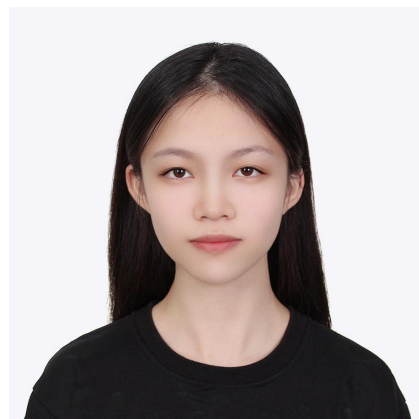


Department of Asian and Asian American Studies Announces 2025 Scholarship Recipients

The Department of Asian and Asian American Studies (AAAS) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2025 Asian and Asian American Studies Scholarship: Ayumi Nakagawa and Yawen Zheng, two outstanding AAAS majors recognized for their strong interdisciplinary engagement at Stony Brook University.

Ayumi Nakagawa is a graduating senior double majoring in Health Science and Asian and Asian American Studies, with a minor in Japanese Studies (JNH). Originally on a pre-health track, Ayumi was inspired by her multilingual, multicultural upbringing to explore the connections between language, identity, and healthcare. Adding AAAS allowed her to engage more deeply with her heritage and understand how cultural and linguistic barriers impact patient care. With aspirations to become a healthcare interpreter, Ayumi is committed to improving access and outcomes for immigrant communities. This scholarship will support her continued growth in language and cross-cultural communication as she works toward professional certification. In the 2023-24 academic year, Ayumi participated in Stony Brook University's international academic exchange program and studied at Waseda University in Japan.



Yawen Zheng is enrolled in the pre-nursing track, currently completing a rigorous set of science-intensive prerequisites for the Accelerated Baccalaureate Program (ABP) in Nursing. She is also completing a major in Asian and Asian American Studies and a minor in China Studies (CNS). Her academic path reflects a commitment to both healthcare and cultural understanding. Through AAAS, Yawen gained valuable insight into how identity and communication shape patient experiences—insight she believes is essential to effective nursing. She hopes to become a Cosmetic Dermatology Nurse

Practitioner who provides inclusive, affirming care to those often overlooked in traditional clinical settings. This scholarship not only helps ease the financial burden of preparing for nursing school but also affirms the dedication she has brought to her studies. Yawen is deeply grateful for the support of the AAAS community as she enters the next stage of her journey.

This scholarship was made possible through the generous contributions of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other supporters during the annual SBU Giving Day. Each student will receive \$500 to support their studies.