

LATEST NEWS

As everyone knows, English people love to talk about the weather and in the last few weeks we have had some really serious weather. Depending on which newspaper or media source you believe, the weather at the end of February and start of March was the coldest since 2010/1963/1947/the beginning of



last century/1785 or simply "ever". Despite more cold weather in mid March, our thoughts are now turning to those hazy, lazy days of summer just around the corner and the start of the 2018-19 Academic Year in September. So let's start the round-up with news of the IFCELS Summer Programme brochure ...



Summer Programme Brochure and News



The 2018 Summer Brochure is now available. Check it out [here](#) and on the Summer Programme [webpages](#), where you can find full details of the courses, a video, dates, fees and application form. You can book SOAS accommodation in zone 1 at special rates with one click when you apply for your course. But hurry as the special rate one click rooms are limited!

In 2018 our unique programme offers the usual mix of English Language and Subject Courses (with English support) including courses covering Art, International Relations, Literature, Film Studies, Business, Politics and Media. And this year sees exciting revisions to the Environment and Development course, now renamed Environment, Development and Changing World Views.

In this edition's Staff Profile, one of our International Relations lecturers, Kevin Manton, shares his thoughts on Nationalism.

We have already sent out hard copies of the brochure to many partners. If you would like to receive 1 or more copies, email ifcels@soas.ac.uk

For information on all Summer Schools at SOAS see:

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/summerschool>

Accommodation Bookings for September Now Open

Talking of accommodation, if you accept your offer of a place on ICC, FDPS or ELAS for September 2018, you can now book accommodation in one of our student halls. As well as SOAS' own self-catering halls and the University of London Intercollegiate Halls, we now have rooms reserved for SOAS students in Urbanest St Pancras and other halls. See our [accommodation page](#) for full details.

ICC Offers for 2018

For our current ICC students we are now right in the middle of the UCAS offers season and offers are pouring in. Our students made a total of 430 applications to 52 different UK universities. So far - and there are still almost 100 applications awaiting decisions - they have received 300 offers from 46 universities, including 20 of the top 30 in the 2018 THE rankings.

Save! Save! Save! Early Bird Discounts and Scholarships... and Late Application Fees

Accepting an offer qualifies students for one or maybe both of our money-saving offers:

- The early bird discount scheme continues until the end of May: students who accept their ICC or FDPS offers within a month of the date on the offer letter (and before the end of May) save £500 on their fees.
- The FDPS progression scholarships are now into their 4th year. Accept an offer by the end of May and you will be automatically entered for one of six scholarships. These are worth £1000 off the FDPS fees which is doubled if you go on to a Master's at SOAS in 2019. This is on top of the 5% discount for FDPS students so a total of almost £2000 off your tuition. See the [FDPS Scholarships](#) page

Finally on the subject of money, encourage students to apply by the end of April to avoid the £90 late application fee which comes in on 1st May.

FDPS Results and Postgraduate Progression 2017

As promised in the last IFCELS Connect, here are some data on 2017-18 FDPS results and progression. We should congratulate our 2016-17 FDPS students on their excellent performance and placements. 8% of those who completed the programme achieved a DISTINCTION, 43% achieved a MERIT and a further 43% gained a PASS. Just 6% failed the programme.

We have updated our postgraduate destinations list for the past two years (you can see the complete destinations list [here](#)) and in that time our students have gone on to programmes at 25 of the top 50 UK universities in the 2018 THE Rankings, while 72% have been placed within the University of London.

Twitter

IFCELS is happy to announce the recent launch of a departmental Twitter account, which offers a window into campus life and will be of interest to current and prospective students, as well as agents. We tweet about interesting events happening in SOAS and around London, as well as news and opportunities relevant to international students. Follow us on @SOASifcels.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Entrance Tests in April and May 2018

- **Guangzhou: 14 April**
- **London: 18 April; 2, 16, and 30 May**
- **Zhengzhou (re-scheduled): date in May to be confirmed**

Tests in London will run regularly until September. We will run tests in China for a final time for 2018 entry in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen in July. See www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels/testdates for the most up-to-date information.

AROUND SOAS

Chinatown



A twenty minute walk (or three short stops on the Piccadilly Line) takes you from the SOAS Campus to the gates of London's Chinatown. There's been a Chinatown in London for more than 200 years but it hasn't always been where it is today. Chinese run shops and restaurants appeared in the early 19th century in Limehouse, to the east of the centre, near the former London Docks (close to what is now the Docklands financial district) catering to Chinese sailors. This area was largely flattened by bombing in the Second World War and in the 1950's Chinese restaurants started to open in Gerrard Street (the heart of today's Chinatown) to satisfy the taste for Asian food which many British soldiers and sailors acquired while serving in East and South East Asia during the war. By the 1960's a Chinese community had grown up, joined by immigrants from Hong Kong who settled there. The gates and Chinese-style street furniture appeared in the 1980's and Chinatown was established as a tourist destination, while still remaining a living community.



Current ICC Student Yuxuan LIU and her friends celebrated Spring Festival in Chinatown in February:

'China Town is always busy, even at Christmas, not to mention the Spring Festival. Whenever you go, you can always find the crowd, tourists who are taking photos with the landmarks of China Town, and lots of open restaurants. Last Christmas, my friends and I wanted to go to a restaurant and we were worried about that they all might be closed, but actually, lots of restaurants kept open. We had a good Christmas in China Town.

'We also decided to have a dinner in China Town during the Spring Festival. One good thing about China Town is that it is really close to the SOAS. Take the Piccadilly line from the Russel Square Station and get off at Leicester Square. So we went to the China Town just after all classes were over on that day.



'China Town offers a variety of food choices. Every time we need to discuss a lot before we can choose what we eat today. From the typical Sichuan hotpot to the Guangzhou dim sum, each restaurant has their own specialties. My friend loves the grilled food but I prefer something lighter. Anyway, we ended up in a hot pot restaurant.

'We went for a dessert after the dinner. China town has lots of Asian desserts. My favourite is the Matcha ice cream and my friends like the Hong Kong bubble wraps. We even bought some Hong Kong cakes for the next day breakfast... And also some hot pot materials in the Supermarket.'



STAFF PROFILE

Dr Kevin Manton, IFCELS Subject Lecturer and EAP Teacher



Kevin lectures on a number of IFCELS modules. On our ICC Foundation he teaches World History and coordinates the lecturing team for the Understanding the Modern World core module. On the FDPS Pre-master's he leads the Studies in European Societies option.

Kevin is a former winner of the SOAS Director's Teaching prize and he has inspired generations of IFCELS students. Here he gives his thoughts on nationalism in the era of "Big Orange Man" and "Little Rocket Man":

A few years ago there were quite a few International Relations thinkers who argued that nationalism was no longer a potent force in the world and that the relentless drive towards globalisation had killed it off. In 2018 there cannot be many who would agree with such a bold statement. Brexit and the election of Trump, along with the rise of an increasingly assertive nationalist Russia and openly nationalist leaders in many other states would seem to provide clear evidence that if nationalism really was dead a few years ago, then it is now a very dangerous zombie crashing round the world stage. But this recognition alone cannot explain the phenomenon of nationalism, and thinking about the topic raises a string of more fundamental questions principally: what is nationalism? We are not born British, Chinese or Nigerian, we are born human and we learn what these identities mean and how to be members of 'our' national communities. But we learn this so effectively that belonging to a nation seems to be one of the most natural things in the world. This topic is one of the most important and interesting things for students to get to grips with on this summer's international relations course because let's face it: if we're all going to be eaten by zombies, it might be nice to at least know why.

Last year Kevin joined the teaching team on the IFCELS International Relations Summer Course, which explores Nationalism, among other topics.

Details: <https://www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels/summer/intrelations/>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Where are they now?

An occasional series which follows the fortunes of our students after they leave us.

Dr. Jongwook Pak, FDPS 2005-6
Now Assistant Professor at Trinity Business School,
Trinity College Dublin



Quality time I spent in the FDPS programme from 2005 to 2006 certainly helped kick-start my postgraduate studies, and following career steps. Being a non-business background, non-native English user, I fretted about whether I could perform well enough to receive an unconditional offer for a master's degree from a UK university. My concern gradually faded away over the programme. I worked hard. But, more importantly, a team of excellent subject lecturers, English teachers, and tutors was there for me. They were supportive all the time. They wanted me to clear hurdles one by one, and succeed. By the time I finished the programme, I was a confident student.

After FDPS, I went on to study at the London School of Economics (LSE), and spent a couple of years in the consulting industry. Employers include PwC, Accenture, and booz & company. After a private sector career, I finished my PhD. Currently, I am an assistant professor at Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin.

As is often the case with an international student, FDPS was the beginning of the whole story. I still believe that it was one of the best choices I ever made. I recommend it to you without reservation. Now, your story is waiting to unfold!

The next edition of IFCELS Connect will be published in June 2018. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be, please email us at ifcels@soas.ac.uk