Arizona State University

in Southeast Asia
ASU Charter

ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.

New American University

Arizona State University has become the foundational model for the New American University, a new paradigm for the public research university that transforms higher education. ASU is committed to excellence, access and impact in everything that it does.
We are proud that ASU is the academic home of more than 260 students from Southeast Asia, and that the university has impacted the lives of more than 2,980 alumni.

We are committed to helping our students succeed — not just academically, but throughout their lives — and be prepared for a rapidly changing world where new careers are constantly evolving.

Our legacy of excellence in education grows because of the strengths of our award-winning faculty who invest in collaborative, interdisciplinary and solution-focused approaches to research, education and entrepreneurship.

We look forward to working with you to empower the workforce and leadership of the 21st century through discovery and impact.

Warmest regards,

Stefanie Lindquist, JD, PhD
Senior Vice President of Global Academic Initiatives
Office of University Provost
Southeast Asia

Map

Southeast Asia is defined by the University Office of Institutional Analysis as including: Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
268 students from Southeast Asia enrolled at ASU in fall 2020.

169 undergraduate students.

99 graduate students.

128 total students from Southeast Asia enrolled in fall 2009. (72 undergraduate, 56 graduate students)

110% increase in international student enrollment from Southeast Asia from fall 2009 to fall 2020.
Student enrollment

Top ASU programs chosen by students from Southeast Asia in 2020

Top 11 majors for all students from Southeast Asia in fall 2020

- Computer science: 28
- Business: 17
- Psychology: 15
- Supply chain management: 10
- Nondegree-seeking: 9
- Mechanical engineering: 7
- Global management: 6
- Electrical engineering: 6
- Communication: 6
- Biological science: 6
- Economics: 6

96 total majors
85 Other majors
152 Other students

The remaining 85 majors chosen by students from Southeast Asia range from biochemistry, film, finance, biomimicry, nursing and actuarial science.

Shirin Pramod Karunakaran (Malaysia)
Architectural studies, BS and Sustainability, BSD

Shirin’s home town is Selangor, Malaysia. She came to the U.S. for college to experience American culture. At ASU, she says she’s found much more than that. She joined the Coalition of International Students as the marketing director, the Malaysian Students’ Association, Engineers Without Borders Malaysia Sarawak and Emerging Leaders Asia.

“One major thing that I love about ASU is how strongly integrated the school spirit is into the overall student experience. I owe a lot of my personal growth to the multitude of educational, professional and social opportunities ASU provides for their students. It’s a very welcoming environment and I’m definitely proud to call myself a Sun Devil.”
Student stories

Jerome Raphael Cabacungan (Philippines)
Computer information systems, BS
Jerome’s path began in the Philippines, where he was born and raised. It was the stellar reputation of ASU’s W. P. Carey School of Business that brought him to the U.S. to pursue a computer information systems major.

“I wanted a challenge that covers a number of my interests, such as cybersecurity, programming, business and mathematics. Computer information systems is versatile, which means I have a plethora of choices in terms of a career path. I can be an expert in various areas in both the business and computer fields. The world of business and technology keeps on evolving, and I would love to be part of that growth.”

Adrian Sudjuno (Indonesia)
Interdisciplinary studies, BA
Adrian transferred to ASU after a break from community college and works full time while attending classes at ASU. He hadn’t been sure about his next steps until he discovered ASU’s interdisciplinary studies degree, which allowed him to pursue studies in project management and business. He’s looking into a number of internships offered through ASU to further his experiences.

“There are a lot of things that made me go to ASU. The instructors are very helpful and the students are awesome. While it is a challenge to make new friends remotely, I have been lucky to have good people from each class on Zoom that help me and each other throughout the class.”
**Student stories**

**Lilly Purdon** (Thailand)
Business administration, BA

Lily came to ASU because of the opportunities the university offered, and because it was a globally recognized institution. She also was drawn by the charter stating ASU measures itself “not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed.” In addition to business administration, she intends to double major in law.

“I love the incredible opportunities ASU has to offer. From numerous on-campus resources, opportunities for startups, scholarships, careers, volunteering, networking and much more. I have grown so much since I moved to ASU. Not only have I broken out of my shell, but I’m more knowledgeable, more driven, more social, and more confident in my abilities, myself and my future.”

**Hien Ta** (Vietnam)
Supply Chain Management, BS and Global Logistics, MS

Hien comes from the south of Vietnam and he has always dreamed of studying in the U.S. After thorough research, he chose the supply chain management program at ASU when he was 16, knowing it would provide many opportunities both in the U.S. and abroad. He has joined many organizations like the Vietnamese Student Union as vice president and the Supply Chain Management Association. Also, he has opportunities to intern at companies such as Expeditors International and ON Semiconductor.

“ASU is a truly a diverse community where I can meet people from across the world, which has helped me to open up my mind about the world. Furthermore, I have grown a lot since I came to ASU. I have become more independent and confident. ASU has also given me opportunities. I have been able to work with Forbes 500 companies, and win many case competitions like the KPMG case and the PepsiCo case.”
ASU Thunderbird alumni chapters
Thunderbird alumni chapters are in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

ASU alumni chapters
There are ASU alumni chapters in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

2,974 alumni from Southeast Asia earned a degree from ASU between 1981 and 2020.

862 alumni from Southeast Asia have graduated from ASU from 2012 to 2020.

Southeast Asia is the #6 region for international alumni at ASU from 1981 and all time.

Maryam Balqis Abdul Rashid (Malaysia)
Sustainability, BA
Maryam traveled 9,021 miles to pursue a major that she felt passionate about. In addition to her bachelor’s, she’ll complete her master’s degree through ASU’s 4+1 accelerated Master of Sustainability Solutions program.

“ No matter who you are or where you come from, I feel like ASU gives 1,001 opportunities to explore and grow as a person — and that’s a huge reason I love studying at ASU. The School of Sustainability has given me opportunities beyond my wildest dreams.”
Clinton Ang (Singapore)
Psychology, BS and Computer information systems, BA

Started by his great-grandfather, Clinton’s family’s business has now become the largest independent distributor of wine and spirits in Southeast Asia. Under Clinton’s management, the business has grown to operate in 28 countries and to include Cornerstone Wines, a direct-to-consumer business. As a trained fund manager, Clinton also manages the family’s equity holdings, which are spread across jurisdictions including Hong Kong, Europe and the U.S. Clinton credits his psychology degree with giving him a foundation of emotional intelligence, which has proven beneficial in his career.

“I’m really thankful for ASU and for my days in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. I got involved in sports, Barrett, Singapore Students Association, the Asian Coalition and quite a few other groups. Everything I was exposed to molded me and gave me opportunities, perspectives and readiness for life.”

Ha Thi Khanh Hoang (Vietnam)
Materials Science and Engineering, MS

Ha received an Intel Products Vietnam Grand Challenges Masters Fellowship in 2017 to pursue a master’s degree in materials science and engineering. She hoped to acquire critical thinking, practical knowledge and applied skills from ASU to contribute to the Smart City project in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. After completing her degree at ASU, she returned to Vietnam and joined the project. She is currently working at Ho Chi Minh City’s Department of Construction as an urban development specialist.

“The days I spent at ASU were the most beautiful days of my life. It allowed me to expand my horizons and set new challenges. My master’s courses at ASU broadened my knowledge. It was a leap of my life to gain deeper insight into the semiconductor industry.”
Sambo Dul (Cambodia)
Political science BA; Economics BS and Spanish, BA
At ASU, Sambo started the Community Outreach and Advocacy for Refugees student organization and was active in Amnesty International. She went on to earn a joint degree from New York University School of Law and Princeton University, receiving a JD and master’s degree in public affairs. She has taken her experiences, as a refugee and immigrant from Cambodia, and as a lawyer, to benefit hundreds of other people. She was named the 2018 Founders’ Day Young Alumni Achievement Award. In 2019, she became the elections director under Arizona Secretary of State Katie Hobbs.

“I always say that the four years I spent at ASU were some of the best years of my life because I got to do so much and learn so much. It was really where I started to get socially and politically engaged and aware and passionate about the issues that I still work on today.”

Brigitte Lim (Philippines)
Solar energy engineering and commercialization, MS
Brigitte’s experiences at ASU helped her see how the solar industry could be beneficial to communities in the Philippines. She co-founded Solar N3E: Solar Network for Energy Education and Employment, a social enterprise that integrates research, training and networking to expand employment opportunities in the Philippines through the solar industry. This effort received the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network Youth Prize. She’s now a business developer with Japan Solar in Manila, Philippines. She’s also established STEMpower Our Girls, which sponsors talks, career caravans and workshops to empower young Filipinas in science, technology, engineering and math.

“ASU had the most relevant program for me because it wasn’t just the physics of solar cells. It was more business and applied photovoltaics, how the technology works, how to market it and commercialize it.”
Academic partnerships and programs

322

total papers co-authored by ASU and Southeast Asia researchers with 84 collaborating institutions from 2017 to 2020.

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<th>Institutions</th>
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The top three institutions in Southeast Asia for co-authored publications were the National University of Singapore (77), Nanyang Technical University (75), and Chulalongkorn University in Thailand (18) — a public university.
Research awards

Over the last 10 years, there were nine grants awarded by sponsors in Southeast Asia ($9,019,060) and 27 grant awards ($9,790,575) from sponsors in the U.S. for a total of $18,809,635.

Notable ASU faculty

**Datu Buyung Agusdinata**
Assistant Professor, School of Sustainability

Working together with subject-matter experts, Agusdinata develops and applies system approaches and tools to understand the dynamic behaviors of complex systems in order to inform decision-making in addressing sustainability issues in domains such as energy, transportation, supply chain, nanomedicine and climate change adaptation. One recent project in Indonesia examined sustaining livelihoods of traditional fishermen in Lombok and Papua, Indonesia, with support from Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold. He received his bachelor’s degree in aerospace and mechanical engineering from the Bandung Institute of Technology in Indonesia and his doctoral degree in systems engineering and policy analysis from the Delft University of Technology, Netherlands.

**Gregory Asner**
Professor, School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning and the School of Earth and Space Exploration, and Director of the Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science

Asner is an ecologist recognized for his exploratory and applied research on ecosystems and climate change at regional to global scales. His research spans the areas of spatial ecology and biodiversity, terrestrial carbon cycle, animal-habitat interactions, and climate change. He develops scientific approaches and technologies for investigation and conservation assessments of large ecoregions. Currently, he’s performing high-resolution mapping throughout the Malaysian state of Sabah on the island of Borneo, funded by the Carnegie Institution of Washington and Rainforest Trust.
Notable ASU faculty

**John Sabo**  
Professor, School of Life Sciences

Sabo is an ecologist who studies the importance of water in determining the viability and resilience of animal and plant populations in river and riparian ecosystems. He and his research team use large-scale field experiments and the application of stable isotopes to understand how drought and floods influence freshwater and terrestrial biodiversity. They also study how these extreme events affect food web structure. He also develops statistical techniques to measure the resilience of river food webs and the fisheries that these food webs support. Sabo collaborates broadly across disciplines, synthesizing large datasets to answer questions about the impacts of floods and water scarcity on the interactions between humans and biodiversity. His research in Southeast Asia has focused on the Lower Mekong basin, examining hydrologic change, hydropower, human nutrition and livelihoods, and STEM capacity building with support from the National Science Foundation.

**Jeffrey Goss**  
Associate Vice Provost, South East Asia, Executive Director, Office of Global Outreach and Extended Education, and Assistant Dean in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering

Since 2010, Goss has been the principal investigator or project director for a portfolio of STEM capacity projects in Vietnam with grants exceeding $30M through public-private partnerships with USAID, U.S. State Department, UKAID and industry. These include the Vietnam Higher Engineering Education Alliance Program; Vietnam Vocational-University Leadership Innovation Institute, BUILD-IT or Building University-Industry Learning and Development through Innovation and Technology; Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative and the Lower Mekong Initiative Young Scientist Program.
Featured ASU faculty

**Sangmi Lee**  
Assistant Professor, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Lee’s current research focuses on how Hmong living in the diaspora have maintained extensive kinship networks and various cultural and economic practices across national borders despite the uncertainty about the location of ancestral homeland while also experiencing ethnic cultural differences based on their “partial” affiliation with different nation-states of residence. For this project, she conducted comparative, long-term ethnographic fieldwork with the Hmong communities in central Laos and the U.S. (California).

**Uday Kulkarni**  
Associate Professor, W. P. Carey School of Business  
Kulkarni has more than 30 years of research, teaching and industry experience in business analytics, knowledge management and database management. His research spans multiple areas, including understanding consumer brand engagement via online platforms, identifying antecedents of business analytics capability of firms, assessing knowledge management capability of organizations and analyzing knowledge-intensive business processes. He has also conducted research in the areas of decision-making support using data- and knowledge-based systems, application of artificial intelligence and knowledge-based systems to various eBusiness and manufacturing processes. He has been invited to teach executive MBA elective courses by international universities from Vietnam, India and Peru.

**Andrew Inkpen**  
Professor, Thunderbird School of Global Management  
Inkpen is the J. Kenneth and Jeanette Seward Chair in Global Strategy, a professor of management and director of the Thunderbird Case Series. His research focuses on global strategy, the management of multinational firms, and the management of strategic alliances and international joint ventures. In recent years, he has focused on the global energy industry. He has taught at the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, in addition to other U.S. and international institutions.
James Eder
Emeritus Professor, School of Human Evolution and Social Change
Eder’s research interests have long concerned how the tribal and peasant peoples of Southeast Asia, particularly those of the Philippines, have experienced development and change. His fieldwork in the Philippines has centered on Palawan Island, where his interests include demographic and subsistence change among the Batak, a tropical forest foraging people. One current research project, Migrants to the Coasts, examines the challenges that the continued migration to Palawan of ethnically diverse fisherfolk from elsewhere in the Philippines pose for the establishment of marine protected areas and other elements of successful community-based coastal resource management programs. Another current research project, Re-Envisioning the Upland Philippines, aims to better capture the ecological, economic and social transformations presently underway in the nation’s uplands than present models allow. His most recent research project concerns ethnic identity, Islamic consciousness and Muslim-Christian relations in Palawan.

Mark Woodward
Associate Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies
Woodward is currently directing a transdisciplinary, multi-country project on counter-radical Muslim discourse. He is a member of the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at ASU. He’s authored “Islam in Java: Normative Piety and Mysticism in the Sultanate of Yogyakarta” (1989) and “Java, Indonesia and Islam” (2010), and is co-author (with Richard Martin and Dwi Atmaja) of “Defenders of Reason in Islam: Mu’taziliism from Medieval School to Modern Symbol” (1997). He was also the editor of “Towards a New Paradigm: Intellectual Developments in Indonesian Islam” (1996) and co-editor (with Bianca Smith) of “Gender and Power in Indonesian Islam: Leaders, Feminists, Sufis and Pesantren Selves” (2013). He has published more than 50 scholarly articles in the U.S., Europe, Indonesia and Singapore, many co-authored with Southeast Asian scholars. He has also held a visiting associate professorship at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.
Featured ASU faculty

**Michael Little Crow**  
Lecturer, School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences  
Little Crow is an Indigenous math educator from the Turtle Mountain Anishinaabe-Cree people. With his co-founder Uraiwan Pinthong, he created OPEN Global Village to support two education abroad projects to Thailand and one sabbatical teaching mathematics through robotics in Kazakhstan. He empowers learners of all ages to connect with the power of mathematics inside themselves, using the human development aspects of math to help individuals from around the world reach their full human potentiality.

**James Rush**  
Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies  
Rush specializes in Southeast Asian history and is a member of the Center for Asian Research at ASU. His work explores issues of colonialism and religion in 19th- and 20th-century Indonesia and includes the books “Southeast Asia: a very short introduction,” “Opium to Java: Revenue Farming and Chinese Enterprise in Colonial Indonesia, 1860–1910,” and “Hamka’s Great Story: A Master Writer’s Vision of Islam for Modern Indonesia.” His earlier work includes the biography project of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (Philippines). From 1987 to 2008, Rush conducted oral history interviews with more than 100 Magsaysay Awardees and edited eight volumes of biographical essays (1991–2010). Prior to joining ASU, he was a Peace Corps volunteer in Malaysia and subsequently studied modern Southeast Asian history at Yale University, where he received his PhD.

**Sreetharan Kanthaswamy**  
Professor, School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences  
Sreetharan Kanthaswamy specializes in population, forensic and conservation genetics. He is also a research geneticist at the California National Primate Research Center, University of California, Davis. His research on primate genetics and genomics is centered on the investigation of anthropogenic and natural forces that shape and structure genetic variation of natural and captive animal populations. His forensic science research is based on the analyses of traces of blood, saliva and hair collected at crime scenes or from civil cases for DNA-typing. He received his bachelor's and master's degree at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur and his doctorate from the University of California at Davis.
Featured ASU faculty

**Nancy Spahr**
Instructor, Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation

Spahr has been a nurse for more than 50 years and has worked in a wide variety of settings including the U.S. Peace Corps, medical-surgical nursing, emergency nursing, nursing administration, ambulatory care and nursing education. She currently teaches in the RN-BSN program as well as with the online BSN program at ASU. Education, teaching and mission work are Spahr’s passions and she has been able to combine these through her work with a nonprofit organization called Vital Links for Humanity. Through this organization, she has participated in many medical mission trips to Vietnam, providing educational programs for the nursing staff of several large hospitals, clinics and the nursing college in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. She has also helped to provide medical care for rural villages and orphanages.

**Douglas Webster**
Emeritus Professor, School of Geographic Science and Urban Planning

Webster has worked on urban development issues for 35 years, primarily in East Asia, but also in Latin America, Africa and North America. His current interests are comparative city building or how cities are differentially built in different jurisdictions and cultures; comparative urban form and dynamics; urban competitiveness and resilience; and peri-urbanization (most urban development is occurring on the fringes of cities worldwide). His current research focus is on the impact of China’s One Belt One Road Strategy on the urban systems and sub-national economies of the Greater Mekong Subregion, which includes Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Southwest China, Thailand and Vietnam. He is also interested in peri-urbanization in China and Thailand and urban resiliency in the Greater Mekong Subregion, particularly Thailand. He was the senior urban advisor to the Thai government from 1993 to 1998.
Rimjhim Aggarwal
Associate Professor, Biosocial Complexity Initiative
Aggarwal's research and teaching interests lie at the interface between sustainability science and international development. A central focus of her research has been on examining the links between globalization, resilience of social-ecological systems and human well-being. She's currently engaged in research projects examining the impacts of globalization and climate change on agricultural and water governance, farm livelihoods and food security in India, Nepal, Thailand and Arizona. She has also worked as a senior consultant for the United Nations' University's World Institute for Development Economics Research and the World Bank.

Zhihua Wang
Associate Professor, School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment
Wang is originally from Zhejiang Province of China. He spent nine years (1997–2006) in Singapore, a small beautiful tropical island in Southeast Asia, completed his bachelor's and master's degrees and later worked as a researcher in Nanyang Technological University. Prior to joining ASU, he worked in the Environmental Engineering and Water Research program at Princeton University. His research interests include multiscale urban climate modeling, land-atmospheric interactions, landscape and infrastructure management, urban environmental sustainability study and energy efficiency analysis.

Jon Miller
Director, Decision Theater
Miller’s project, titled NexView: Interdisciplinary modeling and visualization to support resource decision making in the Lower Mekong River Basin, is supported by a grant from the Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. As director of the Decision Theater at ASU, Miller leads efforts to model, simulate and visualize complex problems leading to informed policy discussions through better understanding and the ability to forecast the outcomes of policy decisions. He leverages the skills and experiences of a 34-year military career, executive leadership positions in private sector aerospace firms, and responsibilities as a Senior Executive Service member of the Department of Homeland Security. He has coached and mentored executive leaders in a variety of environments across a spectrum of the most challenging issues.
Featured ASU faculty

**Clint Williamson**  
Distinguished Professor of Practice, Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law  
Ambassador Clint Williamson joined ASU in 2014 as a professor of practices and senior director for law and national security at the McCain Institute for International Leadership. Prior to joining ASU, he was a special expert to the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. The tribunal was charged with prosecuting senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge and those most responsible for mass crimes committed in Cambodia during the 1970s. He also served as the United States Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues (2006–2009) and lead prosecutor for the European Union Special Investigative Task Force, which conducted a full and impartial criminal investigation into the allegations of war crimes and criminal activity (2011–2014).

**Gary Bitter**  
Emeritus Professor, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College  
Bitter has researched emerging technologies for the last 50 years. His research includes the impact of integration of technology into the curriculum on student achievement and attitude, “anytime, anywhere” m-learning and online, app-delivered/video-based student learning, and teacher professional development. His focus on e-learning explores the viability of the smartphone as a student and teacher resource of the future. Bitter is currently researching the effect of an m-learning, English-speaking software app on students in Thailand at Chiang Rai Municipality Schools 6 and 7. This research includes delivery of the instruction via apps on smartphones. The apps include 12 instant feedback modules with gamified, progressive lessons, which result in faster and more engaging learning results.

**Nalini Chhetri**  
Clinical Associate Professor, School for the Future of Innovation in Society and School for Sustainability  
Chhetri is the associate director for international initiatives. Her work centers on climate impacts and communication, technological impacts in developing nations, knowledge systems, gender and urban sustainability. Her career also included directing sustainable development programs for international nongovernmental organizations for more than a decade. She works with think tanks and agencies in Bangladesh, China, Ghana, Guyana, India, Jordan, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Vietnam and the U.S. She has consulted for the United Nations and European bilateral agencies.
Featured ASU faculty

**Huan Liu**  
Professor, School of Computing, Informatics, and Decision Systems Engineering  
Liu is a professor of computer science and engineering in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering. He was recognized for excellence in teaching and research in computer science and engineering, and received the 2014 President’s Award for Innovation. His research interests are in data mining, machine learning, social computing and artificial intelligence, investigating interdisciplinary problems that arise in many prevalent, data-intensive applications with high-dimensional data of disparate forms such as social media. Before he joined ASU, he worked at Telecom Australia Research Labs and was on the faculty at National University of Singapore.

**Juliane Schober**  
Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, and Director of the Center for Asian Research  
Schober’s primary areas of research include Theravada Buddhist practices in Southeast Asia, especially Myanmar; anthropology of religion; material culture, media and aesthetics; icons; ritual; modernity, politics and religion; colonial studies; conflict and civil society; and sacred biography. She founded the Theravada Studies Group, an academic organization affiliated with the Association for Asian Studies, to promote comparative and scholarly exchanges in the social sciences and humanities about Theravada Buddhist traditions in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Southwest China and globally though pilgrimage and diaspora networks.

**Huê-Tâm Jamme**  
Assistant Professor, School of Geographic Science and Urban Planning  
Jamme studies transitional urban forms and urbanisms from a comparative perspective. Using a range of qualitative and quantitative methods, she focuses on the lived experience by urban dwellers. Her research explores in particular whether the development of information and communication networks shapes inclusive urban spaces. Jamme currently leads a research project centered on the gig economy and women’s upward mobility in the capitals of Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand. In previous research, she investigated the socio-spatial consequences of the transition toward auto-mobility in Vietnam.
Featured ASU faculty

Hjorleifur Jonsson  
Professor, School of Human Evolution and Social Change  
Jonsson has focused his research on hinterland farming populations in mainland Southeast Asia. His work has concerned the dynamics of identity, cultural practice and social life at the intersections of minority communities and state structures. The focus of his work has ranged among regional history and contemporary identity work and political protest. Most of his research has been among Mien people in Thailand (since 1990), but he has also done research in Cambodia and Vietnam, and (since 2005) among Iu Mien in the U.S. who are refugee immigrants from Laos.

Han Hsien Liew  
Assistant Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies  
Liew is assistant professor of Islamic studies. His research focuses on the history of Islamic political thought and Islamic scholarly culture in the premodern Middle East and Southeast Asia. He is currently working on a book project entitled "Piety, Knowledge, and Emotions in Islamic Rulership: Ibn al-Jawzi's Ameliorative Politics." This book sparks new approaches in the study of Islamic political thought and probes the interconnections between politics, rhetoric and emotions. He received his PhD from Harvard University and is originally from Penang, Malaysia.

Lena Booth  
Associate Professor, Thunderbird School of Global Management  
Booth is the associate dean of academic programs and finance professor at Thunderbird. She teaches strategic financial analysis, corporate financial management, global financial management and advanced topics in finance such as global private equity. Born in Malaysia and educated in Singapore and the U.S., she speaks and writes English, Malay and speaks Chinese, including a few Chinese dialects. In addition to teaching in the MBA/MGM, Master of Science, online MBA and EMBA programs at Thunderbird, Booth has also participated in executive education programs with multinational companies, including Bank Mandiri (Indonesia), and presented research and taught executives in Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.
Academic partnerships in Southeast Asia

7 General collaboration agreements
1 International accelerated degree program agreement
2 Memoranda of understanding
Signed agreements.

University partners
1. American University of Vietnam
2. Asian Institute of Management
3. Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology
4. Hong Bang International University
5. OSAC International College
6. Singapore Management University
7. University of Da Nang
8. Universiti Sains Malaysia
9. Vietnam National University

Partnership countries
Malaysia
Philippines
Singapore
Vietnam
Student exchange programs

Critical Languages Institute Indonesian
The ASU Critical Languages Institute offers intensive summer courses and summer study abroad programs for less commonly taught languages, including Indonesian.

ASU Project GO: Indonesian
In addition to four hours per day of language class, students and their Indonesian activity partners participate in at least three hours per week of extracurricular activities, including but not limited to “survival skills” exercises (buying food, negotiating cab rides, asking for directions, etc.), visits to historic sites, and hands-on activities, including Indonesian martial arts, southeast Asian culinary classes, batik painting lessons, etc. Project GO provides funding for tuition, room and board, books, insurance and visa.

Monash University-Malaysia
Study abroad at Monash Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The university has more than 1,500 international students from 60+ countries. Monash University, one of Australia’s largest universities and ranked in the world’s top 1%.

GIE: Innovation and Urbanization in a Biodiversity Hotspot (Malaysia and Singapore)
Experience four sites: Singapore, Penang, The Habitat Penang Hill, George Town. Students will learn about the history, the cultural influences, the economy and the environment (for humans and for wildlife) of Malaysia and Singapore, work with University of Sains Malaysia students at The Habitat, and visit UNESCO world heritage sites in George Town.

GIE: Mindfulness and Culture Abroad (Thailand)
Students will travel to Chiang Mai, Thailand to study a variety of mindfulness practices and experience the unique Thai culture. Students will be able to better understand themselves, multiple perspectives, and different worldviews. A variety of mindful and cultural activities will give students the chance to live as a Buddhist monk, visit a temple in the forest, and create their own Thai feast.

USAC Thailand Program
The USAC program is located at Chiang Mai University, a university recognized throughout Southeast Asia for its high academic standards. Founded under a Royal Charter in 1964 by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, CMU was the first institution of higher education in Northern Thailand. The curriculum integrates multiple disciplines to respond to the ever-changing issues and events surrounding the country. The program is ideal for students who are interested in the economics, philosophy, politics, religions, culture and language of Thailand.

ASU Cambodia and Vietnam: Countries of Historic Resilience Facing a Future of Rising Seas
This program explores economic, political and cultural survival in the face of human and natural challenges, by experiencing a region that has witnessed the rise and fall of civilizations, change and resilience. Students visit two countries and compare as they travel through history and across geographies that include the Mekong Delta and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) in Vietnam, and the ruins of Angkor Wat, Cambodia, a UNESCO World
Academic partnerships and programs

Heritage Site. Students will see firsthand how adaptation strategies, both new and ancient, can help solve flooding challenges, and learn from local citizens and leaders about innovative ways they confront current challenges in their daily lives.

Sage Family Southeast Asian Studies Scholarship
The Sage scholarship, offered through the Center for Asian Research at ASU, supports travel and study abroad in Laos (and neighboring countries of Southeast Asia) for ASU undergraduate students. Established by ASU alumnus William Sage, the scholarship is a tribute to his lifelong interest in and work in Laos and Southeast Asia.

Scholarship for Service Cambodia
Develop field research skills including species identification, research design and implementation, conservation grant writing, ecosystem health assessments, and wildlife monitoring. Spend the night in a floating village and speak with villagers about climate-challenges and adaptation strategies. Get involved with the community by engaging in long-term community projects and research, participating in festivals, and more.

ASU Sun Devils in Vietnam
This program is a month-long English-speaking internship program in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam where students are able to gain valuable work experience. The program provides students an opportunity to immerse themselves in the Vietnamese workplace, visit ancient historical sites, and learn about Vietnamese language and culture.

RMIT University Exchange Program (Vietnam)
Students can choose between one of two Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University campuses in Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City or Hanoi. Vietnamese culture is distinct: a fusion of Chinese, Japanese, American and French cultures. Living and studying in Vietnam will give the students an opportunity to explore a unique, historic, yet rapidly developing country.

National University of Singapore
The Summer Engineering Research Internship for U.S. Students at National University of Singapore is open to undergraduate students in engineering. Successful applicants will participate in research internships at NUS labs. In addition to developing research skills and finding out what’s at the cutting edge in engineering and technology, students learn from faculty and researchers who are experts in their field in a different culture and environment at NUS.

Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
ASU students have the opportunity to be exchange students at the young and research-intensive Nanyang Technology University in Singapore. Students can take a variety of courses from different departments.

Singapore Management University
This exchange program offers a smaller size and creative thinking approach to provide ASU’s W. P. Carey School of Business students with an option to take courses that fit directly into their major, including courses in finance, economics, management and marketing.
Academic partnerships and programs

ASU Thunderbird Capstone Consulting Projects (Myanmar, Vietnam)
ASU’s Thunderbird School of Global Management offers extensive applied learning opportunities, including one-of-a-kind immersive consulting projects for real client organizations around the world. These competitive, capstone projects give Thunderbird students the opportunity to apply their education, gain unparalleled hands-on experience, and make a deep impact on their client organization’s business operations. Teams of student consultants spend five to six weeks in the field working directly with a client organization. Teams have worked with businesses in Rwanda, Albania, Chile, Peru, Romania, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Southeast Asia Council
The Southeast Asia Council at ASU brings together faculty, graduate students and associates who all share an academic interest in the region (including Brunei, Burma [Myanmar], Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam). The faculty represents a broad range of disciplines. Aside from their research, these faculty members also mentor and teach graduate and undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines, and offer a degree in Asian studies as well as certificate programs. The council organizes events at ASU, including film showings and lecture series.

ASU offices in Southeast Asia
Thunderbird Office in Jakarta, Indonesia
Located in a prime business area in Jakarta, this office focuses on alumni engagement and student recruitment, and partners with corporations, governments and not-for-profit entities seeking to develop their leaders.

ASU Representative Office in Vietnam
ASU established a licensed Representative Office in Saigon High Tech Park in 2013, staffed by a talented local in-country team committed to fostering long-term relationships with government, industry and academia.

Maker Innovation Spaces (Vietnam)
Supported by USAID BUILD-IT, ASU has partnered with Vietnamese universities, Saigon Hi-Tech Park and local Fab Lab in Danang to launch three fully functional Maker Innovation Spaces. With the support of key partners from the science and technology industry, a full range of applied project and industry-based curriculum initiatives are available to Vietnamese faculty and students. Since 2018, nearly 4,000 students have participated in these applied curriculum opportunities.

The Anthropology Collections by School of Human Evolution and Social Change
Research collections maintained by the SHESC at ASU focus on Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand.
- The Anna Gillespie Collection (Laos)
- Betty Grenig Collection (Vietnam)
- The Joel Halpern Collection (Laos)
- The Jane Hanks Collection (Thailand)
- The William Sage Collections (Laos)
- Mimijac Palgen Collections (Cambodia)
Academic partnerships and programs

Faculty programs

HEEAP 2.0: Higher Engineering Education Alliance (Vietnam)
In 2012, HEEAP launched its second five-year phase with an investment of $20M from U.S. Agency for International Development, Intel, National Instruments, Pearson and others to expand the faculty development program and build capacity for international accreditation and technology solutions at the eight partner institutions. The Vocational and University Leadership and Innovation Institute, a three-year HEEAP project funded by USAID, provided educational capacity-building workshops and supports academic leadership within the Vietnamese educational system, ranging from ministry officials and university rectors to mid-level administrators, academic and professional staff, and engineering program faculty leaders. These programs foster systemic change across the institutions responsible for preparing the next generation of the engineering workforce. To date, 7,800 participants in U.S.-based and in-country workshops have been trained in Phase 2. Intel is the key investor in this phase with a commitment of $7 million.

SETI Alliance (Vietnam)
ASU and the Vietnamese Ministry of Science and Technology aim to advance research and academic programs in science, engineering, technology and innovation across Vietnam. The SETI Alliance is a framework through which ASU, the Vietnamese Ministry of Science and Technology, Vietnamese technical universities, research institutes, and private industry can share knowledge, culture and experience. The alliance pioneers a new model for global STEM education, providing students from both Vietnam and the U.S. with opportunities to study abroad, participate in student exchange and summer programs, and gain practical experience in overseas cooperative education and internships.

Student programs

Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (Southeast Asia)
The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative is U.S. President Barack Obama’s signature program to strengthen leadership development and networking in Southeast Asia. Through a variety of programs and engagements, including U.S. educational and cultural exchanges, regional exchanges, and seed funding, Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative seeks to build the leadership capabilities of youth in the region, strengthen ties between the United States and Southeast Asia, and nurture an ASEAN community. In 2020, YSEALI — in partnership with ASU — hosted a regional agribusiness incubator workshop. The five-day program focuses on identifying and developing sustainable agribusiness opportunities in the 10 ASEAN member countries and Timor-Leste. The program aims to provide young innovators with the necessary skills and models to advance small and medium enterprises in the agricultural sector.

Lower Mekong Initiative Young Scientist Program (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam)
Funded by the U.S. Department of State, the Lower Mekong Initiative Young Scientist Program fosters collaboration, knowledge sharing and the creation of a network of young scientists in the LMI countries: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The program supports the region’s early-career researchers as they develop
solutions to transboundary challenges along the Mekong River. The ASU program’s activities include a four-week thematic placement program at partner institutions in different LMI countries, annual symposiums and competition for seed funds. It creates a collaborative community that develops solutions to challenges people face along the Mekong River. Throughout the LMI, the U.S. and the Lower Mekong countries promote equitable, sustainable and inclusive economic growth through education, science and the environment.

Leadership Education for Engineering Accreditation Program (Indonesia)
ASU, the U.S. Agency for International Development/Indonesia Higher Education Leadership and Management project, and Andalas University in Padang, Indonesia, launched a collaborative effort under the LEEAP initiative that customizes support for Indonesian university-level engineering programs to become globally competitive, and meet with regional and international standards. Through LEEAP, ASU works with Andalas University in Padang to position it as a leader in the region who can mentor other universities in Indonesia.

Partnership with University of Ngurah Rai (Bali, Indonesia)
The Critical Languages Institute at ASU started offering classes in Indonesian in 2017 through a partnership with the University of Ngurah Rai in Bali, an island province of Indonesia. The institute specializes in teaching language for which there is a shortage of proficient speakers. The languages are designed as “critical” by various U.S. agencies, who need skilled speakers with a cultural understanding of the countries.

Projects in Human-Centered Design (Vietnam)
With the Global Engineering Projects in Community Service or EPICS, ASU engineering students collaborated with Vietnamese engineering students and Tra Que Vegetable Village, a sustainable farming organization, to co-develop an environmental sensor that provides local farmers with additional data to make important decisions about the crops. Students worked long days at the ASU-supported Maker Innovation Space in Da Nang, Vietnam to incorporate the local feedback from Vietnamese academics and industry stakeholders into their design. Global EPICS exemplifies ASU’s mission to offer students practical community service projects that collaboratively build a better world.

BUILD-IT: Building University-Industry Learning and Development through Innovation and Technology (Vietnam)
Sponsored by U.S. Agency for International Development and industry partners, the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering’s BUILD-IT is designed to build a world-class model for innovative technology and engineering higher education. The BUILD-IT public-private ecosystem is designed to produce graduates who can solve problems and engineer solutions for Vietnam’s social and economic development. From 2015 to 2020, BUILD-IT activities reached more than 10,000 tertiary institution faculty and teaching staff with 11 key partner institutions and a total of more than 39,000 participants in BUILD-IT activities (33% female).
Barrett, The Honors College's GlobalResolve (Southeast Asia)
Through GlobalResolve, Barrett students and ASU faculty collaborate with international universities, residents of rural villages, local governments, financial institutions, and nongovernmental organizations to develop and disseminate no-tech, low-tech and high-tech solutions that address pressing needs in Global South communities.

Community outreach

Habitat for Humanity (Indonesia)
Susanto Samsudin, a Thunderbird alumnus, is the president of Habitat for Humanity Indonesia. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps people in the community build or improve a place they can call home. This program is supported by the Thunderbird alumni chapter in Indonesia where alumni serve as volunteers and help raise money for Habitat.

Research

Bakrie Initiative in Geological Hazards (Indonesia)
ASU’s School of Earth and Space Exploration teamed up with the Indonesian-based Bakrie Group to develop the Bakrie Initiative in Geological Hazards to support and promote research in Indonesia on the core geologic topics of volcanoes, earthquakes and hydrothermal systems.

NexView: ASU Decision Theater Supports U.S. Government Science in the Mekong River Basin
Under the guidance of the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Geological Survey and ASU, in cooperation with the Mekong River Commission and assistance from Vietnamese and Cambodian university faculties, will build on existing regional research efforts while collecting and creating new information in a product called NexView. The ASU Future H2O program will contribute scientific and technical data and models to NexView. ASU’s Decision Theater® will integrate and conduct data analytics while visualizing available models and information, including inputs from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to facilitate informed discussions and decision and policy making.

Other activities

STEMCON Annual Conference (Vietnam)
Since 2012, the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Conference or STEMCON, previously known as the Vietnam Engineering Education Conference, has evolved as the premier science and engineering education conference in Vietnam. The conference program and funding is supported by the ASU industry and government partners in Vietnam. Past themes of this annual conference revolve around topics in higher education innovation, workforce competitiveness, the maker movement and entrepreneurship. Annually, STEMCON draws more than 500 participants each year from industry, government and academia. More than 4,000 participants have attended this conference over the past eight years.
#1 in the U.S. for innovation
ASU ahead of MIT and Stanford
– U.S. News & World Report, 4 years, 2015–2018

#1 in the U.S. for global impact
#5 in the world
– Times Higher Education