

LATEST NEWS

Summer Programme 2017: New Course and Brochure

The IFCELS Summer Programme will run from Monday 10 July to Friday 8 September and students can study for 3, 6 or 9 weeks focusing on English Language, or on one (or more) of our exciting range of subject courses with English support. Choose from Business Studies, International Relations, Development Studies, World Art, Media and Film Studies.

Full details are available at www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels/summer, and you can check out the new brochure for the Summer Programme at www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels/summer/file75055.

New for Summer 2017!

We are running TWO versions of the popular **Advanced Reading & Writing** course (minimum of 6.5 IELTS). The course in Block 1 is aimed at high school graduates, final year high school students and first year undergraduates. The course in Block 2 is for postgraduates, new graduates and final year undergraduates.

We get a lot of enquires from students attending international schools and foreign language high schools with a good overall English level who want to consolidate their academic reading and writing skills in preparation for undergraduate study. The Block 1 course is designed to meet their needs.

Contact Matt Murphy, Summer Coordinator, at mm96@soas.ac.uk if you have any questions or to order copies of the brochure.

Meet Us in Your Country

Spring 2017 will be our busiest ever recruitment season with six IFCELS staff visiting seven different countries in February, March and April, attending education fairs, visiting agents, counselling and interviewing students and running entrance tests.

March will also see a record number of entrance tests and interviews in China, with sessions in five cities across the country from Beijing to Guangzhou and from Shanghai to Chengdu, not forgetting Wuhan in the middle!

For full details, see the 'Upcoming Events' panel below and keep up-to-date with the latest information by checking our staff visits page at www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels/visits and entrance tests dates at www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels/testdates.

ELAS Prize-winner Kanako Hiyama

In the last edition of "IFCELS Connect" we reported on our 2015-16 prize-winners. William Hetherington managed to track down the last of them in Tokyo.

Kanako Hiyama, who was the winner of the 2015-16 Bhasi Pannikker Prize for Progress on the ELAS programme was awarded her prize by William at the BEO Education Fair in October. Kanako studied on ELAS for 3 terms and all her teachers agreed that she made fantastic progress over the year. Kanako said, "On ELAS I discovered what being critical and analytical towards a problem really meant. My teachers were passionate about what they were teaching and ELAS gave me the opportunity to interact with students from different countries and cultures." Kanako is keeping her English up and planning to train as an English teacher.



Accommodation Applications Open from March

Applications for SOAS and University of London accommodation will open as usual on 1 March 2017, less than six weeks away. Students who have received and accepted offers of places on IFCELS programmes starting in September will be able to apply for rooms from that date using the serial number we will send them.

There are about 60 students worldwide holding offers for September, so now would be a good time to chase them up. We will also be sending out a couple of emails to offer holders between now and the beginning of March encouraging them to accept.

Where Are They Now?



A new feature which spotlights our alumni and their lives since they studied with us.

Ya Sun, ICC Foundation Programme 2008-09

My life in the UK started with SOAS' ICC programme in 2008. Based in Central London with fantastic teachers and facilities, it allowed me the best possible platform to understand UK culture and language. SOAS is well integrated into the University of London and through living in an intercollegiate student hall near SOAS I was able to make friends with students from all University of London colleges. This broadened my mind and helped me focus on the city's many career opportunities.

After ICC, I went on to a BSc in Mathematics with Economics at UCL. Prior to my final undergraduate year at UCL, I did a summer internship at Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and, on graduation, I took up a role as an actuarial consultant at the London HQ of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). I am soon to be a chartered actuary but in 2016 I left PwC to start an urban mobility venture (GreenRide: www.greenridesharing.com) which is developing a ride sharing mobile phone app and recently won a large award from FTSE 100 company Shell.

My journey from nervous young student to city financier to successful female entrepreneur has been an eventful one. SOAS was fundamental as a launch pad to this success and I recommend the SOAS ICC programme to students looking for success in the UK.



恭喜发财

From everyone at IFCELS, we wish our partners a prosperous and successful Lunar New Year!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Entrance Tests in February, March & April

- London: 15 February, 29 March, 12 April
- Seoul: 11 February
- Guangzhou: 11 March
- Chengdu: 12 March
- Beijing: 18 March
- Wuhan: 19 March
- Shanghai: 25 March

Further tests will take place in Seoul in late March, and London, Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen in May. For the latest information see www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels/testdates.

STUDENT PROFILE

Comfort Sena Abbey, Current ICC Student

Comfort Sena Abbey is from Ghana and started on the ICC Foundation programme in September, having won a scholarship from the Japanese NGO named Ashinaga. Sena has chosen International Law and Issues in Development Studies on ICC as she wants to continue on to the LLB at SOAS, before returning to Ghana to further her studies and build a career in Law.



Sena explained her reasons for choosing SOAS: 'Having been offered the Scholarship when I finished High School, I knew I wanted to study Law in the UK as the legal system is a close match to that followed in Ghana. I decided on SOAS having talked with other students, staff and interns of Ashinaga. My internship at a law school (the Empire African Institute, a local Institution affiliated with the University of London International Programme) expanded my relationship as I met with SOAS academic Anne Street who visited Ghana in 2016. My reason for choosing SOAS is because it focuses on other dimensions not only good academic background, but also a high level of motivation for learning, so I knew it would be the right environment for me.'

'Approaching the end of term one on ICC, I'm really happy with my choice of course and university; I've just completed my first assignments in Law and Development Studies and can see how reading and researching the essay topics has triggered me developing stronger critical thinking skills.'

'I'm very impressed with the facilities at SOAS – there's lots of space which is conducive for learning, including the Library and the new Paul Webley Building. Now I'm on ICC, I can see that there are different reasons that people choose to do the Foundation programme. Class-mates are from diverse backgrounds, and are on the programme to support them taking their first steps in an academic environment - I'm particularly pleased that there are other students in their 20's on the course, and am enjoying the level of challenge we experience whilst gaining the fundamental knowledge of our subjects.'

In her spare time, Sena volunteers with SOAS Radio, where she gets to meet and mix with other members of the University community. Christmas will include a trip to Manchester organised by Ashinaga, where Sena will be able to sample the delights of the Christmas markets and taste some traditional festive foods.

Interview by Deborah Stevenson, Pre-sessional Coordinator and Sena's Academic English teacher, in December 2016.

AROUND SOAS

The University of London's Student Hub: Student Central

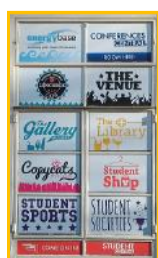


Right in the heart of Bloomsbury and just a few minutes' walk from the SOAS main building is Student Central, formerly University of London Union (www.studentcentral.london). Spread over seven floors, Student Central is a one-stop

-shop for all students within the University of London. There's a café with free Wi-Fi access, a gym, stationery shop, opticians as well as bars, restaurants and a music venue for gigs. Student Central also hosts intercollegiate clubs and societies, giving students the opportunity to participate in sports and other social activities. It's a great way for IFCELS students to interact with the wider University of London student community.



One of the highlights of Student Central is the swimming pool at Energybase gym. Built in 1952, it is the largest in Central London, measuring over 33 metres divided into four lanes, with a maximum depth of 3.4 metres. The swimming pool has enjoyed a fairly illustrious history. Did you know that the Queen Mother would often attend swimming galas at the ULU pool? Even the Beatles once dropped by for a photo shoot!



STAFF PROFILE

Dr Orsolya (Orsi) Szakaly Subject Lecturer of ICC Foundation core module Understanding the Modern World (UMW)



Orsi on Hampstead Heath, London.
Photo by her daughter Catherine Rowe-Kosary.

Orsi reflects on teaching UMW and, speaking as a Hungarian citizen and long-term London resident, what Brexit means for her, our city and the UK.

'I have been teaching UMW for 11 years. UMW aims to give ICC students a broad background knowledge about global economic, political, social and cultural trends over the last two hundred years. It explores themes such as religion, nationalism and gender. What I love about the module is how it challenges the students' pre-existing ideas. It works so well because students from various parts of the world interact with each other.'

'As a Hungarian, that is a EU citizen, I have been free to work in Britain since 2004. Personally, I am passionate about European integration. This I practise in my own family: my children are partly Hungarian but also British and German. Consequently, I was shocked and saddened by the result of the recent Brexit referendum. Has anything changed as a result? Not in practice. London, a pro-EU city, is still a thriving and exciting multicultural place, and I believe it will continue to be so.'

'The long-term consequences of Brexit depend on if and when it will happen and what form it will take. However, it is likely to make Britain a more inward-looking and poorer country in the long run. Noticeably, it is also part of a new global trend: a backlash against globalisation in the form of resurgent nationalism and economic protectionism. This is exactly the stuff of UMW discussions which foster the critical analysis of such developments by examining them in a larger historical context.'

STAFF VISITS

Graham Davies

- Marrakech & Casablanca: late February (dates tbc)
- Beijing, Wuhan, Shanghai: 17-23 March

Tom Armstrong

- Milan: 24-25 February

William Hetherington

- Jakarta: 4-6 March
- Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Chengdu: 8-14 March

Deborah Stevenson

- Wuhan & Shanghai: 19-25 March

Rachel Humphreys

- Bangkok: 20-22 March
- Tokyo: 24-29 March

Johnny Darlington

- Seoul: 6-9 April

Full details of staff visits can be found at www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels/visits. Check for up-to-date information.



The next edition of IFCELS Connect will be published in April 2017. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be, please email us at ifcels@soas.ac.uk.