How can I apply for the ASK program?

Applications for the ASK program will be available from the Khmer Language Program at the University of Hawaii.

November
ASK Applications become available
March
Applications due
April
Awards notification and Enrollment agreements
Mid June to July
Six-week program

Cost
There is a program fee, but each applicant who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident may apply for a fellowship in partial support of travel, tuition, program fees, and basic housing costs. Other applicants may be accepted, but are not eligible for Federal support and must pay their own costs.

College Credit
Participants may obtain college credit for the program via the UH Outreach College. Please contact Prof. Chhany Sak-Humphry for further details.

Contact Person
Dr. Chhany Sak-Humphry
ASK Project Director and Associate Professor
University of Hawaii, Department of IPLL
Spalding Hall, Room 255
Phone in US: (808) 956-7080 Fax: (808) 956-5978
Phone in Cambodia: (855) 92-892-347 or 16-227-245 or 97-932-1086
Email: sak@hawaii.edu or askuhm@hawaii.edu
Website: http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ask or http://www.hawaii.edu/khmer or http://khmer.hawaii.edu or http://learnkhmer.net

Benefits
The ASK project will increase the number of linguistically competent Khmer-speaking professionals available for employment in federal agencies, departments responsible for national security, and all non-governmental agencies. Also, it will promote scholarly cooperation, cultural and socio-economic understanding between Cambodia and the US.

Collaboration and Support
ASK is administered by the Khmer Language Program at the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM), in collaboration with the Institute of Foreign Language (IFL) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) in Cambodia under a memorandum of Understanding between UHM and RUPP.
ASK is supported by the Consortium of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies in the USA, and the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI).

Arizona State University
University of California-Berkeley
Cornell University
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Michigan
Yale University

Northern Illinois University
Ohio University
University of California Los Angeles
University of Washington
University Wisconsin-Madison

General information:
http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ask/index.htm
Eligibility:
http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ask/eligibility.htm
Application:
http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ask/app/2008-app.html
MS Word or PDF application:
http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ask/apply.htm
http://phnompenh.usembassy.gov/advanced_study_of_khmer_ask_program.html
What is the ASK program?

The Advanced Study of Khmer (ASK) Summer Abroad Program is an intensive eight-week Khmer language-cultural training program held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. ASK is funded by the US Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays, Abroad Projects.

ASK is administered by the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM), supported by the Consortium of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies in the USA, and in collaboration with the Institute of Foreign Languages (IFL) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) in Cambodia.

Goals of ASK

- To provide intensive and specialized instruction in Khmer (Cambodian) for advanced students and learners of Khmer within its natural, cultural, and social context.
- To supplement participants' previous training in Khmer and to attain a high level of language competence and cultural sensitivity within a relatively short six-week program period of time.
- To promote cooperation between the United States and Cambodia and stimulate discussions among individuals from these countries.
- To provide in-country living experience and preparation, which will enable the participants to deal with cross-cultural differences and develop the social skills necessary for life in Cambodian society.
- To allow potential researchers an opportunity to see their chosen area studies, to select appropriate research sites, and to make introductory contacts.
- To assist participants to become educated, insightful and contributing members of the global community.

Instruction

ASK focuses on advanced-level Khmer language acquisition, linguistics and cultural competency designed for students of various disciplines through the immersion of non-native speakers and heritage learners alike. ASK courses are taught by local Khmer professional instructors and linguists with extensive experience teaching Khmer as a foreign language. The ASK curriculum is intensive, with class size limited to six to eight students, and implements eight instructional modules based on American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) proficiency guidelines, equal to six credits of academic course study. ASK also conducts pre and post tests based on ACTFL/OPI (Interagency Language Roundtable and Oral Proficiency Interview) testing to all participants.

Immersion

ASK is a structured academic program consisting of four hours of formal classroom instruction each morning, followed by pre-arranged afternoon visits and related task-based learning activities which provide students with opportunities to observe, engage, analyze, and experience issues introduced in the morning sessions, as well as to practice their language-cultural skills. These activities include meetings, presentations, and dialogue conversation with governmental offices, local non-governmental organizations, businesses, community agencies, and cultural associations, and students' interaction with all segments of Khmer society. The curriculum also includes weekend field trips to outlying area of Phnom Penh. In addition, one week of the program is reserved for a week long visit to provincial areas in Cambodia: Siem Reap, Koh Kong, Batavi Kiri or Mondul Kiri and one week for home-stays experience with local villagers. In language study, fluency is immersion's best guarantee.

Involvement

Each participant will conduct a mini-research project during the course of the summer and will submit a written report as well as give an oral presentation in Khmer during the final week of the ASK program. This project adds immeasurably to the ASK experience, as it combines students' professional and educational-cultural interests with practical interaction and involvement with Khmer individuals and communities.

Home-Stay

One week home-stay experiences with local families in Cambodian villages will foster intercultural communication by reinforcing the language skills of participants and increasing their acquisition of relevant cultural knowledge and competency.

The ASK program offers one-of-a-kind opportunities to engage in academic, social and cultural interaction with Khmer communities. Through ASK, participants will develop not only their language competence, but will also gain greater awareness and sensitivity about Khmer culture, and will develop an everlasting friendship with Khmer people.