program of study.

• One reading and research course, RSEA 300 or RSEA 399 or a 300-level course from another department, may be taken for course credit. However, students may only receive credit for work on a paper or piece of research that has not already received course credit.

Students who are unclear about the requirements of the program should consult the Program Administrator.

Course Selection

RSEA students may choose their courses from among the many varied offerings of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the other schools at Harvard, MIT, and the Fletcher School of Diplomacy at Tufts University. Many FAS departments offer courses in East Asian studies, as does the undergraduate General Education program (GenEd). Most of these courses are available to graduate students.
Graduate students may take undergraduate General Education (GenEd) courses, which often have special section meetings limited to graduate students and/or separate requirements, including more substantial paper(s) and separately graded examinations. Students should discuss their intentions with their RSEA academic adviser and ensure that the course instructor is aware they are taking the course for graduate credit. Students are required to report to the RSEA Administrator within the first two weeks of the semester that they are taking an undergraduate course for graduate credit. While there is no formal limit on the number of undergraduate courses that may be taken, students are discouraged from taking more than one or at most two courses per semester.

The Course of Instruction contains two RSEA 300 level courses in independent reading and research (RSEA 300 and RSEA 399). Students enrolling in one of these courses should have a well-defined plan of study and are required to submit a petition to the RSEA office for the Committee's approval; the petition outlines the proposed course of research and is signed by the faculty member under whose supervision the work is undertaken.

RSEA students may also take departmental Reading and Research graduate courses (e.g., Anthropology 300, Government 300, Chinese 300, etc.) under the supervision of a member of the relevant department. However, only one 300 level course may be used to fulfill degree requirements.

Students’ course selection is not limited solely to courses on East Asia, and they are encouraged, where appropriate, to take courses outside the East Asian field. For example, a student interested in Japanese emigration to South America might study Spanish or Portuguese, or a student working on Chinese poetry might take a seminar on European poetics in the Department of Comparative Literature. Although such courses do not count toward the six East Asian courses required by the program (see below), they are a common part of the RSEA experience.

Students have a week of shopping period to decide on the courses they propose to take (my.harvard.edu) and to file their printed and signed study cards at the end of the first week of classes at Dudley House in Harvard Yard. Study cards are to be signed by students’ academic advisers, so students should plan ahead. Only under extraordinary circumstances will the RSEA Administrator sign on behalf of the academic adviser. Students must bring copies of their signed study cards to the RSEA office by Study Card Day.

**Language requirements:**

In order to satisfy the RSEA language requirement, students must satisfactorily complete an East Asian language course at Harvard at the third-year level or above OR demonstrate equivalent proficiency through language placement tests administered by the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations (EALC).
All students entering the RSEA program with some East Asian language background who have not previously taken language courses at Harvard are required to take a placement test, which is designed to assist the teachers of the language programs in placing students in the most appropriate course or, in the case of students who qualify to take courses at the fourth year level or above, to enable students to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the RSEA language requirement.

Ordinarily these tests include written, aural comprehension, and oral elements and may vary according to the level of placement being sought. However, specific details about the tests are not made available, nor are the tests published. These tests are not examinations. Instead, they are intended primarily to facilitate the placement process. Occasionally students may find after classes begin that the recommended assignment is not the best fit for them; it is always possible to discuss reassignment with the language teachers.

Students without prior language background will ordinarily have to devote a total of six half-courses (i.e., six semester-length courses) to mastering an East Asian language to the required third-year level. In order to satisfy the language requirement and complete the degree within the standard two years, students often undertake an intensive second-year summer program between their first and second years, at the Harvard Summer School or another approved program. Students engaging in language study away from Harvard should plan to take a placement test when they return. RSEA itself has no funding for summer study; however, we encourage students to apply for funding from area centers (e.g., the Asia Center, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Korea Institute, and Reischauer Institute for Japanese Studies) and from outside sources, including FLAS fellowships, which are administered by Harvard. If appropriate, students should specify in their funding applications that the language study is required to fulfill the RSEA degree requirement.

Language courses below the fourth year may not be counted toward the six RSEA-required courses in East Asian studies. Chinese 106a/b, Chinese 107a/b, and Chinese 142a/b cannot be used toward the six East Asia required courses. However, because of its third-year Japanese prerequisite, Japanese 106a/b/c can be used to meet the six course requirement.

Native speakers of an East Asian language who have received an academic degree (high school or above) in their native language are exempt from the requirement to demonstrate proficiency, except in cases where the language of academic focus is not the student's native language (e.g., a native speaker of Japanese whose academic field is in Chinese studies should take the Chinese language placement test).

Non-native speakers of English admitted to the RSEA program may find English as a Second Language (ESL) courses useful. GSAS provides information on ESL courses, and the Bureau of Study Counsel (5 Linden Street, bsc.harvard.edu) offers ESL Peer Consulting and has been of help to many of our students in the past. Please visit the respective websites for additional information. ESL courses may not be used to fulfilled RSEA degree requirements.
Residence:

The RSEA program ordinarily entails two full academic years in residence. The minimum GSAS requirement for A.M. candidates is one year of full-time residence at the full tuition rate. During the one year of full-time residence, students must follow an RSEA-approved plan of study, pay the required tuition costs; and make satisfactory academic progress by maintaining at least a B- average.

Students should be aware that Massachusetts Law requires medical insurance coverage for all Massachusetts residents, including students.

After the first year of residence, some RSEA students may choose — with the prior approval of the Committee — to spend time away from campus as a Traveling Scholar to do primary research for their thesis or to study language. Please see the GSAS website for more details and the required form. Note that Traveling Scholars are charged for health insurance each semester unless they submit a waiver request.

Thesis:

All RSEA degree candidates must complete a thesis.

The minimum thesis standards for the RSEA A.M. degree are:

- The thesis should demonstrate original research and/or fresh interpretation and should employ a significant degree of original sources in one or more East Asian languages.
- The thesis should demonstrate the candidate’s familiarity with previous scholarship related to the subject matter.
- The thesis should follow the appropriate scholarly format and include proper scholarly apparatus, including footnotes and bibliography (for standard guidelines, see The Form of the PhD Dissertation on the GSAS website).
- The typical thesis is approximately 60 to 80 pages in length or of a length deemed appropriate by the student’s thesis adviser.

You are encouraged to think about your thesis topic as early as possible, and certainly before the end of the first year of study. It is especially important for those planning to apply to doctoral programs to be able to show a record of completed research before the fall term application deadlines.

The A.M. thesis often begins as a seminar paper. Since theses are substantially longer than most seminar papers, seminar papers generally need to be significantly revised if they are to meet the RSEA Committee’s requirements for a thesis.
In cases where the A.M. thesis is developed de novo and does not grow out of a previous paper or course for which credit has been received, students can enroll in the RSEA 300 course designed specifically for this purpose (see above), under the direction of an appropriate faculty member. Students choosing this option can receive one course credit towards the basic RSEA course requirement.

Students may also choose to develop a new thesis independently, without enrolling in an RSEA 300 course, but in this case they should nonetheless remain in consultation with their thesis adviser while developing the topic.

If all other requirements for the A.M. degree have been met (residence, language, and RSEA-approved courses), it is possible to work on the thesis while no longer resident in the program.

Students should discuss their choice of topic with their RSEA academic adviser and their thesis adviser when the thesis adviser is not the academic adviser. All students are required to attend the RSEA thesis workshops and are expected to observe the Committee’s specified deadline for completion of the thesis. Note that this deadline is different than the FAS dissertation submission date. Late submission of a thesis will result in a delay in graduation.

All A.M. theses are evaluated by at least two readers designated by the RSEA Committee. Typically the first reader is the thesis adviser. The Committee selects the second reader, normally another faculty member with academic interests close to those of the thesis topic; students may make suggestions to the Committee on the designation of their second reader. Students are required to submit one hard copy and one PDF of the completed thesis to the RSEA Committee. Adhering to the guidelines outlined above should assist students with preparing their theses and minimize the possibility of rejection of a thesis submitted for the degree.

Eligibility for the degree depends on the final acceptance of the thesis by the two readers designated by the Committee.

A formal grade for the A.M. thesis is not awarded; the thesis is simply deemed acceptable or unacceptable for degree purposes. However, the RSEA Committee maintains its own internal grading system, and depending on the practice of individual thesis readers, students may also expect comments from the faculty member under whose direction the thesis is written. Outstanding theses may be nominated by their readers for the Joseph Fletcher Memorial Award, an annual prize given by the Committee for the best A.M. thesis.

The RSEA A.M. thesis is a part of the academic record and is deposited in the Harvard archive.

**Progress to degree**
The RSEA committee reviews the progress of all students each semester. Students must maintain at least a B- average to remain in satisfactory standing. Students whose academic progress is deemed unsatisfactory for more than one semester may be asked to withdraw from the program. In order to be eligible for financial aid, students must be in satisfactory standing.

Students receiving an Incomplete for a course are expected to clear the Incomplete as soon as possible, and at the very latest, by the end of the following semester, as stipulated by GSAS. Students with more than two Incompletes in any semester will be put in unsatisfactory status, which may compromise their funding. Also, any student with an outstanding Incomplete is not permitted to take more than four courses in a semester.

**One-Year A.M. Degree:**

In rare cases, students with a substantial language and East Asian studies background may submit a petition to the Committee to complete the requirements for the degree in a single year or, more commonly, in three semesters.

Students intending to complete the A.M. degree in one year must have the permission of the RSEA Chair; this permission is granted via a signed petition, submitted at the beginning of the academic year. The petition can be found on the RSEA website and should be accompanied by a list of the eight courses the student plans to take during the academic year. The student must ensure that together the eight courses fulfill the RSEA course requirements.

**Fellowships, Grants, and Prizes**

Harvard’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is predominantly a Ph.D. granting institution, and many of the fellowships and other financial awards it grants or administers are focused on Ph.D. students. However, we encourage RSEA students to apply for fellowships and other financial support. The GSAS Fellowships Office ([http://www.gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/fellowships_office.php](http://www.gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/fellowships_office.php)) is extensive, including a special section on fellowships for first- and second-year graduate students. An RSEA student interested in applying for a grant administered through the Graduate School should make an appointment to meet with the GSAS Director of Fellowships.

**RSEA Program and Activities**

The wide variety of students’ interests, nationalities, and experiences provides a considerable source of enrichment for the program, and — since there are no compulsory courses in the RSEA program that automatically bring students together, and since RSEA students may be registered in widely scattered courses — the Committee does its best to create a sense of community for students in the program, both through the RSEA office and by organizing academic and social events that bring students together.
An orientation meeting and informal reception before classes begin introduces incoming students to the program and to each other, as well as to RSEA Committee members and other RSEA students. The RSEA office also organizes an introduction to East Asian library resources, a thesis-writing workshop, job-search and career advice, and student and social activities.

**Commencement**

Successful completion of these requirements allows the RSEA Committee to recommend a student for the degree of Master of Arts. All students who receive degrees in November, March, or May of any academic year may participate in the May commencement exercises. In late March, the GSAS Dean's Office posts information on the GSAS website about the commencement schedule, tickets, and academic regalia to all recipients of November or March degrees and all applicants for May degrees. Please carefully read all the information.

The RSEA Commencement Exhibit provides a venue for graduating RSEA students to share a photo, piece of art, an article, or some other piece of work that represents their experience in RSEA.

It is a longstanding RSEA tradition that graduating students, their families, and guests are invited to gather the day before commencement for an RSEA reception, at which A.M. recipients are congratulated, and the Joseph Fletcher Memorial Prizes are announced. Current students, faculty members, and alumni are most cordially invited. RSEA students, faculty members, and guests also gather at the GSAS commencement luncheon for final farewells.
East Asia Resources

Harvard offers unsurpassed resources in terms of faculty members, researchers, visiting scholars, guest lecturers, other visitors, and students who participate each year in a variety of both formal and informal activities — lectures, luncheon series, colloquia organized by various departments and committees, conferences, symposia, concerts and other performances, film screenings, and so on.

The Asia Bulletin is a calendar of upcoming Asia-related events, published weekly during the academic year by the Asia Center and distributed free by email. It is also available on the Asia Center website.

The RSEA office receives notices and information about many events, which are forwarded to students by email and/or posted on our bulletin boards along with notices about fellowships, job opportunities, and other items of interest.

Harvard Asia Quarterly (HAQ)

The Harvard Asia Quarterly is a professional academic journal of Asian studies affiliated with the Harvard University Asia Center. HAQ has historically been staffed in part by RSEA students, and it offers hands-on experience in a venue for excellent scholarship on Asia.

Harvard East Asia Society (HEAS)

Harvard East Asia Society is a GSAS student organization of which all RSEA students are automatically members. The HEAS arranges a variety of academic and social events during the academic year; most notable is the annual HEAS Conference.

Committee on Inner Asian and Altaic Studies (IAAS)

In addition to the doctoral program it supervises, the IAAS organizes a series of monthly luncheon speakers during the academic year as well as other events. It maintains a mailing list of Inner Asian scholars and students in the local area; interested RSEA students may add their names to the list and be notified of all Inner Asian events.

The Harvard-Yenching Library

The Harvard-Yenching Library, at 2 Divinity Avenue, is the third largest library within Harvard and holds one of the most distinguished collections in East Asian languages outside Asia itself. In addition to materials in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, it contains significant holdings in Manchu, Mongolian, Tibetan, Vietnamese, and Western languages. The library is both a subject collection on East Asia and a general collection of works in East Asian languages.
The library's collection exceeds 1.3 million volumes. It also receives 8,700 current periodicals and journals. Recent years have seen a rapid growth in the library's microfilm and microfiche collection to its present size of 115,000 items.

**Fung Library**

Located in CGIS-North, Fung Library collects resources and materials from many geographical regions including the Davis Center Russian and Eurasian collection, the Fairbank Center Library, and the Documentation Center on Contemporary Japan.

The Fairbank Library, curated by Nancy Hearst, has holdings focusing on hard to find Chinese materials and unpublished documents mainly on contemporary China. With approximately 30,000 volumes and 150 periodicals, it complements the Harvard-Yenching Library’s resources.

The Documentation Center on Contemporary Japan focuses mainly on contemporary journals and digital materials. Kazuko Sakaguchi is the current librarian.

Elsewhere within the University, the Harvard Law School Library possesses an excellent collection of legal materials on East Asia, especially on Japanese law and government, and the Harvard College Library maintains a comprehensive collection of Western works on Asia.

**Museums:**

The Harvard University Art Museums contain distinguished examples of the archaeology and fine arts of China, Japan, and Korea, housed in the Sackler Museum. The collections of ancient Chinese bronzes and jades, Buddhist sculptures, and Japanese wood block prints are among the finest in the world. The museum also houses an extensive library, a large slide collection, and a substantial photographic archive. Harvard’s Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology has long been a leading center for research in the anthropology as well as the archaeology of East Asia.

Outside the University, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts possesses collections of Chinese, Japanese, and Indian art that are among the finest in the world. The Essex Institute and the Peabody Museum of Salem provide excellent resources in Chinese numismatics and Japanese ethnology.

RSEA students taking East Asian courses in the History of Art and Architecture have opportunities to examine the Sackler’s collections at close hand, and some RSEA students have also been able to arrange independent study courses at the Museum of Fine Arts.
Centers

Founded in 1997, the Harvard Asia Center is designed to bring together faculty members and students from all of Harvard’s schools and programs. It is the focal point of interaction between the Harvard community and Asian intellectual, political, and business circles. It is an intellectual meeting ground for faculty members, students, and scholars from around the world who study China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and other Asian nations.

The John K. Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies grew out of two research programs launched in 1955, which in 1957 were consolidated into the East Asian Research Center (originally called the Center for East Asian Studies). The Center was renamed in 1977 to honor the retirement of its founder, John K. Fairbank. Its primary objective is to facilitate research and publications on China, with particular emphasis on contemporary issues; its premise is that China today can best be understood in light of its historical background and its geographical and cultural contexts. The center assists postdoctoral researchers who are preparing manuscripts for publication; the center also invites senior researchers from American and foreign institutions to work on selected projects.

The Korea Institute was established in 1975 under the aegis of the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research and became an autonomous unit in 1993. The Korea Colloquium brings national and international scholars to Harvard to discuss their current work on Korea; the Korea Current Affairs Forum brings nonacademic speakers to give presentations on current topics of interest concerning Korea. The Korea Institute also hosts special cultural events throughout the year to foster a greater understanding of Korea within the Harvard community and the general public, and it provides grants and scholarships to Harvard students, on the basis of scholastic merit, to support and encourage the study of Korea.

The Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, originally known as the Japan Institute, was established in 1973. An initial grant from the Japanese government through the Japan Foundation, together with subsequent Japanese corporate gifts, have assisted in the development and support of Japanese studies at Harvard University. The institute was renamed in 1985 in honor of its founder. It supports new teaching positions in Japanese studies; research, publications, library, and administrative costs related to institute programs; undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral fellowships and grants; and other activities designed to stimulate the study of Japan.

The Harvard-Yenching Institute is an independent, nonprofit corporation primarily concerned with education in Asia. Located at 2 Divinity Avenue, it sponsors publications, fellowships, and a program of visiting scholars from East Asia, making it a major contributor of resources and activities in East Asian studies at Harvard. The institute is a foundation and not a teaching organization. It publishes the Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies and supports the publication of various books through the Harvard University Press.
Harvard Employment Opportunities

Resident and Non-Resident Advising:
Opportunities occasionally arise to apply for positions as advisers, resident or non-resident, in the various undergraduate Houses; the competition for these positions is usually intense, but RSEA students interested in pursuing such possibilities are encouraged to approach the House(s) directly. RSEA students have occasionally had positions as resident advisers in the freshman dorms in Harvard Yard or, more commonly, in the graduate dorms. GSAS annually sends out information about applying for these positions.

Research Assistantships:
East Asia faculty sometimes offer students employment as Research Assistants (RAs) for projects which may or may not require specialized East Asian knowledge and vary in duration and weekly hours.

Student Employment Office:
The Student Employment Office (SEO) has listings of a wide variety of both on- and off-campus jobs, and students can also register their qualifications and availability on the SEO’s website, at www.seo.harvard.edu. The office maintains listings for both term-time and summer employment.

Teaching Fellowships:
RSEA students are not eligible for teaching appointments.

Work-Study:
Work-study is a federally funded employment program administered by the University and available to eligible students, through which the federal government pays the majority of the student’s wages and the employer pays the remainder. Students who do not qualify for financial aid may still be eligible for work-study; eligibility is determined in consultation with the RSEA-assigned Financial Aid Officer. Many campus jobs give priority to work-study eligible applicants. Work-study positions are listed at the Student Employment Office.

Other Employers:
Many students have found part-time employment at the Harvard-Yenching Library, the Fairbank Center, the Asia Center, and other center offices, both on a regular basis and for special events. Students should approach these offices directly.

Post-Graduation Employment:
The University’s Office of Career Services (OCS), at 54 Dunster Street, helps students find employment in their fields of expertise and has a graduate division that deals specifically with both government and private-sector employment. OCS has an extensive library of reference works, assists with resumes and interviewing techniques, and organizes a wide variety of workshops, programs, and talks during the course of the year. Students can also make appointments for individual job counseling.