



# USC Dornsife *East Asian Studies Center*

September 8, 2025



## EASC Global East Asia 2026

### **EASC Global East Asia 2026 applications are now live! Global East**

**Asia** (EASC 360) is a four-week USC Maymester Study Abroad Program, with one week in LA and three in Tokyo, Japan. This intensive program is a research course for USC undergraduate students made possible by **EASC** and **USC Dornsife**, with additional support from the **Bruce & Francis Kaji Family Fund**, the **Wu & Ponrartana Fund**, and additional donors. Please see more information about the course, info session and video, and a featured student below!

### **EASC 360: Tokyo - Japanese Society and Design Thinking**

*Taught by Prof. Miya Desjardins, Art History, EALC, and Roski*

**The deadline to apply is Monday, October 20!**



### **Info Session and Video**

**Thurs, Sept 25 | 4:00PM-5:00PM | CAS 100 or Zoom**

The **Global East Asia Info Video** is now available!

### **The informational video covers:**

Program Overview, Course Breakdown, Program benefits, Eligibility, Program Costs, Funding Opportunities, and an Application walkthrough. **Watch the video here ►**

We will also be hosting a **Q&A Info Session** on Thursday, September 25 from 4:00PM-5:00PM in CAS 100. Please review the **video** first and if you still have

questions, feel free to join us at the info session. If you would like to attend virtually, [please register here](#) ➤

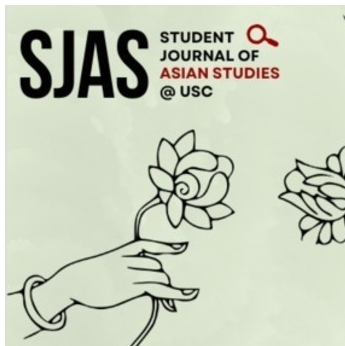
**RSVP for Info Session!**

## GEA Tokyo Spotlight - Mariana Hernandez

Mariana Hernandez is currently a senior majoring in GeoDesign. This summer, through the Global East Asia Maymester, she explored greenspace accessibility in Tokyo, focusing on how small parks, temple grounds, tree-lined streets, and even incidental greenery shape the city's livability. She found that these spaces, while often subtle, are deeply woven into daily life—serving not only ecological functions but also reflecting cultural values of beauty, care, and accessibility. From observing wedding photos at Meiji Jingu to pausing at a local shrine grove, Mariana discovered how Tokyo's green design fosters community and well-being in unexpected ways. She credits the Maymester program's walking tours, lectures, and immersive site visits for helping her connect lived experiences with broader themes in urban design and Japanese history! [See Mariana's Instagram feature here](#) ➤



## Event Reminders



### SJAS @ USC Symposium

**Fri, Sept 12 | 2:00PM-3:00PM | CAS 100 or Zoom**

In celebration of the third issue of the [Student Journal of Asian Studies @ USC](#), EASC will host a symposium bringing together the editors, contributors, and readers of the journal! This symposium will showcase the Spring 2025 issue and feature presentations by the authors.

**RSVP**

## Opportunities

### Nichibunken Academic Encouragement Award for Doctoral Students

**Deadline: September 30**

The [International Research Center for Japanese Studies](#) (Nichibunken) is accepting recommendations for the FY2026 Nichibunken Academic Encouragement Award, which supports junior scholars outside Japan who advance the internationalization of Japanese Studies. Eligible candidates are doctoral students from institutions with Nichibunken exchange agreements or full members of the Consortium for Global Japanese Studies; applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral program at the time of application and able to conduct research in Japan. The award covers airfare, accommodation, per diem allowances,



provides access to Nichibunken's research facilities and library, offers faculty mentorship, and includes visa assistance. [Learn more here >](#)

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## Events Around USC & LA

### Japan Film Festival Los Angeles 2025

Sat, Sept 6 - Sun, Sept 14 | Japan America Media Association | [RSVP](#)

### AGFA Movie Hooky Club IMAX Matinee Screening: *THE RAPACIOUS JAILBREAKER* (1974)

Tues, Sept 9 | 3:00PM | USC Cinematic Arts | [RSVP](#)

### Screening: HKOSFF Finalist Collection B + CHA GUO

Tues, Sept 9 | 7:00PM | USC Cinematic Arts | [RSVP](#)

### Lunchtime Art Talk on Lawrence Lek

Wed, Sept 10 | 12:30PM | Hammer Museum

### The Art of Resilience | The Wajima-nuri Journey

Fri, Sept 12 - Sat, Sept 13 | 1:00PM-7:00PM | Japan House

### North Korea Under Kim Jong-Un and South Korea's New Approaches

Fri, Sept 12 | 2:00PM-4:00PM | Korean Studies Institute | [RSVP](#)

### Cruising J-Town Mini-Meet: Street Racers Reunion

Sat, Sept 13 | 10:00AM-12:00PM | Japanese American National Museum | [RSVP](#)

### Golden State Assemblage Workshop with Zheng Chongbin

Sun, Sept 14 | 12:30PM-3:30PM | LACMA



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East Asian Studies Center | 3454 Trousdale Parkway CAS 100 | Los Angeles, CA 90089-0154

# USC Dornsife

Dana and David Dornsife  
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

University of Southern California Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences | Los Angeles, CA 90089  
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