

Master of Arts in China-US Relations

M.A. in China-US Relations

Application Checklist

- UH Hilo Graduate application form
- \$50 Application fee
- Personal statement
- Three letters of recommendation
- Official transcripts from all colleges or universities (must be received directly from the institution, or in a sealed envelope if submitted with your application)
- Transcripts from international institutions must be submitted to a transcript evaluation service. See list of evaluation agencies at: www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/graduate/
- Official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score, General Test [UH Hilo code: 4869]

For International Applicants:

- Official TOEFL score report, if required
- Verification of financial status

www.uhh.hawaii.edu/admissions/intl_students08.pdf

(Documents should be submitted directly to the Admissions Office)

Priority deadlines: February 1: Fall Semester

November 1: Spring Semester

Program Purpose

The Master of Arts in China-US Relations at UH Hilo is a 30-credit program designed to provide students with an interdisciplinary, liberal arts background in Chinese culture and its relation to the United States' role in Pacific affairs. It will prepare the student for a broad spectrum of professions such as international education, business and tourism, government, cultural exchange and international service in China and the Pacific region.

The program aims to promote China-US cultural communication. It provides a forum for dialogue and understanding between the United States and the Chinese people. United States' students will study various aspects of Chinese civilization and see the United States from the Chinese perspective, while Chinese students will learn about United States' culture and see China from a Pacific Rim perspective.

Program Emphasis

This program will focus on the cross-cultural study of China-US relations. It will emphasize three key areas of study as China is emerging as an international power in the new millennium.

1. United States' perceptions of China's Historical and Cultural Traditions.

While considerable emphasis is placed on China's turbulent modern history, students also study, in depth, China's cultural, philosophical and religious traditions. Students learn about China from Confucian, Taoist and Buddhist as well as modern perspectives. This learning provides a context for review of prevailing perceptions of China held by the United States in the decades prior to and after the Second World War which have helped shape US policies toward China.

2. United States' Role in China's Economic Reform.

The focus is on China's evolution from a highly centralized, planned economy to its mass mobilization for market socialism--or capitalism with Chinese characteristics. Students examine how China has adopted market liberalization and the resulting tension with state political structures. The importance of economic relations between China and the US in terms of trade and investment, and how these may evolve, is a main aspect of study. Related study includes China's need for technological and educational advancement and the US role in helping it achieve those ends.

3. Government and Public Policy in China.

Students examine China's elaborate institutional structure for the party and state, and how China's leaders have attempted to move party-state organizations toward modernity. A related aspect of study involves analysis of the military's role in policymaking, especially on issues such as Taiwan, democratic reform, dissent, human rights, and the environment. These issues influence ongoing Sino-American relations.

Distinctive Features

* **Multidisciplinary Approach:** Students enroll in interdisciplinary courses in religion, philosophy, history, business, economics, political science, anthropology, geography and languages of China. Core courses within the program are designed and taught from an interdisciplinary approach.

* **China-US Encounter:** The summer program promotes China-US cultural communication. A special emphasis is placed on the study of Chinese culture and its relationship to United States' values. To provide a forum for dialogue and understanding between the American and Chinese peoples, the experience will consist of a mix of Asian, Pacific, and American students.

* **Pacific-Focus:** Students explore the cultural, social, political and economic relationships between China, the US and other nations in the Pacific region. Specifically, American students will see the United States from the Chinese perspective, while Chinese students will comprehend China within the Pacific Rim context.

* **Year-Round Schedule including the China Summer Tour:** Courses are offered during the traditional academic year (Fall/Spring) as well as summer and winter sessions. Full time graduate students can finish their degrees more quickly, and professionals, especially schoolteachers, can use their summers for advanced education. Summer students study at both UH Hilo and Peking University in China. The program welcomes international students.

Application Process

Applications will be examined beginning February 1st for admission the following Fall semester. After February 1st, applications will be accepted on a space available basis until July 1. The deadline for international students is June 1 for fall and November 1 for spring semesters.

Applications and supporting documents should be sent to the Graduate Office of Admissions. This office maintains applications through final notification to applicants. If you do not hear from the Office within 30 days of submission of your application, please contact the Admissions Office at (808) 974-7414.

Applications that meet the initial requirements will be forwarded to the CHUS Admissions Committee for a comprehensive review. The names of graduate candidates selected by the committee are forwarded to the Graduate Office of Admissions which sends final notification to the applicant.

Admission Status: The applicant's admission status is valid only for the semester to which the student is accepted. Applications for those who do not register or who withdraw from the University are voided but retained for a period of one (1) year. Students may reapply for admission the next year by notifying the Graduate Office of Admissions and submitting a \$50 application fee.

Criteria for Admission:*

An applicant must:

1. have earned a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited US college or university, or its equivalent from a recognized non-US institution of higher learning.
2. have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher (on an A=4.0 scale).
3. have taken and submitted General Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores.
4. have ensured that three letters of recommendation have been submitted by references who have observed or supervised the applicant's performance and can attest to the academic ability of the applicant to pursue graduate study or other qualifications of the applicant.
5. have earned a TOEFL score of 550 or higher (paper version), 213 (computer version), or 79 (internet version) if she or he is a non-native speaker of English or has attained a baccalaureate or higher degree from a non-English speaking institution.
6. have submitted a personal statement of academic and/or long range goals.

Please Note: To graduate from the program, a minimum of one year of college-level Chinese language or its equivalent is required for non-native speakers of Chinese.

Transfer of Credits: Requests for transfer of graduate credits must be made during the first semester in which the student is enrolled in the program. Courses which may be eligible for transfer will be reviewed by the CHUS department to determine program credit. Only classes with a grade of B (3.0) or higher from accredited universities or colleges will be considered for transfer. Transfer credit hours must have been completed within five years preceding the date upon which the advanced degree is to be conferred by UH Hilo, and must not have been applied towards another degree.

Graduation Requirements:

1. Completion of at least 30 semester credits;
2. Minimum of 24 semester credits in courses numbered 600 or above. Remainder of credits may be taken from courses numbered at 400 or above at the discretion of the CHUS program chair. Courses numbered 499 may not be used for graduate credit. Also, credits used to meet requirements for an undergraduate degree may not be used to meet graduate program requirements;
3. Completion of the program with a GPA of at least 3.0;
4. Minimum of two semesters of full time study beyond the baccalaureate degree;
5. Successful completion of a thesis (Plan A) or a series of papers (Plan B);
6. Successful completion of a thesis oral examination (Plan A) or an exit oral examination (Plan B).

Frequently Asked Questions

Cost: \$292 per credit hour 2009-10 resident tuition
\$672 per credit hour 2009-10 nonresident tuition

Total credits: 30 credit hours

- 1. How long does it take to complete the program?**
The program is designed to be completed in 3-4 semesters, or 2-3 semesters including summer sessions, with additional time needed for writing the thesis (Plan A).
- 2. Do I need to write a Master's Thesis?**
Plan A requires 24 credits of course work and a thesis of original research. Plan B requires 30 credits of course work and research papers.
- 3. What are the entrance requirements?**
See section entitled Minimum Requirements for Admission.
- 4. Do I have to take the GRE?**
Yes, students are required to submit official General GRE scores to UH Hilo.
- 5. Can I transfer credits?**
Yes, subject to program approval.
- 6. How much will it cost to live in Hilo?**
In-state students should budget approximately \$15,000 per year for tuition, books, housing, food and personal expenses; out of state students should budget approximately \$20,000.
- 7. Is financial aid available?**
Contact the UH Hilo Financial Aid Office for information (808) 974-7323.
- 8. Do I need a computer?**
Yes, or at least daily access to one.
- 9. Are summer graduate courses available?**
Yes. UH Hilo and Peking University co-sponsor the Summer Institute in Chinese Thought and Chinese Culture. The program includes lectures on Chinese culture as well as field trips to various historical sites, ancient cities and cultural centers in China. Students can earn up to 6 credits per summer.
- 10. Do I have to know Chinese in order to be admitted to the program?**
At the discretion of the program committee, students with no formal Chinese language training may be admitted to the program.

Chinese Language Requirement: Non-native Chinese speakers are required to take two semesters of Chinese language courses or the equivalent with approval of the Program Chair. Credits in Chinese language earned at other institutions are transferable to meet this requirement. Credits in Chinese language DO NOT count toward the required 30 semester hours for the Program.

Program Curriculum

Total semester credits required: 30

- At least 24 semester hours must be at the 600 level or higher.
- Up to 6 semester hours in 400-level courses may be used to meet the required 30 credits.

Course Cr Title

Required Core Courses: (9 credits)

CHUS 600	3	Approaches & Perceptions: Understanding China and America
CHUS 610	3	Problems and Issues of Contemporary China
CHUS 695	3	Seminar: Comparative Study of China and the US

Area Course Electives

CHUS 621	3	Seminar in Chinese Philosophy
CHUS 622	3	Chinese Religions and the West
CHUS 623	3	Chinese Immigrants in the United States
CHUS 624	3	Ethnography of Modern China
CHUS 630	3	Comparative Study of Business Ethics in China and US
CHUS 640	3	Chinese & US Economies: A Comparative Approach
CHUS 641	3	Seminar: US-China Environmental Issues
CHUS 643	3	Advanced Graduate Study on Contemporary Chinese Politics
CHUS 650	3	Intercultural Communication: China and the US
CHUS 661	3	Comparative Political Economy: US and Greater China
CHUS 670	3	Chinese Literature in America
CHUS 680	3	Chinese Culture Study Tour
CHUS 694	3	Special Topics in China-US Relations (repeatable only with approval from the Program Director)
CHUS 699	3	Directed Research (repeatable only with approval from the Program Director)
CHUS 700	(v)	Thesis Research (repeatable)

Electives: In addition to the 18 semester hours required in the core and area courses, students need a minimum of 12 semester hours in electives.

Plan A: Take 15 credits in area electives in addition to 9 credits of core classes, 6 credits in CHUS 700 (or 3 credits in CHUS 700 and 3 credits in an additional area elective) and thesis defense. Satisfy Chinese language requirement.

Plan B: Take 21 credits in area electives in addition to 9 credits in core classes and exit oral exam based on two research papers. Satisfy Chinese language requirement.

CHUS Faculty:

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