

Admissions Policy

Policy on admissions and entry to SOAS postgraduate programmes

1. The School believes that a diverse student population contributes to a challenging and stimulating learning environment. We therefore welcome postgraduate applications from all candidates with the potential to succeed in postgraduate studies, whatever their background. We are committed to equality of opportunity and aim to avoid unfair discrimination on any grounds, including disability, gender, age, ethnic background, sexual orientation, religion or belief.
2. The School aims to provide accurate information and advice to prospective students concerning the opportunities for postgraduate study at SOAS. The Postgraduate prospectus is prepared more than 12 months prior to entry; whilst every effort is made to ensure its accuracy some changes in the subsequent period are inevitable. Up to date advice is available from the Admissions & Recruitment Office.
3. The School facilitates swift responses to enquiries and applications, and ensures that all necessary documentation is sent at the earliest possible time.
4. The admissions decision rests primarily on the qualifications, needs and aspirations of the applicant, and the educational opportunities available. Applicants selected for admission should be suitably qualified and capable of benefiting from the programme of study.
5. Applicants for a taught Masters degree should normally possess at least a 2:1 (Upper Second) class honours degree from a UK university, or a qualification deemed equivalent by the School. Applicants for research degrees should normally possess a UK Masters degree or a qualification deemed equivalent by the School. Applicants who do not possess this level of qualifications may be eligible for consideration for admission to postgraduate programmes on the basis of previous work experience or training. The School welcomes applications for taught Masters from students enrolled on International Foundation Programmes for Postgraduate study.
6. Criteria for entry to individual programmes of study are in addition to the above and may vary. Achievement or predicted achievement of the required qualifications does not guarantee an offer of a place. Each application is considered on its merits and in competition with others. The School may take into account examination results already achieved, predicted grades in forthcoming examinations, research project proposals, personal statements and academic references. Any applicant may be asked to attend an interview and/or to submit additional application materials.
7. All applicants whose first language is not English must meet the School's English language requirements. The School accepts a range of English language qualifications to satisfy the minimum level of competence required.
For further details please refer to: www.soas.ac.uk/englishrequirements

8. Applications from students with disabilities are considered on the same academic grounds as all other applicants. Applicants are invited to disclose their disability at the point of application. Applicants can obtain advice concerning the suitability of the campus, the degree programme, equipment and/or support available from the School's Student Disability Advisor. Information regarding disability is sensitive personal data and is subject to the Data Protection Act. SOAS will share disability related admissions information only amongst relevant admissions and disability staff. Applicants may speak to the Student Disability Advisor in confidence if they prefer.
9. Students are only admitted to a research degree where an appropriate supervisor can be identified and provision can be made for regular supervision throughout the period of registration
10. The School reserves the right to reject applications to study at the School on academic grounds or if places are no longer available, and to give no reasons to such applicants save at its own discretion.
11. Offers of admission will include information on the duration of the programme for which the applicant has been accepted and the fee required; all conditions attached to the offer will be specified. An offer of a place is not a guarantee of funding.
12. Decisions on applications are valid only if communicated by the Academic Registrar or authorised deputy.
13. If a candidate has any questions or needs clarification regarding the School's Policy on Admissions, he or she is welcome to contact the Admissions and Recruitment Office SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG.