

Glad you are considering a major or minor in Asian Studies! Asia is a fascinating, dynamic, and diverse space. Our major can help you develop tangible skills: language ability, adaptability, open-mindedness, care & compassion, cultural awareness, knowledge of the region, and more. Ours is a program that is also well-suited to partnering with your current pathway, earning a credential with a second major, or a minor in Asian Studies, Korean Studies, or South and Southeast Asian Studies.

So, what do you do with a degree in Asian Studies? Some students seek careers related to Asia and Asian communities here in California while others relocate to Asia temporarily to teach English or seek long-term opportunities to work in a variety of industries. Students may also pursue further graduate studies here in the United States or in Asia. It is up to you to chart your future course, but we can help! Internships and study abroad are a great place to start (see links on our website).

Post-graduation, in general, if you desire to spend more time in Asia, you can get a foothold by teaching English (see links on our website). From there, you could explore careers with international education programs, non-profit/NGO groups, multinational companies, or government agencies; and if your language abilities improve, whole other areas of opportunity emerge.

In Sacramento or in California, broadly speaking, there is a non-profit sector that may be serving Asian populations that also have made a home in the Sacramento region (from Afghans to Hmong, etc.). It is a career designed to help advocate for and provide services to a given population, and the organization may have an international presence, including in Asia. Moreover, state or federal government jobs may have links to Asia, and address public policy related to trade, media, social issues, etc. Private companies based in Asia may operate in California, with offices nearby (maybe the Bay Area), perhaps in the tech or entertainment sector. You may even try to think of a start-up company yourself, an idea perhaps inspired by your study abroad experience.

Of course, the unfortunate reality is that many students from many majors don't find jobs directly tied to their studies. In that regard, your most important ticket to widespread and improved opportunities is simply having a bachelor's degree (in this case Asian studies). In this sense, choosing a major that interests you and excites your passion is the best decision. Once in the workforce, it is hard to be strategic in career pathways amid your daily responsibilities, but life skills and lived experiences developed at Sac State remain valuable, while keeping an eye open for those opportunities related to Asia.