

## **International Foundation Courses and English Language Studies (IFCELS)**

### **Summer Pathway Preparation Course (SPPC) 2020**

**Welcome to the SPPC! We are delighted to have you with us.**

This is a 6-week course in academic language skills that prepares students for entry to ICC and FDPS. It runs from 3rd August-11th September and will be taught online.

The course develops reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, as well as strengthening grammar, academic vocabulary and independent study skills.

#### **COURSE STRUCTURE**

Students take online 'live' lessons with their teacher and classmates every day. These classes are organised around literacy (reading and writing) and oracy (speaking and listening) and you will be taught by two specialist teachers. In addition to the live classes, students are required to complete daily guided tasks individually (e.g. listening to a mini-lecture, reading a short text and answering questions) or in small study groups to prepare for the live classes. Every week, students submit work to their teacher and receive individual feedback. Live classes will be taught in the mornings (UK time) to allow for time differences in home countries. Students will learn how to:

- develop written accuracy
- increase vocabulary in an academic context
- improve reading speed and skills
- learn how to deal with academic texts
- produce an extended piece of academic essay writing
- strengthen lecture-listening and note-taking skills
- improve seminar speaking and presentation skills
- become more independent and collaborative students
- develop online literacy skills, needed for all forms of academic study and beyond

There will also be weekly 'office hours' where students can ask teachers any questions, plus occasional online social events.

## **ENROLMENT AND ORIENTATION**

After sending us all your acceptance documents (deadline Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July), you will be enrolled onto the SPPC by 31<sup>st</sup> July. We will then email you instructions that week for you to view the orientation documents. After enrolling, you will have access to the SOAS email system, the SOAS Library and the SOAS virtual learning environment (called Moodle). We will be using Moodle throughout the course.

## **FIRST DAY**

After enrolling in the week before the course, you will be sent orientation documents in preparation for the first day of the course, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, your first live session will take place at 10.00 UK time. This will be an introductory class.

## **PREPARING FOR THE SPPC**

To prepare for the course, students are recommended to read as much as possible, for example newspapers and magazines (e.g. [BBC News](#) and [Guardian](#) online), and to practise writing by keeping a journal every day, about any topics that interest you, to help develop fluency in writing.

Students will require a good English-English dictionary and a grammar reference book is also useful.

There are several excellent free online language learning websites you should use for self-study e.g. [British Council](#) and [BBC Learning English](#).

## **LIVING IN LONDON**

Although you can't come to London and the SOAS campus just yet, you can start to get a feel for our city by exploring [this section of the Students' Union](#) website, which highlights places of interest.

[Time Out London](#) is another good resource for finding out what's happening in the city week by week.

General [guide](#) to student living in London.

## **Places near SOAS Campus at Russell Square**

Student Central (free membership for SOAS students)  
<https://www.studentcentral.london/>

Brunswick Shopping Centre, with a cinema: <http://www.brunswick.co.uk/> The Hare and Tortoise is a particularly popular Asian restaurant.

British Museum: <https://www.britishmuseum.org/>

Marchmont Street has a [number of cafes](#)

### **Places near SOAS accommodation**

*The main SOAS accommodation, Dinwiddy House, is located between King's Cross and Angel*

### **Around King's Cross**

King's Cross new [website](#)

[Time Out King's Cross](#), including cheap restaurants, bars, things to do

[Zomata](#) lists cheap places to eat

### **Around Angel**

[Places to eat](#) around Angel

### **General**

The following website is a useful source of events in London:

<http://www.allinlondon.co.uk/whats-on.php>

### **FINALLY....**

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the SPPC, please do not hesitate to contact William Hetherington, Interim Co-Head of Department (wh2@soas.ac.uk), or Matthew Murphy, Summer Programme Co-ordinator at IFCELS (mm96@soas.ac.uk).

I very much look forward to meeting you online this summer.

Matt Murphy

Summer Programme Co-ordinator

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