



HSE UNIVERSITY
ST. PETERSBURG

RESEARCH
NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE OF ASIAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES

Bachelor's and Master's Programmes in Asian
and African Studies



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ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The Institute of Asian and African Studies at HSE University – St. Petersburg is a modern academic centre dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of Asia and Africa. It combines the traditions of the classical St. Petersburg school of Asian and African studies with contemporary approaches from the humanities and social sciences.

The Institute provides rigorous language training, deep regional expertise, and a broad understanding of political, economic, social, and cultural processes across Asia and Africa.

The Institute offers:

- Bachelor's programme in Asian and African Studies
- Master's programme in Cross-Cultural Studies of Asia and Africa in the Context of International Relations



Director of the Institute

Evgeny I. Zelenev

Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor

Asian and African Studies is more than a regional field of knowledge. It is a way of understanding languages, societies, cultures, political systems, and economic processes across two of the world's most dynamic and strategically important macro-regions.

At the core of this approach lies work with primary sources in Asian and African languages and the integration of linguistic, historical, cultural, political, and economic perspectives.

The Institute's mission is to train highly qualified specialists equipped to engage with Asian and African contexts in both academic and professional spheres. Our students develop deep regional expertise, strong analytical skills, and a broad international outlook.

As part of HSE University – St. Petersburg, the Institute combines strong academic traditions with contemporary educational standards, interdisciplinary teaching, and active international cooperation.

Institute's Departments

- Department of Japanese Studies
- Department of Chinese Studies
- Department of Korean Studies
- Department of Middle Eastern and African Studies
- Department of Southeast and South Asian Studies
- Department of International Relations and Political Processes in Asia and Africa
- Department of Public and Cultural
- Development in Asia and Africa

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

language training

regional expertise

global outlook

cross-cultural competence

interdisciplinary research

BACHELOR'S PROGRAMME

Asian and African Studies

The Bachelor's programme in Asian and African Studies provides intensive training in Asian languages alongside interdisciplinary study of history, politics, economics, religion, society, and culture.

The programme is designed for students seeking not only language proficiency, but also a deep understanding of the regions they study. It prepares graduates to analyse Asia and Africa in their historical depth and contemporary global significance.

Students develop the skills needed to work with primary sources, navigate cross-cultural contexts, and apply regional knowledge in academic, diplomatic, analytical, and business settings.



Academic Director

Maria A. Soloshcheva

PhD, Associate Professor



THE PROGRAMME OFFERS:

- **Comprehensive language training** in Asian and African languages
- **Interdisciplinary curriculum** combining philology, history, politics, economics, and cultural studies
- **Strong regional expertise** grounded in work with primary-language sources
- **Wide choice of academic specialisations**
- **International mobility opportunities**
- **Flexible academic trajectory**, including electives and minors
- **Preparation for careers** in diplomacy, business, analytics, education, and research

Study Format

Duration: 5 years, full-time

Languages of instruction: primarily Russian, with selected courses and academic activities in English

Language Tracks

Students are admitted to one of the following tracks:

- Arabic Studies
- Chinese Studies
- Indian Studies
- Indonesian Studies
- Japanese Studies
- Korean Studies
- Vietnamese Studies and their combinations.

ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

YEARS 1–2: FOUNDATION LEVEL

From the first year, students receive broad academic training in:

- Linguistics and literature
- Geography
- History
- Social and cultural anthropology

Students also select a minor offered by other faculties of Moscow and St. Petersburg Campuses of HSE University, including:

- Data Processing and Analysis / Data Science
- Personal and Behavioural Finance
- International Business
- Entrepreneurship and Start-ups etc.
- Creative Industries

YEARS 3–5: SPECIALISATION

From the third year onward, students choose one of six specialisations:

- Economics
- International Relations
- Political Science
- Sociology
- Philosophy and Religious Studies
- Culture and Art Studies

CURRICULUM

LANGUAGE TRAINING

The programme provides intensive instruction in both a first and a second Asian language.

FIRST LANGUAGE

1,580 contact hours

Year 1: foundational grammar, phonetics, and conversational practice

Year 2: language study integrated with regional history, geography, politics, economics, and culture

Year 3: specialised vocabulary, translation, and advanced grammar

Year 4: reading historical and contemporary texts; active conversational practice with native speakers

Year 5: professional communication, source analysis, and thesis defence in the target language

SECOND LANGUAGE

420 contact hours

Introduced in **Year 2**, the second language includes foundational grammar, phonetics, conversational practice, and regional vocabulary development.

AVAILABLE LANGUAGES (2026–2027)

FIRST LANGUAGE

- Arabic
- Chinese
- Japanese
- Korean
- Vietnamese

SECOND LANGUAGE

- Hebrew
- Indonesian
- Persian
- Turkish
- Hindi
- or any of the first languages listed above

EUROPEAN LANGUAGE

Students also study English in Years 1–2 and may choose a second European language from Year 3 onwards:

- French
- German
- Italian
- Spanish

AREAS OF STUDY

The academic curriculum includes courses in:

- History and philology
- Politics and international relations
- Economics of Asia and Africa
- Religions and worldview systems
- Social and cultural anthropology
- Culture, art, and digital heritage

LANGUAGE TRACKS IN FOCUS

ARABIC STUDIES

Arabic Studies opens the door to one of the world's most historically influential and strategically significant regions. Students explore the languages, societies, religions, political systems, and cultures of the Arab world and the wider Middle East and North Africa.

The programme includes training in Modern Standard Arabic, spoken varieties of Arabic, and classical texts, giving students access both to contemporary communication and to the rich intellectual heritage of the Arabic-speaking world.

Against the backdrop of expanding international cooperation between Russia and Arab countries, specialists with strong linguistic skills and regional expertise are increasingly in demand in diplomacy, business, education, and analytical work.

Milana Y. Ilyushina



Doctor of Historical Sciences,
Professor

Head of the Department of Middle
Eastern and African Studies

CHINESE STUDIES

To understand the world, one must understand the East. And to understand the East, one must listen to the rhythm of China.

China occupies a central place in today's world as one of the largest economies, oldest civilisations, and most influential political actors of the twenty-first century. Studying China means engaging with a cultural and intellectual tradition that continues to shape global developments.

The Chinese Studies track introduces students to the language, history, philosophy, political culture, and socio-economic development of China. Through language learning and interdisciplinary study, students gain insight into the logic of Chinese society and the ways in which tradition and innovation interact in contemporary China.

The programme enables students to gain insight into how the teachings of Confucius and Laozi coexist with digital society, and how ancient ideals inform the idea of a "Community with a shared future for mankind".



Maria A. Soloshcheva

PhD, Associate Professor

Head of the Department of Chinese Studies



JAPANESE STUDIES

Studying Japanese means entering a cultural world in which language, history, literature, and social values are closely intertwined. Alongside language training, students explore Japanese history, society, literature, and contemporary development.

Under the guidance of experienced faculty members, including practising interpreters and translators, students acquire both linguistic fluency and a deeper understanding of Japanese culture and communication.

The Japanese Studies track prepares students for careers in business, education, cultural institutions, translation, and international cooperation.



Olga V. Klimova

PhD, Associate Professor

Head of the Department of Japanese Studies

KOREAN STUDIES

Korean Studies offers students the opportunity to explore the language, culture, history, and contemporary development of the Korean Peninsula — a region where ancient traditions and modernity coexist in striking ways.

Students learn Korean as a language deeply shaped by context, social relations, and cultural nuance. At the same time, they engage with Korea's intellectual traditions, social structures, and role in global economic and technological processes.

The programme provides a strong foundation for further academic study and for careers requiring cross-cultural competence, regional expertise, and knowledge of contemporary Korea.



Maria A. Udavikhina

Acting Head of the Department of
Korean Studies



SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

Southeast Asia is one of the fastest-growing and most strategically significant regions in the world today. It is a major centre of economic development, logistics, investment, innovation, and cultural exchange.

This new track provides students with broad regional expertise through intensive training in three languages: Vietnamese, Chinese, and Indonesian. Students begin with Vietnamese as the core language of the track and, from the second year onward, choose either China or Indonesia as an additional area of specialisation.

The track combines language acquisition with the study of politics, economics, and culture, enabling students to understand Southeast Asia as an interconnected region shaped by complex local and global processes.

Periods of study abroad in Vietnam, China, and Indonesia form an integral part of the programme and broaden students' academic and professional horizons.

Graduates are well prepared for careers in government institutions, international business, think tanks, and academic research.



Nina V. Grigoryeva

PhD, Associate Professor

Head of the Department of Southeast and South Asian Studies

MASTER'S PROGRAMME

Cross-Cultural Studies of Asia and Africa in the Context of International Relations

Understanding Asia and Africa in a Global Context

The Master's programme **Cross-Cultural Studies of Asia and Africa in the Context of International Relations** offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Asia and Africa, combining regional expertise with advanced training in international relations, diplomacy, and cross-cultural communication.

Students examine political, economic, social, and cultural developments in Asian and African countries within the broader framework of global change. The programme equips graduates with both academic and practical competencies for careers in research, international cooperation, policy analysis, and expert practice.

As part of the **Institute of Asian and African Studies at HSE University – St. Petersburg**, the programme benefits from a strong academic environment, close integration of research and teaching, and active international cooperation.

Key focus areas:

regional expertise

language training

cross-cultural analysis

international relations

global transformations



Academic Director

Alena V. Korobochkina, PhD; akorobochkina@hse.ru

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

- **Interdisciplinary curriculum** combining area studies, international relations, political science, economics, and cultural studies
- **Advanced language** training in Asian and African languages
- **Cross-cultural perspective** on regional dynamics and global political processes
- **Flexible academic trajectory** with elective courses and individual study focus
- **Participation in research projects**, international conferences, and academic events
- **Internship opportunities** in diplomatic, analytical, and corporate settings

Study Format

Duration: 2 years, full-time

Languages of instruction: primarily Russian, with selected courses and academic activities in English

Specialisation Tracks

Students may choose between two academic pathways, depending on their professional interests and career goals.

Research Track

Human, Society and State in Asia and Africa as an Object of Cross-Cultural Studies

This track is designed for students interested in academic and research careers. It focuses on theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of societies, political systems, and state institutions in Asia and Africa, with particular attention to anthropological, philosophical, and socio-cultural perspectives.

Professional Track

Cross-Cultural Aspects of Political, Economic, Social and Ideological Transformations in Asia and Africa

This track focuses the applied analysis of contemporary political, economic, social, and ideological developments in Asia and Africa. It prepares students for professional careers in international relations, diplomacy, political risk analysis, and strategic consulting.

AREAS OF STUDY

The curriculum includes courses in:

- Contemporary Theories of International Relations
- Cross-Cultural Research Methodology
- Afro-Asian World in Global Politics
- Political Systems and Ideologies of Asian and African Countries
- Socio-Economic Development of Asia and Africa
- Cross-Cultural Communication in International Relations
- Intellectual and Religious Traditions of the East
- Research Seminar "Current Issues of Afro-Asian Studies"

LANGUAGE TRAINING

The programme offers language training tailored to students' proficiency levels and academic interests. Available languages include:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- Hebrew
- Hindi
- Indonesian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Persian
- Turkish
- Vietnamese

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

International Experience

The programme offers a range of international opportunities, including:

- short-term placements (1–2 weeks)
- long-term placements (4–10 months)
- multi-country placements linked to both first and second language regions

Students may study or complete internships in:

- Arab countries, including Egypt, the UAE, and Oman
- China
- Israel
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Turkey
- Vietnam

Partner Universities

HSE University – Saint Petersburg collaborates with an extensive global network of over 100 universities around the world. Our top partners include:

- Ajman University (UAE)
- Akita International University (Japan)
- Alexandria University (Egypt)
- Beijing Normal University (China)
- Bogazici University (Turkey)
- East China Normal University (China)
- Fudan University (China)
- Kwansei University (Japan)
- Kyung Hee University (Republic of Korea)
- Nizwa University (Oman)
- Seoul National University (Republic of Korea)
- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel)
- Tokyo International University (Japan)
- Universitas Indonesia
- Vietnam National University, Hanoi (Vietnam)

CAREER PATHS OF ALUMNI

Graduates are successfully employed in:

Diplomacy and international relations

International business and trade

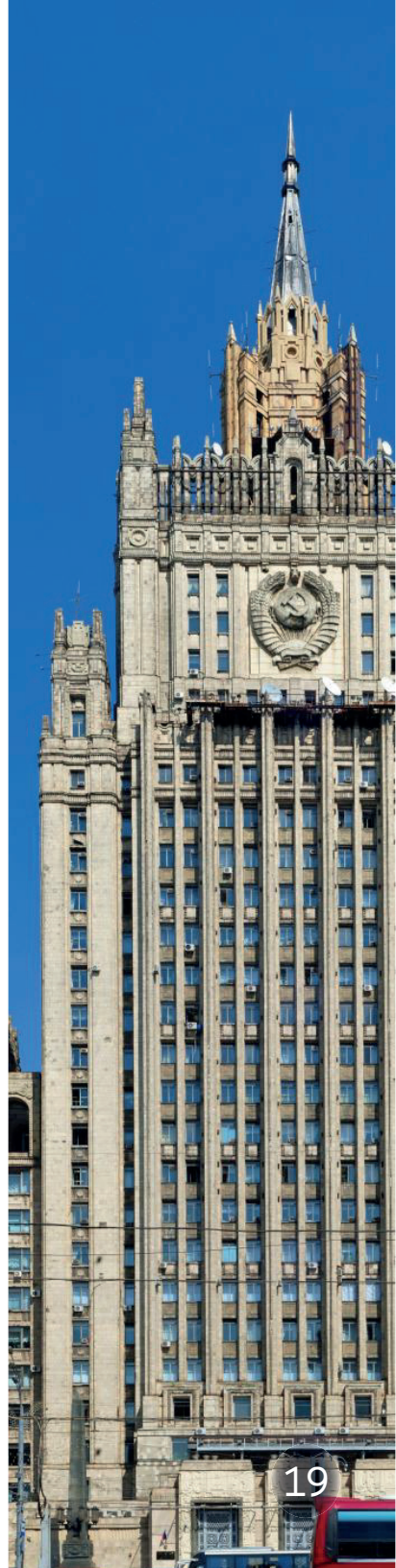
Academic research and education

Communications, media, and cultural expertise

Think tanks and analytical centres

Strategic consulting and political risk analysis

Media and public expertise



CONTACT INFORMATION

ACADEMIC OFFICE: +7 (812) 644-59-11, ext. 61272

Today, in the age of digital technology and artificial intelligence, **oriental studies are still in fashion**, just as they were 10, 20 and 50 years ago.

Bachelor Programme



spb.hse.ru/ba/oriental/

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

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Master Programme



spb.hse.ru/ma/crosscultura

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For more information about the Institute, programmes, and admissions, please visit: spb.hse.ru/en/iaas/