

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Awarding Institution/Body:	SOAS, University of London
2. Teaching Institution:	SOAS, University of London
3. Programme Accredited By:	N/A
4. Final Award:	MA
5. Programme Title:	Anthropological Research Methods
6. Registry Code:	L6S3 / L6SD
7. Programme Proposed by:	Dr Dolores Martinez
8. Date of Revision:	
9. Criteria for Admission:	Minimum good second class honours (or equivalent)
10. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmarking group(s):	
11. Educational Aims of the Programme:	To develop knowledge of ...

12. Programme Outcomes - *The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:*

A Knowledge & Understanding	Teaching/Learning Methods & Strategies
<p>1. How to assess data and evidence critically from manuscripts and digital sources, solve problems of conflicting sources and conflicting interpretations, locate materials, use research sources (particularly research library catalogues) and other relevant traditional sources.</p> <p>2. Subject specific skills: The Research Methods course focuses on teaching the various research methods associated with anthropological fieldwork including: Participant observation, historical research, qualitative interviewing, quantitative data collection, Rapid Participatory Assessment, how to design questionnaires and, especially, on how to formulate a research question and design a project and consider the ethical issues involved. The Statistics course works on how to compile statistics, and how to critically assess statistics.</p> <p>3. The Research Training course, which is assessed by the Masters dissertation, works on students' writing skills with an emphasis on thinking of the history of the discipline, writing to schedule, writing to requested word count, how to formulate a research question based on the material gathered, as well as how to do a presentation, how to comment on presentations and how to apply for funding. Term three looks at the strategies for working on the Masters' dissertation and how to be upgraded at the start of the MPhil year.</p> <p>4. Many students also work on their language skills with a language option in this MA. Finally, the students can choose an option (or two half units) which their supervisor thinks necessary to hone their expertise in either a region or subject area.</p>	<p>Acquisition of 1 and 4 through seminars and classes. Students are required to attend all classes, study extensively on their own and prepare non-assessed work regularly.</p> <p>Acquisition of 2 through...The Research Methods course works through lectures, practical assessments (including mini ethnographies), and seminar discussions.</p> <p>Acquisition of 3 through...A seminar course in which, aside from the sessions devoted to lectures on fieldwork as an experience, the students do presentations, and comment on each others' work. The course also devotes several sessions to looking a funding applications and how to best to approach these.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assessment:</p> <p>Through unseen examinations, long essays, course work and a dissertation. The Research Methods course also assesses a mini-ethnography – an exercise in participant observation and writing it up.</p>
B Intellectual (thinking) Skills	Teaching/Learning Methods & Strategies
<p>1. Students should become precise and cautious</p>	<p>Acquisition of 1 and 2 is fostered in all courses offered in</p>

<p>in their assessment of evidence, and to understand through practice what documents can and cannot tell us.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Students should question interpretations, however authoritative, and reassess evidence for themselves. They should be able to design a research project, set a timetable, understand the principles of fieldwork, and consider questions of ethics. 3. Students should learn to read each others' work for both its strengths and weaknesses, develop their skills as public speakers, learn how to compose short abstracts of their project (for funding), be able to think critically and yet be open to being critiqued themselves. 	<p>the Programme, in that all courses will introduce information that will need to be assessed critically and will demonstrate that how conflicting interpretations arise from the same information.</p> <p>Acquisition of 3 through...Weekly practice at presenting seminars, discussing each others' work.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assessment:</p> <p>Through unseen examinations, course work, long essays and a dissertation. The Research Methods course also assesses a mini-ethnography – an exercise in participant observation and writing it up.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">C Practical Skills</p> <p>The programme aims to help students with the following practical skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate effectively in writing 2. Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources. 3. Present seminar papers. 4. Listen and discuss ideas introduced during seminars. 5. Practice research techniques in a variety of specialized research libraries and institutes. 6. Be prepared to do fieldwork for an anthropology PhD. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Teaching/Learning Methods & Strategies</p> <p>Acquisition of 1 through the writing of long essays and dissertations.</p> <p>Acquisition of 2 through sessions with the SOAS library, practice of reading ethnographies and each others' work.</p> <p>Acquisition of 3 through regular seminar presentations.</p> <p>Acquisition of 4 through seminar discussion.</p> <p>Acquisition of 5 through the setting of clear deadlines for the submission of written work.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assessment:</p> <p>By unseen examination, dissertation, long essays and course work.</p>

D Transferable Skills	Teaching/Learning Methods & Strategies
<p>The programme will encourage students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write good essays and dissertations. 2. Structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing. 3. Understand unconventional ideas. 4. Study a variety of written and digital materials, in libraries and research institutes of a kind they will not have used as undergraduates. 5. Present (non – assessed) material orally. 6. Be able to apply for funding to do a PhD. 7. Be prepared to enter an Anthropology PhD programme and to be upgraded from MPhil to PhD in the shortest possible time. 	<p>Acquisition of 1 through long essays, course work and dissertation.</p> <p>Acquisition of 2 through seminar presentations, discussions and essays.</p> <p>Acquisition of 3 through...</p> <p>Acquisition of 4 through...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assessment:</p> <p>Through unseen examinations, dissertation, long essays and course work.</p>

The following reference points were used in designing the programme:

1. School learning and teaching strategy
2. Staff research
3. QAA framework for higher education qualifications
4. Relevant subject benchmark – This is an ESRC recognised Masters programme, and part of the 1+3 recognised MA and PhD programme.

Programme Structure:

Students take the equivalent of four course units per year.

Regulation of Assessment:

Details of the regulation of assessment are made available to students at registration, through Undergraduate handbooks and course handbooks.

Programme Requirements for 2-Subject Degrees:

Students take 2 units from each side of degree, with scope for floater units in other departments.

PLEASE NOTE: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the Programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might be reasonably expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course/unit module can be found in the departmental course handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the School and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.