



ABSTRACT OF ASK SUMMER 2019

ADVANCED STUDY OF KHMER (ASK) LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SUMMER ABROAD PROGRAM IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

The Advanced Study of Khmer (ASK) Language and Culture is an immersion language training project held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia since 2002. ASK was previously funded by Fulbright-Hays, GPA long-term advanced language training from 2005-2011. It has continued its operation with very limited funding from 2012 through 2018, except in summer 2015, when it was funded by Fulbright-Hays short-term GPA. With success track record, ASK is seeking funding from Fulbright-Hays long-term GPA: Advanced Overseas Intensive Language Training Projects for summer 2019 to provide fellowships, opportunities and access to 12 advanced language students who will be in all field, teaching, professionals, business, diplomatic and inter/national sectors.

ASK is administered by the College of Languages and Literature at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) and in collaborations with the Center for Khmer Studies (CKS) in Cambodia and the Institute of Foreign Languages (IFL) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP). The project will increase linguistically-competent Khmer-speaking learners available for employment. It has clear tasks and well define phases (pre, overseas and post). The program will promote scholarly cooperation, cultural and socio-economic understanding between Cambodia and the U.S.

ASK aims to fill a void in the U.S. academic community by providing the vital gap to advanced learners of Khmer language with a “one-of-a-kind” opportunity to acquire the linguistic foundation necessary to promote, improve and engage in academic research, professional discourse, development and cultural immersion with all segments of Cambodian society.

The eight-week ASK curriculum is intensive and implements six instructional modules based on World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages and ACTFL proficiency guidelines. Instruction is given to small individualized groups taught by local Khmer professors. ASK is a structured academic program (equivalent to full year's work) consisting of a daily four-hour language instruction each morning, followed by a three and half-hour pre-arranged afternoon site visit with related task-based learning activities for students to engage, analyze, synthesize their understanding, presenting and interacting with all sectors of Khmer communities and non-government agencies. Some highlight of the immersion curriculum includes: (1) homestay; (2) research on social-cultural and political and economic issues; (3) fieldworks on ecotourism-heritage preservation at Angkor site in Siem Reap; and (4) Culinary Khmer food, arts and dances.

In addition to the Pre and Post OPI tests and regular classroom achievement tests, the outcome of ASK students' language/cultural learning will culminate into: (1) individualized instruction; (2) communicative approach; (3) homestays; (4) students' story book; (5) mini-research paper/oral presentation in Khmer; and (6) multimedia projects on certain aspect of Khmer culture. Total immersion in this unique host-country is the best opportunity for advanced language learners and it provides students with the foundation necessary for academic growth, research skills, and future career opportunities while serving the critical need for the United States in Southeast Asia. Khmer is one of the Less Commonly taught languages that are in Competitive Preference Priorities 3.

Previous ASK programs and requirement can be viewed at: <http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/ask>.
Or contact the Project Director, Dr. Sak-Humphry at sak@hawaii.edu.