

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:	MSc
5. Programme Title:	Economics with reference to the Middle East
6. Registry Code:	L1S4
7. Programme Convenor:	Dr M Karshenas
8. Date of Revision:	June 2006
9. Criteria for Admission:	Minimum good second class honours (or equivalent)
10. Educational Aims of the Programme:	Enables students to apply advanced principles of economics to the analysis of issues and the design of economic policy. Provides students with the skills and knowledge to allow them to progress to PhD research.

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:*

A Knowledge & Understanding	Teaching/Learning Methods & Strategies
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The course aims to give a solid understanding of the main trends in economic growth, both in the world economy and in the Middle East region, the debates over sources of growth in the region, and the reasons why some countries have performed better than others. Attention is paid to the causes and consequences of growth slowdowns and growth collapses. 2. In addition the course aims to give the students an advanced-level understanding of modern macro and microeconomics, with particular emphasis on those parts of the literature relevant to an understanding of economic development. In addition students also study econometrics. 3. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the very large literature on economic growth in the world economy and in the Middle East. They are also given a solid training in econometric technique and are also encouraged to become familiar with the key data sources provided by national governments and international agencies. 	<p>Acquisition of 1 and 2 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 (3) through provision of extensive reading lists and extra advice to students during seminar discussions and personal consultations in office hours. Students are encouraged to write dissertations on topics where both the secondary literature and the data sources are adequate to support a reasoned economic argument, backed up where appropriate with econometric analysis.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assessment:</p> <p>Through unseen examinations, long essays, course work and a dissertation.</p>
B Intellectual (thinking) Skills	Teaching/Learning Methods & Strategies
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students should become precise and cautious in their assessment of data and evidence, and understand through practice the econometrics techniques and their limitations. 2. Students should be able to question and engage with a range of contemporary economic theories and interpretations, and be able to engage in contemporary policy debates in institutional reform, governance and economic reform. 	<p>Acquisition of 1 is fostered through two compulsory Quantitative Techniques modules and a dissertation.</p> <p>Acquisition of 2 is fostered through the other courses offered in the Programme. All courses will introduce information that will need to be assessed critically and will demonstrate how conflicting interpretations can arise from the same information.</p>

<p>3. Students should be able to formulate research questions and to carry out independent research.</p>	<p>Acquisition of 3 is fostered through carrying out independent research under supervision for the 8,000 word assessed dissertation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assessment:</p> <p>Through unseen examinations, course work, long essays and a 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. Use data sets and econometric software for economic modeling and hypothesis testing. 2. Communicate effectively in writing 3. Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources. 4. Present seminar papers. 5. Listen and discuss ideas introduced during seminars. 6. Practice research techniques, search for data and material in a variety of libraries and electronic data bases. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Teaching/Learning Methods & Strategies</p> <p>Acquisition of 1 through practical exercises and projects in Quantitative Techniques.</p> <p>Acquisition of 2 through the writing of long essays and dissertations.</p> <p>Acquisition of 3 through regular seminar presentations and carrying out independent research.</p> <p>Acquisition of 4 and 5 through assessed essays and seminar discussions.</p> <p>Acquisition of 6 through the carrying out of assessed independent research.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Assessment:</p> <p>By unseen examination, dissertation, long essays and course work.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">D Transferable Skills</p> <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 both conventional and unconventional ideas about economic growth and development. 4. Use a wide range 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. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Teaching/Learning Methods & Strategies</p> <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 having to engage with a wide range of critical lectures and reading materials</p> <p>Acquisition of 4 through supervised research in Research Methods and in the assessed dissertation.</p> <p>Acquisition of 5 through classroom participation in tutorials and seminars.</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

Programme Structure:

Students take eight modules: macroeconomics, microeconomics, quantitative methods 1 and II, Growth and Development, Applied Economics of the Middle East I and II, and one elective. In addition students write an 8,000 word dissertation on an approved topic relating to economic development of the Middle East region.

Regulation of Assessment:

Details of the regulation of assessment are made available to students at registration, through the school post-graduate handbook, and course handbooks.

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.