

The University of Haifa and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Asian Sphere: Trans-Cultural Flows Program

An Inter-University and Interdisciplinary Graduate Program

Call for Enrollment of MA Students (2018-19)

The Asian Sphere offers a unique opportunity for outstanding candidates at the MA level to enroll in a multidisciplinary and inter-university graduate program that deals with the Asian continent.

The Asian Sphere is a joint Israeli program between the Hebrew University and the University of Haifa, funded by the *Humanities Fund* of the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education in Israel (*VATAT*) and *Yad Hanadiv*. It is a structured graduate program of excellence that deals with the entire Asian continent as a continuous civilizational zone and addresses cross-regional contacts and processes among Asian societies, cultures and states and to a lesser extent between Asia and other continents throughout history until present time.

Apart from a dynamic and exceptional environment of learning and research, **the program offers a large number of scholarships for graduate students**. Scholarships for MA students are in the amount of 20,000 NIS per year for two years.

The Asian Sphere accepts students from different disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, such as Asian Studies, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, Art History, Archaeology, Geography, Political Science, International Relations, Cultural Studies, History, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Anthropology, Sociology, Economics, and more. Research topics are open and can deal with past or current societies. The core of the *Asian Sphere* teaching activity revolves around high-level seminars on trans-regional, trans-continental and trans-cultural themes, each taught by two or more internationally renowned scholars. In addition, students that are accepted to the program will participate in yearly academic retreats, research trips in Israel and abroad, academic conferences and other activities.

Criteria for the selection of candidates for the *Asian Sphere* Program scholarship:

- Proven academic excellence.
- Preliminary research topic and interest that address cross-Asian topics such as analysis of contacts or comparison between two or more regions or cultures in Asia.

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Inter-university graduate program funded by the Humanities Fund

The Hebrew University and the University of Haifa



- Candidates for an MA degree will be enrolled at one of the relevant departments in either the Hebrew University or the University of Haifa, and will receive an addition certificate from the Asian Sphere program.

Registration for the *Asian Sphere* Program:

Interested individuals are requested to send one electronic and one printed copy of the following documents (in English whenever applicable). **The electronic copy should be in one file.**

- Curriculum vitae.
- Report of grades (BA, MA if applicable).
- A document describing one's research interests, presenting the research questions that interest the candidate, the research context, the research methodology and how the research topic is related to the goals and scope of the Asian Sphere Program (up to 500 words).
- Two letters of recommendation to be sent separately to the program coordinator at AsianSphere@gmail.com

Requirements of the *Asian Sphere* Program and Renewal of the scholarship:

- Master's students must participate in our two core courses and in at least three of the program's interdisciplinary seminars and two core courses (16 course credits all together) as well as actively participate in the program's yearly academic retreat and other activities.
- Annual renewal of the scholarship will be dependent on demonstrated progress of the Asian Sphere Program fellows and on continued recommendation from their thesis supervisor.
- To pass from the first to the second year MA students will have to participate in at least two of the program's seminars, successfully write at least one seminar paper and complete an extensive thesis proposal which will be approved by their advisor(s).

For additional information regarding terms of acceptance and the procedures, contact Prof. Gideon Shelach (Gideon.shelach@mial.huji.ac.il) and Prof. Rotem Kowner (kowner@research.haifa.ac.il).

All the documents should be sent to the *Asian Sphere* Scholarships Committee by March 30, 2018 to this email address: AsianSphere@gmail.com