Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme title</th>
<th>Sinology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final award (exit awards will be made as outlined in the Taught Degree Regulations)</td>
<td>BA ☐ MA ☒ BSc ☐ MSc ☐ Other ... ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of delivery</td>
<td>Distance-learning ☐ On-campus ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional body accreditation (if applicable)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic year this specification was created</td>
<td>2017/18 for 2018/19 onwards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1. To provide training in advanced Chinese literary and documentary sources for those who already have a good knowledge of Chinese (both classical and modern), in preparation for a subsequent degree by research.
2. To foster the skills of independent thought and study required for more advanced graduate work.
3. To provide a solid basis for professions requiring specialist knowledge of the languages, cultures, and literatures of China and the Chinese-speaking world.

III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes: Knowledge</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. To enhance practical skills and understanding of the basic literature and documentary sources which permit research in the broad field of Sinology. Research aids such as research guides, dictionaries, bibliographies, library catalogues, commentaries, concordances and digital sources are explored and studied, and skills in locating materials, dating texts, tracing pseudonyms, identifying and comparing official titles and responsibilities, and understanding the political, legal and social structures and their development through time will be fostered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. To obtain an understanding of the wealth of Chinese documentary sources, and to study representative genres in the classical corpus. Understanding of the content and research value of documents is stressed rather than their merit as literature. Different calligraphic scripts are introduced, and selections from the classics, diaries, gazetteers, legal texts, anecdotal writings, collected works, critical writings and other texts are read. Data and evidence are assessed critically, and problems of conflicting sources and interpretations are discussed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. To enhance students’ Chinese reading skills and take them beyond the level of word-for-word translation which typifies undergraduate reading modules; to increase students’ modern Chinese reading speed to an average of thirty pages per week; to introduce twentieth-century articles in Chinese which have had a major influence on Chinese history, society or culture; to familiarise students with secondary sources (scholarly articles and reference texts) in modern Chinese.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Typical Teaching Methods

- Acquisition of 1 through seminars and classes in the Sinological Methodology module. This

Typical Assessment Methods

- Assessment through long essays, examinations, and a dissertation.
is the compulsory module, and students are required to attend all classes, study extensively on their own and prepare non-assessed work regularly.

- Acquisition of 2 through seminars and classes in the Classical Documentary Texts module. Students will be expected to prepare annotated translations for class discussion weekly.
- Acquisition of 3 through seminars and classes in the Modern Documentary Texts module. Oral presentations by students on the articles will be discussed.

### Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills

1. Students will learn to be precise and cautious in their assessment of evidence, and to understand through practice what documents can and cannot tell us.
2. Students will develop an awareness of the interconnectedness of different texts and to develop a broader view when considering problems and to come up with a balanced opinion through utilizing a combination of different sources.
3. Students will learn to appreciate different viewpoints of a problem through critical writings.
4. Students will learn to question interpretations, however authoritative, and reassess evidence for themselves.

### Chinese Literature pathway (exit award):

1. Students should become able to assess data and evidence critically from manuscripts and digital sources, solve problems of conflicting sources and interpretations, locate materials, and use research sources.
2. Students should become aware of culturally essentialist and/or Eurocentric models of analysis of non-Western literatures and cultures and related intellectual debates, and acquire the intellectual skills to assess them critically.
3. Students should become aware of and think through the problems involved in applying a mainly “Western” body of literary theory to Chinese texts.
4. Students should become able to question interpretations, however authoritative, and reassess evidence independently.

### Typical Teaching Methods

- Acquisition of 1 to 4 is fostered in all modules offered in the programme through reading, discussion and writing.

### Typical Assessment Methods

- Assessment through long essays, examinations, and a dissertation.

### Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills

The programme aims to help students with the following:

1. To improve their knowledge and usage of basic reference sources.
2. To gain an understanding of the research methods of sinologists.
3. To improve their reading ability of various styles of classical and modern Chinese.
4. To practise research techniques in specialised SOAS research library.
5. To improve their awareness of the content and research value of documents, and their knowledge of Chinese literature and culture.

### Typical Teaching Methods

- Acquisition of 1 in all modules through

### Typical Assessment Methods

- Assessment through long essays,
• Acquisition of 2 in the Sinological Methodology module through reading assignments and reports.
• Acquisition of 3 in all modules through regular assignments and class discussion.
• Acquisition of 4 in all modules through assignments.
• Acquisition of 5 in all modules through assignments and class discussion.
• Examinations, and a dissertation.

Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills
The programme will encourage students to:
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 that they will not have been exposed to as undergraduates.

Typical Teaching Methods | Typical Assessment Methods
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• Acquisition of 1 through coursework, long essays and dissertation.
• Acquisition of 2 through seminar presentations, discussions and essays.
• Acquisition of 3 through seminar discussions.
• Acquisition of 4 through coursework, long essays, and dissertation.
• Assessment through long essays, examinations, and a dissertation.

General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes
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. As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/) 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. At SOAS, most postgraduate modules have a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary.
More information can be found on individual module pages.
## MA Sinology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15PCHC999</td>
<td>Dissertation in the Languages &amp; Cultures of China &amp; Inner Asia</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>compulsory module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15PEAC006</td>
<td>Classical Documentary Texts</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Taught Component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15PEAC005</td>
<td>Sinological Methodology</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Taught Component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15PEAC007</td>
<td>Modern Documentary Texts</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Taught Component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15PARC032</td>
<td>Art and Archaeology of the Silk Road</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>guided option*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15PCHH004</td>
<td>Practical Translation: Chinese to English</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>from list below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15PCHH005</td>
<td>Practical Translation: English to Chinese</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>from list below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15PCHC004</td>
<td>Traditional Chinese Literature in Translation</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>from list below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15PCHH001</td>
<td>Modern Chinese Film and Theatre (MA)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>from list below</td>
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<tr>
<td>15PCHC002</td>
<td>Modern Chinese Literature in Translation</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>from list below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15PCHH002</td>
<td>Modern Film from Taiwan and the Chinese Diaspora</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>from list below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15PHIH024</td>
<td>Knowledge and Power in Early Modern China</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>from list below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15PSRH038</td>
<td>Chinese Religious Texts: A Reading Seminar</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>from list below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15PJH025</td>
<td>Connections and Intersections: Core Aspects of East Asia</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>from list below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*List of modules (subject to availability)

- 15PEAC006 Classical Documentary Texts (if not taken as taught component 2) 30
- 15PEAC007 Modern Documentary Texts (if not taken as taught component 2) 30
- 15PARC032 Art and Archaeology of the Silk Road 30
- 15PCHH004 Practical Translation: Chinese to English 15
- 15PCHH005 Practical Translation: English to Chinese 15
- 15PCHC004 Traditional Chinese Literature in Translation 30
- 15PCHH001 Modern Chinese Film and Theatre (MA) 15
- 15PCHC002 Modern Chinese Literature in Translation 30
- 15PCHH002 Modern Film from Taiwan and the Chinese Diaspora 15
- 15PHIH024 Knowledge and Power in Early Modern China 15
- 15PSRH038 Chinese Religious Texts: A Reading Seminar 15
- 15PJH025 Connections and Intersections: Core Aspects of East Asia 15