

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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| 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: | Social Anthropology |
| 6. Registry Code: | L6U2 |
| 7. Programme Convenor: | Dr D Martinez |
| 8. Date of Revision: | |
| 9. Criteria for Admission: | Minimum good second class honours (or equivalent) |
| 10. Educational Aims of the Programme: | |

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

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| A Knowledge & Understanding | Teaching/Learning Methods & Strategies |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to assess data and evidence critically from documents, oral 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. 2. Subject specific skills. All students will have opportunities, actively and critically, to study and learn about the discipline of Social Anthropology; its history, concepts, methods, approaches and variety. Students will also learn to ask questions about anthropological authority and issues of representation. 3. Students will study the applications of anthropological ideas to social relations and milieux, on both large and small scales and in a variety of global locations. | <p>Acquisition of 1 through seminars and classes. Students are required to attend all classes, study extensively on their own and prepare non-assessed work regularly.</p> <p>2. The core lecture, Comparative Studies of Society and Culture, provides the basis for an intellectual history of anthropology in term 1 and an examination of how anthropology deals with modernity and post-modernity in term 2. Seminars for the course are opportunities for student presentations as well as for critical discussions of the core issues in anthropology.</p> <p>3. Theoretical Approaches, which all conversion students normally take, and the various options on offer to the students of Social Anthropology both provide the variety needed to understand social relations within any context. Theoretical Approaches looks carefully and critically at the key anthropological tools for doing this and the Options, in varied ways, deal with what might be called the minutiae: Regional Options provide regional examples, Thematic courses such as Gender, Tourism, etc, provide more general examples of large theoretical constructs which are explored through the use of ethnographic data. The Research Methods course which all students must audit provides more practical skills in participant-observation, interviewing techniques, how to use the Internet for research, bibliographic searches, working with archives, research ethics and how to choose research and dissertation topics.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assessment:</p> <p>Through unseen examinations, long essays, course work and the dissertation.</p> |
| B Intellectual (thinking) Skills | Teaching/Learning Methods & Strategies |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students should become precise and critical in their | <p>Acquisition of 1 and 2 is fostered in all courses offered in the</p> |

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| <p>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. 3. Students are encouraged to think of their learning opportunities as a means to develop both specialist and regional expertise as well as more general transferable personal skills and capacities. Particular to anthropology is the developed capacity for empathy and understanding of people in widely differing cultural, social and institutional contexts; a refined grasp of difficulties and problems – but also potentialities – of communication within and across cultures; a heightened sense of connections between local and global influences. | <p>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. The Research Methods course also addresses some of these issues more directly.</p> <p>Acquisition of 3 is through all the courses which a student takes. All our anthropology courses, whether core or option, stress some or all of these issues through the use of ethnography, of empirical data gathered by the lecturer as a specialist, through the discussion of work read for the course, and also through discussion of students' own experiences which are often wide-ranging. The combination of these activities, along with a critical reading of the 'models' which are so often taken for granted, whether thinking about 'our' or 'their' society, allows students to reassess their own assumptions and this becomes the springboard for an increased capacity to try and understand the worldview of others.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assessment:</p> <p>Through unseen examinations, course work, long essays and the dissertation.</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. Practice the techniques relevant to the gathering of empirical data: interviewing, participant observation, and the use of questionnaires | <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 the Research Methods class and in tutorials with an assigned supervisor for the dissertation.</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>Acquisition of 6 is through the group work for the Research Methods class.</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 |
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| <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. To think critically about ‘commonsense’ assumptions; to question the nature of social constructs; to reflect on the organization of society; and to consider the ethics of representing others. | <p>Acquisition of 1 through long essays, course work and dissertation.</p> <p>Acquisition of 2 and 5 through seminar presentations, discussions and essays.</p> <p>Acquisition of 3 and 6 through the use of anthropological material and the questioning of ‘western’ values within the seminar discussions.</p> <p>Acquisition of 4 through the Research Methods class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assessment:</p> <p>Through unseen examinations, dissertation, long essays and course work.</p> |

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| <p>The following reference points were used in designing the programme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School learning and teaching strategy 2. Staff research 3. QAA framework for higher education qualifications |
| <p>Programme Structure: Students take three taught courses (one core, another core course if no previous anthropology, and up to four ½ units Optional courses or up to 2 full unit optional courses) and write a 10,000 word dissertation.</p> |
| <p>Regulation of Assessment: Details of the regulation of assessment are made available to students at registration, through MA handbooks and course handbooks.</p> |
| <p>Programme Requirements for 2-Subject Degrees: Not applicable.</p> |

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.