



## CONSTITUTION OF THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF PAKISTAN, SOAS

### PURPOSE OF THE CENTRE

1. The Centre for the Study of Pakistan, (hereafter 'the Centre') is an officially constituted centre under the umbrella of the Centre of South Asian Studies at SOAS.
2. Its principal purposes are to:
  - a) promote research and teaching in the study of Pakistan, both contemporary and historical, across a range of disciplines at SOAS
  - b) bring together and publicise the range of work on Pakistan underway at SOAS, to build synergies between staff working on Pakistan and to encourage and facilitate fund raising for such initiatives
  - c) work towards developing an interdisciplinary MA programme in the Study of Contemporary Pakistan the school
  - d) foster and facilitate links between SOAS and other individuals and institutions in the UK and abroad who are engaged in academic study of Pakistan across various disciplines
  - e) develop outreach programmes to disseminate knowledge of Pakistan to a wider public through a variety of events including workshops, conferences, exhibitions, film and performance arts
  - f) promote understanding of Pakistan in all its aspects to involve Pakistan communities and diasporic groups and to organise joint events, as and when appropriate.
3. The Centre seeks to promote the study of Pakistan by:
  - a) promoting the teaching of the languages of Pakistan and courses related to Pakistan at SOAS
  - b) facilitating and coordinating the supervision of dissertations and theses in the study of Pakistan
  - c) promoting and facilitating PhD research related to the study of Pakistan at SOAS
  - d) organising public lectures and a seminar series on Pakistan

- e) organising and hosting national and international workshops and conferences on Pakistan
- f) fostering and facilitating individual and collaborative research on Pakistan and issues related to Pakistan among SOAS staff and students
- g) developing worldwide contacts with organisations and institutions concerned with the study of Pakistan
- h) raising funds, and assisting Centre members in raising funds, for the above purposes.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

4. The Centre is located at, and is administered and managed by, the Centre of South Asian Studies at SOAS and is subject to the regulations and procedures pertaining to the CSAS and SOAS.

**4.1** The aim of the CSAS, through education and research, is to promote knowledge of all aspects of South Asia including its complexities, problems, achievements and assets, both among the general public and with those who have specialist interest in the region.

**4.2** Given the growing strategic importance of Pakistan, in relation not just to India but to its other neighbours, and the lack of dedicated teaching and research activities on Pakistan, the CSAS aims to develop a specialist Centre on Pakistan in order to focus interest in that specific area. The Centre for the study of Pakistan follows the model of the Centre for Iranian Studies within the London Middle East Institute as a sub-regional centre.

**4.3** The CSAS will provide administrative support to the Centre both on a day-to-day basis as well as strategically as part of its mission to promote understanding of South Asia.

#### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE CENTRE**

5. Membership of the Centre is open to all academic staff at SOAS with a special interest in the study of Pakistan. Members are eligible to vote at the Centre meetings and will take part in nomination and election of a Chair of Centre. Associate Membership is open to students at SOAS with an academic interest in the study of Pakistan. Individuals outside the School who share an academic interest in the study of Pakistan and wish to participate in the Centre's activities, too, may be invited to join the Centre as Associate Members. Such membership

does not confer any voting rights, nor allow the Associate Members to be consulted about the selection of a new Centre Chair. An up-to-date list of the current Members and Associate Members will be maintained the Centres and Conference Office.

#### **MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE**

6. The Centre is headed by a Chair, who must be a member of the SOAS academic staff.
7. The Centre Chair will consult with centre members over nominations for chair. The Centres & Programmes Manager will manage the election process through the members.
8. The Centre Chair will provide academic leadership of the Centre and is responsible to the Director of the CSAS. The School has the power to close or suspend the Centre's activities should this be deemed necessary.
9. The Chair is advised by an **Advisory Committee**. Advisory Committee should normally meet once a term and it should consist of:
  - (a) Three members of the Centre; and
  - (b) One external member.
10. The Chair will normally serve a term of three years from appointment. This term may be extended one more time after consultation with Centre members.
11. The Centre Chair is responsible to the School for the management business of the Centre. The Centres & Programmes Office manager is responsible to the School for the Centre's administration and for organising and overseeing its activities including the budget. The Centres & Programmes Manager will maintain, manage and report clearly the Centre's financial records and budget as part of its budgetary process.
12. The Chair is required to submit an annual report on the work of the Centre.

#### **CENTRE MEETINGS**

14. An annual general meeting, open to all Centre members and notified publicly at least three weeks in advance of the meeting, must be held each academic year during term time. It should review the work of the Centre over the previous year and consider future plans for the Centre. It is the responsibility of the Chair to ensure that formal minutes of this meeting are kept and made available for inspection on request to members of the Centre.

15. Subject to notice to members no less than ten working days in advance, the Chair can convene other general meetings to discuss, and report on, any issues relating to the organisation, purposes and strategies of the Centre.

#### **AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

16. The constitution of the Centre is subject to approval and periodic review by the Centre members and Faculty Boards. Amendments to the constitution can be proposed by a majority of members present at a duly notified annual general meeting or at an extraordinary general meeting called for the purpose by more than half of the Centre members, but they remain subject to ratification by the Faculty Boards.