

## History of Art and Archaeology, School of Arts

### Graduate destinations

A degree from the department provides students with expertise in the History of Art and/or Archaeology of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and a large portfolio of transferable skills.

Our graduates work in arts, culture and heritage roles – such as in galleries, museums, archives, conservation, publishing, arts administration and heritage management – or forge careers in a range of other fields across the world.

Many decide to pursue postgraduate study in the History of Art and Archaeology or a related discipline.

*“My initial impression of SOAS was that it was extraordinarily different. I used to describe it as the ‘United Nations’ to friends and family, because of its diversity.”*  
*Guillaume Vandame (BA History of Art and Archaeology)*

### Contact information

If you are interested in studying in the History of Art and Archaeology department at SOAS, contact the Student Recruitment Office:

Email: [undergradadmissions@soas.ac.uk](mailto:undergradadmissions@soas.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44(0)20 7898 4034

For other enquiries, contact our Undergraduate Tutor, Dr Tania Tribe:

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## Undergraduate Study in the History of Art and Archaeology

The Department of the History of Art and Archaeology, School of Arts is a vibrant community of students and scholars interested in the arts, architecture and material culture of Asia, Africa and the Middle East and their global diasporas from ancient times to the present day.

From sculptural traditions and performance masquerade in West Africa and monumental architectural complexes in northeast Africa to the visual cultures of China and Japan; from the archaeology of Morocco to the temples of South East Asia; from the sophisticated book cultures of South Asia and the Middle East to questions of identity in museums, and diasporic art studies, our degree programmes cover a diversity of themes and theoretical approaches.

[www.soas.ac.uk/art](http://www.soas.ac.uk/art)

## History of Art and Archaeology, School of Arts

### Why study the History of Art and Archaeology?

The department is renowned as an alternative voice to Eurocentric art history, challenging the categories often taken for granted in the study of other cultures. Students benefit from the unparalleled knowledge and enthusiasm of staff and from the unique position of SOAS as an institution for the study of Asian and African languages, history, religions and cultures.

As part of the School of Arts, the department profits from the insights of scholars and students studying Music, Film and Media of Asia, Africa and the Middle East in historical and contemporary contexts.

The department is unique in its coverage of the arts, archaeology and visual cultures of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. No other university in the world offers such a range of teaching in these areas.

Staff are renowned globally as experts in their fields. More than 80% of their research was judged either world-leading or internationally excellent when it was last assessed externally. The research of members of staff informs and is informed by their teaching.

The department's teaching is excellent. 92% of students are satisfied with their teachers according to the last National Student Survey. 95% think that staff are good at explaining things.

Our graduates stand out for their expertise in the arts and cultures of a wide geographical area. Many progress to work in arts, culture

and heritage roles, including employment in museums, galleries and the international art market.

The large portfolio of transferable skills that our students acquire enables them to forge careers in a range of other fields across the world.

**"The lectures are incredibly enriching. Furthermore, when you attend SOAS you do not only learn during your classes, but also while you engage in fascinating conversations with the diverse student body."**

***Beatriz Cifuentes (BA History of Art and Archaeology and Tibetan)***

Our resources are world class. SOAS has an outstanding library housing major collections of books, archives, manuscripts, photographs, and audio and film material. 9 out of 10 students believe that library and IT resources meet their requirements.

The department is located in the Brunei Gallery on the Russell Square campus. The Gallery hosts regular exhibitions of contemporary and historical art from Asia, Africa and the Middle East, often in collaboration with the department.

Our location in central London allows fantastic access to museums, galleries and cultural events. The department collaborates with leading institutions in the art world, including the British Museum and the V&A Museum.

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### Degree programmes

#### BA History of Art/BA History of Art and Archaeology

These programmes are unrivalled opportunities to study the visual arts, architecture and material culture of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. In the first year, students are introduced to the art and archaeology of different regions. They also receive theoretical and methodological training to prepare them for the study of Asian and African art. In years two and three students broaden and deepen their knowledge and have the chance to specialise in particular regions or themes. An emphasis is placed on training students' visual memory through the study of images. Students are also provided with a critical introduction to the creative and cultural industries.

Whether a student sits for the BA History of Art or the BA History of Art and Archaeology depends on the courses they select in their second and third years. Any student who selects at least four units from the courses designated as having archaeological content will automatically be placed in the History of Art and Archaeology programme, while those who do not will be placed in the History of Art programme.

The BA History of Art and/or Archaeology can be combined with another subject to form a two-subject degree. Some two-subject programmes are completed in three years while others take four years and include a year abroad.

#### BA History of Art (Asia, Africa and Europe)

This is the only degree in the UK to combine the specialist study of Asian, African and European art history. It is taught jointly by the Department of the History of Art and Archaeology at SOAS and the History of Art department at University College London (UCL). Students select courses from each institution. They receive theoretical and methodological training, which is combined with the study of particular regions, themes and critical issues.

