St. Petersburg State University (SPbU) is one of Russia’s oldest centers for the study of China, Chinese culture and language.

The beginning of Chinese studies and language teaching in Russia dates back to the 18th century when the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission was working in Beijing, that united students some of whom became the first Russian sinologists opening first-ever Russian Chinese language schools affiliated to the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg. In mid-19th century the center of Russian sinology was finally transferred to St. Petersburg. In 1854, Nicholas I signed a decree that established the Faculty of Oriental Languages at St. Petersburg University. In the second half of the 19th century the faculty opened a Chinese-Manchu division and active Chinese language, history and cultural studies began; Russian sinology school was also established during this period, headed by academician Vasily Vasilyev.

After 1917, a major reconstruction of university education took place and various historical and philological departments of the university started teaching oriental subjects. During this period a strong sinology school headed by academician Vasily Alekseev was estab-
lished at the university. In 1944, the Faculty was restored, and the Departments of Chinese Philology and History of Far East Countries were opened.

Our famous alumni of the 2nd half of the 20th century include such outstanding sinologists as Acad. B. L. Riftin, L. N. Menshikov, V. V. Petrov, V. I. Semanov, A. S. Martynov, T. N. Nikitina, G. Y. Smolin and many others.
In 1990s along with longstanding sinological tradition of the Faculty of Asian and African Studies, sinology was also introduced at the Faculty of Philosophy, and most recently the School of International Relations and the Faculty of Law established courses in Chinese studies.

In 2007 SPbU launched in operation the Confucius Institute, which was established in cooperation with Hanban and Capital Normal University and provided considerable support to further development of sinology at SPbU.

In 2015 SPbU established the Center for Chinese Studies under agreement with Renmin University of China.

At present, scientists working in various fields and areas are involved in Chinese studies at St. Petersburg State University. Over 40 sinologists are engaged in research activities. Along with classical sinology areas SPbU actively develops new research projects and fields.

All in all, sinological research is carried out in the following directions:

- Chinese grammar and lexicology;
- Modern and classical Chinese language (Wenyan);
- Ancient and Middle Age Chinese literature, Modern Age literature;
- Chinese literature of the XX–XXI c.;
- Ancient, Middle Age, Modern Age Chinese history;
- Chinese history of the XX–XXI c.;
- Chinese religions and faith traditions;
- Chinese philosophy;
- Chinese economy;
- Traditional Chinese culture and art;
- Chinese history historiography;
- Russian-Chinese relations;
- Chinese education history;
- Cultural and social cooperation between Russia and the East.

St. Petersburg State University provides training of sinology experts based on its own often unique methods tested by decades of successful teaching experience. It is true about teaching both modern and classical Chinese and other essential subjects, including, above all, Chinese history, literature, philosophy, ethnography, religious faiths, ethnopsychology and other subjects.

For nearly two decades the training of sinologists is based on a two-level system which includes bachelor (4 years) and master (2 years) degree courses. In addition, an overwhelming majority of students have an annual internship to Chinese universities, adding another year to their training. Main fields of study coincide with key areas of sinology research at the University and above that training in applied fields such as tourism is provided. SPbU also offers PhD programmes (3 years) in various fields of Chinese Studies.

**CONCENTRATIONS:**

- Chinese philology
- History of China
- Economics of China
- Cultural studies: Chinese culture
- Philosophy traditions of the Orient
- International relations
- Law (incl. Chinese law)
The collection of Chinese books mostly dates back to the Qing dynasty (1644–1911), while a small amount of units runs back to the Ming dynasty (1369–1644). The overwhelming majority of books are woodcuts. There are also 200 manuscripts. The books cover various areas of Chinese spiritual culture, including literature, fine arts, religion, philosophy, history, geography, etc. One can also find medical or agricultural treatises, reign calendars, encyclopedic and lexicographic dictionaries and reference books and other works. Until mid-20th century the Library had 11 volumes of the famous Yongle Dadian encyclopedia which were given to the Chinese government in 1950’s. Today a Buddhist woodcut which dates back to 1418 is the oldest book in the depository. There are particularly valuable manuscripts among the books, for example, novel Flower-Laden Ship, which, excluding SPbU can be found only at the libraries of Peking University, University of Tokyo and the British Museum. Two books have an imprint of the red seal of the Kangxi Emperor. The Chinese library stock was collected by outstanding sinologists of the 19th–20th centuries, including N. Bichurin, V. Vasiliev, I. Voitsekhovskiy, D. Sivillov, P. Kamensky, D. Pozdneev, M. Shevelev, N. Popov, P. Popov, P. Rudanovsky, G. Smykalov, and others.
### Recent Publications (2006–2016)

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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
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<td>Introduction to Chinese language: phonetics and spoken language.</td>
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- **Pang Ying**: Textology of Chinese classical novels ("Shuihu zhuan" and "Hongloumeng"). St. Petersburg, Nestor-History publishers, 2008
- **Alexander G. Storozhuk**: Introduction to Chinese hyerogliphics. St. Petersburg, Karo publishers, 2010

Tibetan literature in the Contemporary literary process in the PRC / ed. by Pavel L. Grokhovskiy. St. Petersburg, SPbU Philology faculty publishers. 2014

RECENT PUBLICATIONS (2006–2016)

Dmitry I. Mayatsky. Gao Zecheng and his masterpiece “The Lute”. St. Petersburg, SPbU publishing house. 2015


RECENT PUBLICATIONS (2006–2016)


RECENT PUBLICATIONS (2006–2016)


Manuscripts and woodblock prints in Asian languages at the scientific library of Saint Petersburg State University / ed. by Vladimir L. Uspensky. St. Petersburg, SPbU Faculty of Philology Publishers, 2014


Manuscripts and woodblock prints in Asian languages at the scientific library of Saint Petersburg State University / ed. by Vladimir L. Uspensky. St. Petersburg, SPbU Faculty of Philology Publishers, 2014


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SPbU regularly hosts international scientific conferences that bring together leading sinologists and global experts, including:

**HISTORIOGRAPHY AND SOURCE STUDIES OF ASIA AND AFRICA**, which is held biennially and covers a wide range of issues on historiography and source, literature and language studies in all regions and historic periods of Asia and Africa, from ancient to contemporary history.
http://www.orienthist.spbu.ru

**ISSUES OF FAR EASTERN LITERATURES**, which is biennially organized together with leading international universities or scientific institutions and is as a rule dedicated to a jubilee of a distinguished literary figure.
http://www.ifel.spbu.ru

**LESEWA** — **LANGUAGES OF FAR EAST, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND WEST AFRICA**, which is biennially organized together with Lomonosov Moscow State University and is dedicated both to the results of fundamental research on most topical controversial issues of language learning and to cutting-edge typology studies.
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CHINESE STUDIES AT SPBU BY NUMBERS

- History since 1854
- Over 40 faculty members
- Over 200 students, studying Chinese as a major subject
- Over 300 students, studying Chinese as a second Oriental language
- Over 200 students, studying Chinese at additional education courses
- 24 published books on China in the past 10 years
- Over 30 partner institutions in China

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