Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Hebrew & […]
Possible combinations	Arabic Development Studies Economics French (taught at University College London; application via UCL) History History of Art/Archaeology Law Linguistics Music Politics Social Anthropology Study of Religions
Final award *(exit awards will be made as outlined in the [Taught Degree Regulations](#))*	BA ☒ MA ☐ BSc ☐ MSc ☐ Other … ☐
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning ☐ On-campus ☒
Professional body accreditation *(if applicable)*	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?

1. To provide an in-depth and wide knowledge of Modern Israel: its history, language, culture, literature and people.
2. To gain good proficiency in Modern Hebrew, in writing and spoken language.
3. To allow students to experience academic studies in an outstanding Israeli university as well as partake in everyday life in Israel through the provision of a year abroad programme.
4. To prepare students for work where they can use their knowledge of Hebrew or familiarity with Israel and contemporary issues concerning the region.

III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge
1. Competence in reading, writing and speaking Modern Hebrew
2. Understanding the roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
3. Familiarity with major Israeli authors and a variety of literary genres both in translation and in the original Hebrew, and awareness of links between Hebrew and Arabic literary cultures**.**
4. Familiarity with cultural and social aspects particular to Israel (such as Judaism, the Kibbutz, the legacy of the Holocaust, etc.)

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods

• Intensive and thorough teaching of Modern Hebrew language from basic to advanced level over four years. The language is taught *in* Hebrew, using textbooks written by professional teachers from the Hebrew university. Alongside the textbooks, the students will encounter Hebrew on the internet, in song, Israeli media, as well as through role play, and dialogues. • An academic module in year 2 is designed to give the students the necessary background information and recent research into the history of Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This module is assessed by a three-hour written exam at the end of the year and two essays. • The module *Language and Identity in Hebrew Literature* exposes the students to a variety of literary works by Jews from Arab lands, and Arabs from Israel who write in Hebrew. Issues of cultural heritage, identity, language and locality will be examined. Two essays and a written exam allow the students to look closely at some of these works. Poetry is read in a bi-lingual edition, and SOAS library has copies of all the literary works in both Hebrew and in English translation. • Concepts and issues central to Israeli life and culture are the basis for the module Introduction to Israeli culture, where Israeli society is examined through cultural manifestation of these issues. The module is assessed by two essays and a written exam.	• Written and oral exams assess the students' progress in language acquisition.

Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills
1. The ability to identify, describe and analyze problems and devise appropriate strategies for their resolution
2. The ability to communicate information and ideas and to argue critically both in writing and orally.
3. The ability to apply literary and linguistic terms and concepts.
4. To demonstrate and exercise independence of mind and thought.

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
• A critical approach to both primary and secondary sources encourages an analytic investigation and demonstrates ways of problem solving. • We promote and encourage class participation and discussion in our	

seminars, and students need to express their views and thoughts on the subject at hand in informal conversations in the classroom and in written essays.
- While Hebrew is taught as an organic language, grammar and syntax is explained and used throughout. Literary terms, and academic jargon is explained, demonstrated and used in lectures and students are encouraged to incorporate them in their own analysis and writings.
- From the first essay in the first year, students are encouraged to find topics that interest them and are given the option to engage in independent research.
- This prepares them for their fourth-year Independent Study Project where they are asked to demonstrate original thought and independent research.

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills

1. The ability to communicate in Modern Hebrew, fluently, appropriately and with a high degree of grammatical accuracy, with native and other competent speakers.
2. The ability to read and make good use of a variety of texts written in Hebrew, from poetry to newspaper articles as well as archive material and formal documents.
3. To apply linguistic concepts to the study of other Semitic (and non-Semitic) languages.

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
- Language classes based on oral communication, listening to Israeli media recordings, and a year abroad in Jerusalem all prepare the students to the oral exams in Modern Hebrew at the end of each academic year. - Alongside the textbooks used for teaching Hebrew, the students will encounter a variety of other written texts, from recipes to parking tickets and will also write in Hebrew. A short composition is part of the end of year written exam in all levels of Hebrew instruction. - When applicable, grammatical features of Modern Hebrew will be compared to those of other Semitic and non-Semitic languages, and terms of grammar and syntax will be explained in general terms.	

Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills

1. The programme with assist students in the acquisition in a new foreign language.

2. The programme will teach students to manage time and work to deadlines.
3. The degree allows students to work independently and instructs them on how to produce critical and analytical essays of original thinking.
4. The programme will enable students to demonstrate their ability to work with others, as well as be independent and self-reliant.

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
- After four years of studying Hebrew, students have a good level of proficiency in the language. - Small group language classes and seminars enable students to share their views and learn from each other. - Spending the third year abroad in Jerusalem is an opportunity for students to learn to manage their everyday life in a new and foreign environment.	- Students prepare presentations, write essays and exams to strict deadlines. - The students receive detailed feedback on their written essays, thus learning how to produce well-argued and well-written academic papers.

BA Hebrew & [...]

Over the course of a four-year degree, students must complete 480 credits. 120 of those will be taken in the Year Abroad. The remaining 360 credits taken at SOAS can be split evenly between both subjects (180/180), or be varied between the two subjects if the programme structure gives scope for this. Overall, students must have at least 240 credits in one subject (with a maximum of 330 credits being possible) and 150 credits in the other subject (with a maximum of 240 credits being possible) in order to be awarded a two-subject degree. The subject in which the higher amount of credits has been passed will be named first on the final degree awarded.

Year 1

credits	15	15	30	60
module code	155906052	155906053	155900947	
module title	Modern Hebrew language: elementary	Modern Hebrew language: elementary	Introduction to Israeli Culture	second subject
FHEQ	level 5	level 5	level 4	
status	core module	core module	compulsory module	

(+ between columns)

Year 2

credits	30	30	60
module code	155900713	155901167	
module title	Modern Hebrew Language: intermediate	Israeli history and the Israel-Palestine conflict	second subject
FHEQ	level 5	level 5	
status	core module	compulsory module	

(+ between columns)

Year 3

credits	120
module title	Study Abroad
status	core module

Year 4

		30	
		155901411	
		Identity and Language in Hebrew literature	
credits	30	level 6	60
module code	155900714	compulsory module	
module title	Modern Hebrew language: advanced	**OR**	second subject
		30	
FHEQ	level 6	155901403	
status	compulsory module	Cinemas of the Middle East and North Africa	
		level ??	
		compulsory module	

(+ between columns)

List of modules (subject to availability)

FHEQ level	Code	Title	Credits
5	155901280	The Origins of Modern Hebrew Poetry	15

History, politics and culture

FHEQ level	Code	Title	Credits
4	155900947	Introduction to Israeli Culture	30
5	155901168	History of Zionism	30
5	155901167	Israeli History and the Israel-Palestine Conflict	30
6	153400087	Critical Issues in Israeli Politics and Society	15
6	155905003	Jerusalem: A City in Conflict	15