

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 Doctoral Students (2018-19)

The Asian Sphere offers a unique opportunity for outstanding candidates at the PhD 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 outstanding graduate students. The scholarships for PhD students are in the amount of 60,000 NIS per year + full tuition for three 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 a yearly academic retreat, research trips in Israel and abroad, academic conferences and other activities.

For further information visit our web site: <http://asian-sphere.huji.ac.il/>

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.

- Candidates should secure in advance the agreement of potential advisor (or advisors) of their thesis, from the University of Haifa or the Hebrew University.

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).
- Abstract of one's Master's thesis
- A writing samples in English (recommended).
- 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
- A written consent from the proposed thesis advisor(s) from the University of Haifa or the Hebrew University.

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

- Doctoral students must participate in our two core courses and in at least two of the program's interdisciplinary seminars and two core courses (12 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* fellows and on continued recommendation from their thesis supervisor.
- To pass from the first to the second year Ph.D. students will have to participate in at least two of the program's seminars, successfully write at least one seminar paper, complete their Ph.D. proposal which will be approved by their advisor(s), and successfully advance from stage A to stage B in their doctorate program.
- To pass from the second to the third year Ph.D. students will have to submit a report with regard to their academic progress and complete at least one chapter of their dissertation approved by their advisor(s).
- Ph.D. students will be encouraged to submit research articles to refereed journals and required to present at least one paper in an international conference held during either the second or the third year of the program.

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

All the documents should be sent to the *Asian Sphere* Scholarships Committee by January 31, 2018 to this email address: AsianSphere@gmail.com