



Pontificia
Universitas
Urbaniana



TRANSREGIONAL ASIA

Transregional Studies on Asia

From the academic year 2025-2026



For information about the course of study or for an appointment at the Urbaniana University Centre for Chinese and Asian Studies, please send an email to cinasia@urbaniana.edu

Transregional Studies on Asia

New programme of study at the Pontifical Urbaniana University

The study of Asia from a transregional perspective aims to promote an understanding of the interrelationship between the cultures, societies and religions present in the Asian context and its connections to the global community. The important role Asia has achieved on the world stage constitutes a privileged ground for observation and analysis that influences not only the understanding of this continent to date, but also the cultural, social, and even geographical perceptions Asians have of themselves.

This situation requires us to reflect on global interconnections as constitutive and determining dimensions of the contemporary world. These interconnections are encouraged by the acquired awareness that the world's cultures and societies, like the religious phenomenon itself, can no longer be imagined as static and monolithic entities, but rather as the dynamic result of complex historical processes, social interactions and cultural negotiations involving all aspects of human experience.

Moreover, the mobility of people, ideas, goods, and capital - even in virtual form - has called into question the conventional boundaries of nation-states in favour of a circulation of people and knowledge built on cultural interweavings and social networks, especially in Asia. The complexity and speed of this phenomenon makes it necessary, also in the ecclesial dimension, to rethink the academic approach to knowledge of Asia, and China in particular, by developing new scientific methodologies more suited to the study of the ideas and practices emerging in the contemporary phase. These ideas and practices will have a major impact not only on the cultures and societies of Asia, but also on the rest of the world throughout the 21st century.

For these reasons, starting from the academic year 2025-2026, the Pontifical Urbaniana University is offering an innovative and unique course of study: *Transregional Studies on Asia* or *Transregional Asia*, in which theology and philosophy, mission studies, law, economics and politics, international relations and diplomacy, anthropology and other social sciences converge, through an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary contribution that is characteristic of transregional studies. A contribution that, among other things, is in tune with Pope Francis' Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* (see especially no. 4).

The course of study is developed through academic degrees (baccalaureate, master, and doctorate). In this course of study, particular importance is attached to the study of Asian languages, especially the Chinese and Vietnamese languages. In the future, the Korean language will also be part of the curriculum.

The focus of the study programme is on East Asia (China, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan) and South East Asia (Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, East Timor, Philippines). In the future also South Asia (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh) will be included in the research and academic training activities of the Centre for Chinese and Asian Studies and, therefore, in the Transregional Studies on Asia programme.

The course of study aims to train experts on the Asian world in a transregional perspective that allows for numerous professional opportunities. The course is of particular interest to journalists, geopolitical and economic analysts, teachers, missionaries, pastoral agents, diplomats, tour operators, translators and cultural mediators, entrepreneurs and for all those who wish to learn about the Asian world in a systematic and in-depth way.

Baccalaureate's programme

The programme for the baccalaureate includes 180 credits, 21 exams and the discussion of the final thesis. The complete programme is as follows:

First year (60 credits)

- 1 Introduction to Transregional Studies**
First semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 2 Modern Asian History in Transregional Perspective**
First semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 3 Geopolitics of Asia**
First semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 4 International Relations in the Asian Context**
Second semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 5 Crossroads. The Silk Roads between Art, Trade and Science**
Second semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 6 Emerging Conflicts in Asia and Pathways to Peace: What Future?**
Second semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 7 Religions, Philosophies and Spiritualities of Asia**
Annual, integrated course, 24 weeks, 4 hours per week, 12 credits
- 8 Languages of Asia: A Language of Choice between Chinese and Vietnamese**
Annual, 24 weeks, 4 hours per week, 12 credits

Second year (60 credits)

- 1 Contemporary Asian History in Transregional Perspective**
First semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 2 Legal Systems of Asia: A Comparative and Transregional Perspective**
First semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 3 Anthropology of Southeast Asia**
First semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 4 Media and Asia with Journalism Writing Workshop**
Second semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 5 Inside and Beyond National Borders: Minorities and Indigenous Peoples in Asia**
Second semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 6 Human Mobility and Demography in Asia**
Second semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 7 Transregional Christianity: For a Missionary History of Asia**
Annual, integrated course, 24 weeks, 4 hours per week, 12 credits
- 8 Languages of Asia: A Language of Choice between Chinese and Vietnamese**
Annual, 24 weeks, 4 hours per week, 12 credits

Third year (60 credits)

- 1 The Transregionality of Asian Economies**
First semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 2 Anthropology of China and East Asia**
First semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 3 Asian Ecologies and the Care of the 'Common Home**
Second semester, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 4 Asian Theologies and Interreligious Dialogue in Comparative Perspective**
Second semester, integrated course, 12 weeks, 4 hours per week, 6 credits
- 5 Languages of Asia: A Language of Choice between Chinese and Vietnamese**
Annual, 24 weeks, 4 hours per week, 12 credits
- 6 Participation in Symposia, Conferences, and Seminars**
Over the three years of the study course, 6 credits
- 6 Final Thesis**
Autumn session, 18 credits

Useful information

Admission requirements

1. Upper secondary school diploma.
2. Students enrolled in other three-year or two-year university courses may also enrol on the course.
3. For students whose first language is not Italian, a B2 level certification of the Italian language is required, which may also be acquired at the University. For all students, a knowledge of English is necessary for reading and understanding academic bibliographical material.
4. An interview for admission and a motivational letter.
5. Documents needed for enrolment. The courses offer of the Pontifical Urbaniana University for 2025-2026 and the list of required documents will be made public soon.

Course duration:

The course of study lasts three years. The thesis discussion is scheduled for the autumn session in September, at the end of the third year of study.

Language of instruction:

The course of study will be offered in Italian and examinations can be taken in Italian, English, French and Spanish.

Attendance:

Attendance is compulsory as the course is based on the use of innovative and participatory teaching methods inspired by transregional studies.

Tuition fees:

Fees currently include a yearly cost of €1,000.

Pre-enrolment, pre-registration, and enrolment:

According to the regulations of the Pontifical Urbaniana University. Pre-enrolment is open from 1 March 2025. See the University website at: <https://www.urbaniana.va>

Auditors:

It is possible to participate as auditor for specific courses, up to a maximum of 5: auditor for one discipline (75 euros), auditor for each additional discipline (55 euros).

Right to study:

Financial assistance is available in the special *Call for applications for the right to education (Bando per il diritto allo studio)* issued by the University.

Request for information:

For any information, please send an email to: cinasia@urbaniana.edu