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The University of Chicago is one of the leading centers for the study of Southern Asia. Countries in which we have scholarly expertise include in South Asia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, and Tibet (as an autonomous region); and in Southeast Asia, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia (Kampuchea), East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The committee works to enhance opportunities available to scholars both in the United States and in South and Southern Asia and to foster intellectual and scholarly communication and inter-disciplinary collaboration among the students and faculty at the University of Chicago and the wider Chicago and Southern Asian Studies communities.

The committee does not offer degrees, but cooperates with the several departments, committees, and schools within which specialized work on South or Southeast Asia may be combined with a degree program. These include the College; the Departments of Anthropology, Art History, Comparative Human Development, Comparative Literature, Economics, English, History, Linguistics, Music, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and South Asian Languages & Civilizations; the Committees on History of Culture, International Relations, and Social Thought; in the Divinity School, the fields of History of Religions, Church History, Philosophy of Religions; and in the Law School, International and Comparative Legal Studies.

Advanced degree programs with specialization in Bengali, Hindi, Malayalam, Marathi, Pali, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Tibetan, and Urdu languages, literatures, and civilizations are available in the Department of South Asian Languages & Civilizations. Persian and Arabic are available through the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations. A limited number of fellowships, scholarships, and grants in aid are awarded by the committee in support of training or research dealing with South or Southeast Asia. Students in all disciplines interested in training in South Asian languages may also apply for Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships under Section 602 of Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended. For further information, please write to the Associate Director.