

## Programme Specification

### I. Programme Details

<b>Programme title</b>	Museum, Heritage & Material Culture Studies			
<b>Final award</b> ( <i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the <a href="#">Taught Degree Regulations</a></i> )	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	BSc	<input type="checkbox"/>	MSc	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	LLM	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	Distance-learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	On-campus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Professional body accreditation</b> ( <i>if applicable</i> )	n/a			
<b>Academic year this specification was created</b>	2016/17			
<b>Dates of any subsequent amendments</b>				

### II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?

<p>Students taking the MA in Museums, Heritage and Material Culture Studies will have the opportunity to achieve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A critical awareness of contemporary theoretical debates in museum studies, cultural heritage studies, and material/visual culture studies;</li> <li>2. A familiarity with the distinctive contributions of anthropology, art history and archaeology to these interdisciplinary fields;</li> <li>3. A critical awareness of World Art/World Cultures/World Heritage, with an emphasis on SOAS's regional specialisms (Asia, Africa and the Middle East) as well as transnational/diasporic contexts;</li> <li>4. An understanding of ethnographic approaches to tangible and intangible heritage research;</li> <li>5. Experience of object-based knowledge and museological research methods.</li> </ol>
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### III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The ability to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of contemporary theoretical debates within the fields of museum studies, heritage studies, and material/visual culture studies.</li> <li>2. A critical understanding of the relationships between anthropology, art history and archaeology and their contributions to interpretations of museums, heritage and material culture.</li> <li>3. An advanced knowledge of theoretical approaches to social anthropology, cross-cultural aesthetics and curating non-Western material.</li> <li>4. A solid grasp of object-based, museological, anthropological, art historical and archaeological research methods.</li> <li>5. A critical awareness of world art/world cultures/world heritage, with an emphasis on SOAS's regional specialisms (Asia, Africa and the Middle East).</li> </ol>	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition of Programme Learning Outcomes (above) through participation in the core course, <u>Museums, Heritage and</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most courses are assessed by essay and project work, and some by exam and slide test.</li> </ul>

<p><u>Material Cultures Studies</u> over two terms, including attending lectures, seminars and other teaching sessions. Students are required to attend all classes, study and engage in library and online research extensively on their own, and prepare coursework or complete research projects each term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programme provides for a detailed analysis of key debates regarding the interpretation of the role of museums, heritage and material culture around the world, historically and in the present. The core course, <u>Museums, Heritage and Material Cultures Studies</u>, combined with the two required courses - <u>Theoretical Approaches to Social Anthropology</u> and <u>Critical Theory in Art History and Material Culture</u> - as well as the two recommended half-unit option courses, <u>Curating Cultures</u> and <u>Ethnographic Research Methods</u>, provides the variety needed to understand the complexity of the issues involved in the fields of museum studies, heritage studies and material/visual culture studies.</li> <li>• The two-term core course and the two two-term compulsory courses provide broad understandings of traditions, methodologies and debates in anthropology, art history and archaeology, while the shorter option courses deal with more practical issues, including processes of curating non-Western material and ethnographic research methodologies. The option course, <u>Curating Cultures</u>, in particular, provides an in-depth knowledge of the practical, intellectual and ethical issues involved in the interpretation and display of the SOAS teaching collections, and culminates in student-led, group exhibitions in the Lady David Gallery. Here, students will gain knowledge of practices and issues arising from researching, interpreting and displaying SOAS's collections from Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The option course, <u>Ethnographic Research Methods</u>, includes various practical sessions (e.g., on interview technique and research design) and short fieldwork assignments to generate critical</li> </ul>	
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<p>awareness among students of their own observational and data recording processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are also encouraged through courses in the Department of Anthropology and the School of Arts to move beyond their core area of interests and explore other options.</li> </ul>	
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<b>Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aptitude in constructing and applying appropriate analytical and theoretical approaches to issues relevant to museum studies, heritage studies and material/visual culture studies.</li> <li>2. Ability to define and undertake independent primary research on museum collections and objects.</li> <li>3. Ability to analyse case studies of specific museums, heritage sites and collections.</li> <li>4. Capacity to source, integrate, analyse and summarise relevant research in the submission of assessments.</li> <li>5. Ability to undertake independent research in the submission of the dissertation.</li> <li>6. Ability to create a coherent verbal presentation, written report and group portfolio.</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition of Programme Learning Outcomes (above) is fostered in all courses offered in the programme, in that courses will introduce theories and/or information that will need to be assessed critically and engaged with in essay and dissertation writing, exams, slide tests, research project work and seminar presentations. The programme emphasises active learning processes, such as seminar/tutorial discussions and debates, and guided group fieldtrip sessions to museums and heritage sites in London and elsewhere.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For skills-based option courses, students work on team-based portfolios, exhibitions, interviews, and presentations.</li> </ul>

<b>Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A sound grounding in debates surrounding museum studies, cultural heritage studies and material/visual culture studies using a mixture of theoretical and empirical tools.</li> <li>2. Development of skills, such as object handling and interpretation, museum text/label writing, exhibition design and installation, collections management, interview techniques and data recording.</li> <li>3. The ability to find and access academic journals and e-books online, using the University of London's Online Library.</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programme will develop the skills needed for further independent research, writing and thinking in relation to museums, heritage and material culture studies. Students will engage with the study of museums, heritage and material culture</li> </ul>	

<p>in a global perspective, through seminar and class discussions, group-based project work, and the writing of long essays and a dissertation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recommended option course <u>Curating Cultures</u> provides a range of hands-on, vocational skills training in object interpretation, exhibition development, text and label-writing, case design and collections management. It will appeal to students wishing to gain academic and professional knowledge of the field of curating. The <u>Ethnographic Research Methods</u> recommended option develops skills in ethnographic research methods and project design. It puts into practice anthropological research techniques, and includes practical sessions on interview techniques, observation and data recording.</li> </ul>	
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<b>Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Effective analytical and critical written skills.</li> <li>2. Improved written communication developed via a range of assessments.</li> <li>3. Enhanced team working, organisational, project and time management skills developed particularly during the exhibition groups as part of the <u>Curating Cultures</u> module.</li> <li>4. Effective oral presentations using appropriate software.</li> <li>5. The ability to exploit IT effectively to find relevant research materials.</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the capacity to express their own ideas orally, visually and in writing, to summarise</li> <li>• the arguments of others, and to distinguish between the two</li> <li>• independence of thought and analytical, critical and synoptic skills</li> <li>• research skills in collecting and collating primary and secondary data</li> <li>• communication and presentation skills (using oral, visual and written materials and information technology)</li> <li>• the ability to make a structured argument, reference the works of others, and</li> <li>• assess historical evidence</li> <li>• time, planning and management skills</li> <li>• the ability to engage, where appropriate, in constructive discussion in group situations and to work constructively and productively in groups</li> <li>• independent learning and critical thinking</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a reflexive approach to cultural assumptions and premises developed</li> <li>• through a deep understanding of other ways of being in the world</li> <li>• the ability to recognise and challenge ethnocentric assumptions</li> <li>• Overall, graduates of this programme will gain a range of critical, theoretical and practical skills suitable for those seeking employment as professionals in museums, cultural and heritage organisations in Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. It will also provide an excellent postgraduate foundation for students interested in pursuing PhD research concerned with museums, heritage, and material/visual culture in Asian, African, Middle Eastern and transnational/transcultural contexts.</li> </ul>	
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<b>General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes</b>
<p>Masters programmes (with the exception of two-year full-time MAs) consist of 180 credits, made up of taught modules of 30 or 15 credits, taught over 10 or 20 weeks, and a dissertation of 60 credits. The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which optional.</p> <p>As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see <a href="https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/">https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/</a>) such as reading and research, preparing coursework, revising for examinations and so on. Also included is class time, for example lectures, seminars and other classes. Some subjects may have more class time than others – a typical example of this are language acquisition modules.</p> <p>At SOAS, most postgraduate modules have a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary.</p> <p>More information can be found on individual module pages.</p>

**MA Museums, Heritage and Material Culture Studies**

<b>credits</b>	60
<b>module code</b>	15PANC997
<b>module title</b>	Dissertation in Museums, Heritage & Material Culture Studies
<b>status</b>	compulsory module

<b>credits</b>	30	+	30	+	15	+	15	+
<b>module code</b>	15PANC099		15PANC008				Select from Anthropology or SoA list or open options PG list	
<b>module title</b>	Museums, Heritage & Material Culture Studies		Theoretical Approaches to Social Anthropology		Theory and Method in Art History			
<b>status</b>	core module		compulsory module		compulsory module		open option	

This is the **recommended** structure. Students may also take only **one** of these two modules and select the remaining 15 credits from the list below (Anthropology & Sociology or SoA), or take 30 credits from the list below (Anthropology & Sociology or SoA).

<b>credits</b>	15	+	15
<b>module code</b>	15PANH002		15PARH088
<b>module title</b>	Ethnographic Research Methods		Curating Cultures
<b>status</b>	guided option*		guided option*

**OR 15 or 30 credits from below list replacing either one or two of the recommended courses or the PG open option**

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Anthropology &amp; Sociology</b>		
15PANH010	African and Asian Diasporas in the Modern World	15
15PANH009	African and Asian Cultures in Britain	15
15PANH053	Anthropological Approaches to Agriculture, Food and Nutrition	15
15PANH061	Anthropology of Globalisation	15
15PANH058	Anthropology of Human Rights	15
15PANH056	Anthropology of Law	15
15PANH028	Comparative Media Theory	15
15PANH047	Comparative Study of Islam: Anthropological Perspectives	15
15PANH062	Culture and Society of China	15
15PANH063	Culture and Society of East Africa	15
15PANH065	Culture and Society of Japan	15
15PANH064	Culture and Society of South Asia	15
15PANH066	Culture and Society of South East Asia	15
15PANH067	Culture and Society of the Near and Middle East	15
15PANH068	Culture and Society of West Africa	15
15PANH022	Issues in the Anthropology of Film	15
15PANH024	Issues in the Anthropology of Gender	15
15PANH050	Media Production Skills	15
15PANH033	Perspectives on Development	15
15PANH055	Religions on the Move	15
15PANH027	Therapy and Culture	15
15PANH059	Tourism and Travel: A Global Perspective	15
<b>School of Arts</b>		
15PARH060	Modern and Contemporary Korean Art	15
15PARH059	Arts of Koryo and Chosen Korea	15
15PARH058	Understanding Art East and West: from Asmat Shields to Tate Modern	15
15PARH057	Buddhist and Hindu Art of the Maritime Silk Route	15
15PARH056	Sacred Art and Architecture of Ancient Korea	15
15PARH055	Arts of Modern and Contemporary China (since 1800)	15
15PARH054	Arab Painting	15
15PARH053	Persian Painting	15
15PARH052	Arts and Society in sub-Saharan Africa	15
15PARH051	Visual Arts of Dynastic China (to 1800)	15
15PARH048	Modern and Contemporary Arts in Africa	15
15PARH046	Ceramics in Chinese Culture: 10th - 18th Centuries	15
15PARH042	Diaspora Contexts and Visual Culture	15
15PARH039	Representing Conflict: A Cross-Cultural and Inter Disciplinary Approach	15
15PARH035	Art and Architecture of the Fatimids	15
15PARH034	Islam and the West: Artistic and Cultural Contacts	15
15PARH009	Art and Religious Experience in Premodern Japan	15
15PARH008	Popular Practice in the Edo Period Arts	15
15PARH007	Shogunal Iconography in the Edo Period	15
15PARH085	Contemporary Art and the Global	15
15PARH084	(En)gendering Southeast Asia: Aesthetics and Politics of Sexual Difference	15
15PARH083	Issues in Contemporary Southeast Asian Art	15
15PARH082	Photography and the Image in Africa	15
15PARH081	Islamic Archaeology	15
15PARH080	Islamic Art and Architecture of Eastern Mediterranean of the Period of the Crusades (11th-14th centuries)	15
15PARH078	Imag(in)ing Buddhahood in South Asia (1)	15
15PARH076	The Figure of the Buddha: Theory, Practice and the Making of Buddhist Art History	15
15PARH075	Tibetan Buddhist Monuments in Context	15
15PARH074	Critical Themes in Tibetan Art	15
15PARH073	Illustrated Manuscript Cultures of Southeast Asia	15
15PARH071	Monuments and sculpture of Angkor	15
15PARH070	Islamic Art & Architecture of Medieval Anatolia and the South Caucasus (11-13th centuries)	15
15PARH069	Collecting and Curating Buddhist Art in the Museum	15
15PARH068	Art and Architecture of the Early Ottomans and the Beyliks (13-15th centuries)	15
15PARH067	Arts of the Tamil Temple	15
15PARH065	Morocco and the Horizons of Visibility	15
15PARH064	Chinese Porcelain: Trade, Transfer and Reception	15
15PARH063	Architectural Boundaries and the Body	15
15PMSH029	Studies in Global Digital Cultures	15
15PMSH026	Media Spectacle and Urban Space in East Asia	15
15PMSH022	Digital traditional broadcasting communication	15
15PMSH019	Studies in Media, Information Communication Technologies and Development	15
15PMSH009	International Political Communication	15
15PMSH007	Studies in Global Media and Post-National Communication	15
15PMSH006	The Transnational News Environment: Production, Representation and Use	15
15PMSH005	Theoretical Issues in Media and Cultural Studies	15
15PMSH004	Transnational Communities and Diasporic Media: Networking, Connectivity, Identity	15
15PMSH003	Mediated Culture in the Middle East: Politics and Communications	15
15PMSH034	Topics in Global Digital Cultures	15
15PMUH025	Indian vocal music: Styles and histories	15
15PMUH023	Analytical Approaches to the Global Creative and Cultural Industries	15
15PMUH022	Music, Nation and Conflict in Jerusalem	15
15PMUH021	Sacred Sound in South Asia	15
15PMUH020	Raga: concept and practice (PG)	15
15PMUH019	Music and Healing	15
15PMUH018	Popular and Fusion Music in South East Asia (PG)	15
15PMUH017	Aspects of Music and Religion in South East Asia	15
15PMUH016	Musical Traditions of East Asia (Masters)	15
15PMUH015	Music, Place and Politics in Cuba	15
15PMUH014	Pop and Politics in East Asia (Masters)	15
15PMUH011	Klezmer Music: Roots and Revival	15
15PMUH009	Gender and Music (MMus)	15
15PMUH008	Central Asian Music	15
15PMUH004	Analysing World Music: Transcription & Analysis in Ethnomusicology	15
15PMUH003	The Music Business (Masters)	15
15PMUH002	Performance Theory	15
15PMUH024	Ethnicity, Religion and Gender in Middle Eastern Musical cultures	15