

Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Ancient Near Eastern Languages			
Final award (<i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the Taught Degree Regulations</i>)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	BSc	<input type="checkbox"/>	MSc	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other ...	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	On-campus		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Professional body accreditation (<i>if applicable</i>)	n/a			
Academic year this specification was created	2016/17			
Dates of any subsequent amendments				

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

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to widen the student's experience in the vast legacy of written documentation in Akkadian and other languages from ancient Mesopotamia and Anatolia by intensive text reading 2. to introduce the student to Assyriological research 3. to develop practical skills in research and the presentation of results by writing essays or other pieces of work and by writing a substantial dissertation
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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"> 1. How to assess data and evidence critically from manuscripts and digital sources, solve problems of conflicting sources and conflicting interpretations, locate materials, use research sources (particularly research library catalogues) and other relevant traditional sources. 2. Subject specific skills (language): deeper understanding and wider experience of Akkadian language and other languages already acquired, as appropriate (e.g. Sumerian, Hittite); sound basic knowledge of languages studied for the first time, as appropriate (e.g. Sumerian, Hittite). 3. Subject specific skills (other): ability to utilize written documentation to reconstruct cultural background, e.g. interpreting literature as a product of its civilization, understanding monumental inscriptions as royal artefacts and analysing documentary texts as witnesses of social and economic history. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1 above) developed through text-reading classes. Students are required to attend all classes, study extensively on their own and prepare non-assessed work regularly • (2) and (3) developed through close reading of set texts selected to illustrate the wide range of ancient Mesopotamian documentation extant in the cuneiform script over three millennia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessed by unseen examinations, long essays or other course work and a dissertation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3) developed through discussion in class 	
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Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students should become precise and cautious in their assessment of evidence, and to understand through practice what documents can and cannot tell us. 2. Students should question interpretations, however authoritative, and reassess evidence for themselves. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1) and (2) fostered in all courses offered in the programme, in that all courses will introduce information that will need to be assessed critically and will demonstrate that how conflicting interpretations arise from the same information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessed by unseen examinations, long essays or other course work and a dissertation.

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicating effectively in writing 2. Retrieving, sifting and selecting information from a variety of sources 3. Listening and discussing ideas introduced during classes and seminars 4. Ability to plan and execute set tasks efficiently 5. Practice research techniques in a variety of specialized research libraries and institutes 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1) developed through the writing of long essays and dissertations. • (2) developed through preparation for written work • (3) developed through discussion in class, at ANE seminars and other fora as arranged • (4) developed through the setting of clear deadlines for the submission of written work • (5) developed through tutorial advice and guidance during preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessed by unseen examinations, long essays or other course work and a dissertation

Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Writing good essays and dissertations 2. Structuring and communicating ideas effectively both orally and in writing 3. Understanding unconventional ideas 4. Studying a variety of written and digital materials, in libraries and research institutes, of a kind they will not have used as undergraduates 5. Presenting (non-assessed) material orally 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1) developed through monitoring of long essays, other course work and dissertation • (2) developed through discussion in class and essays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessed by unseen examinations, long essays or other course work and a dissertation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (3) and (5) developed through discussion in class • (4) developed through experience in the archives of the British Museum, subject to the museum's approval 	
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<p>General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes</p>
<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 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.</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 Ancient Near Eastern Languages (two year part-time only)

	Dissertation		
credits	60		The dissertation must be taken in the second year.
module code	15PNMC994		
module title	Dissertation in Ancient Near Eastern Languages		
status	compulsory module		

	Taught Component		+	Taught Component		Students either take 90 credits in Year 1 and 30 credits in Year 2, or 60 credits in each year.
credits	90			30		
module title	from list below			from list below or from Open Options list		
status	guided option*			guided option*		

***List of modules (subject to availability)**

At SOAS (NB: modules run in alternating years)

15PNMC404	Introductory Akkadian (Masters)	30
15PNMC429	Introductory Sumerian (Masters)	30
15PNMC428	Introductory Hittite (Masters)	30
15PNMC021	Mesopotamian Languages and Literature A: the third millennium	30
15PNMC022	Mesopotamian Languages and Literature B: the second millennium	30
15PNMC023	Mesopotamian Languages and Literature C: the first millennium	30

Students may, if qualified, take 30 credits from the following MA programmes run by UCL

Hebrew and other North-West Semitic languages (from MA in Hebrew and Jewish Studies)
 Ancient history, currently "Change and Continuity in the Ancient Near East" (from MA in Ancient History)
 Archaeology (from MA in Archaeology of the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East)

MA Ancient Near Eastern Languages (two year part-time only)

	Taught Component	
Year 1	credits	90
	module title	from list below
	status	guided option*

	Taught Component		+	Dissertation		OR
Year 2	credits	30		60		
	module code	from list below or from Open Options list		15PNMC994		
	module title	from list below or from Open Options list		Dissertation in Ancient Near Eastern Languages		
	status	guided option*		compulsory module		

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MA Ancient Near Eastern Languages (two year part-time only)

	Taught Component	
Year 1	credits	60
	module title	from list below
	status	guided option*

	Taught Component		+	Taught Component		+	Dissertation	
Year 2	credits	30		30			60	
	module code	from list below		from list below or from Open Options list			15PNMC994	
	module title	from list below		from list below or from Open Options list			Dissertation in Ancient Near Eastern Languages	
	status	guided option*		guided option*			compulsory module	

***List of modules (subject to availability)**

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