

Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Persian & [...]
Possible combinations	Arabic* Development Studies Economics English French* (taught at UCL; application via UCL) History History of Art/Archaeology International Relations Law Linguistics Music Politics Social Anthropology Study of Religions & Philosophies Turkish* World Philosophies *compulsory Year Abroad split between two countries
Final award (<i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the Taught Degree Regulations</i>)	BA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MA <input 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 give students a solid proficiency in modern Persian language and equip them to exercise the four language skills of writing, reading, listening and speaking at an advanced level of competence. 2. Based on the choice of second subject, either to provide advanced fluency in another language of the region or an excellent and broad-ranging foundational knowledge of history, politics, religions, economics or the arts and cultures of the Middle East and in particular Iran. 3. To develop the skill of independent thinking and writing, drawing on an informed and practical knowledge of cultural, historical, literary and linguistic aspects of Iran, and a sensitive understanding of the complexities of the sphere of wider Persian cultural influence in the past and the present. 4. To prepare the student for working in Middle Eastern societies or in a context with Persian, Central Asian and/or Near and Middle Eastern connections.

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. Advanced knowledge of written and spoken Persian and another Language if applicable 2. A coherent, in-depth and detailed knowledge of Persian culture in its historical and contemporary context 3. An in-depth knowledge and understanding of history, politics, societies and traditions of the region 4. Intercultural awareness and understanding 5. Key methods and concepts of linguistic, literary and cultural analysis 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competence in reading, writing, oral and aural skills in Persian is achieved through a progression of language acquisition and language use modules taught in classrooms, and supported by bespoke virtual resources, assessed by formative and summative evaluation throughout the degree. Classes with native speaking instructors and the year abroad especially underpin linguistic acquisition from beginner to advanced levels. • Broad knowledge and understanding of Iranian and Middle Eastern culture in its historical and contemporary settings taught through reading, formalised discussions and presentations, and application/interpretation of theoretical analysis, assessed by coursework and/or written examinations. • The Year Abroad in Iran will provide total immersion in the modern language and culture and will equip the learner not only with linguistic confidence but with intercultural awareness and a tangible understanding of life in an Iranian metropolis. Local examinations conducted in consultation with the department will gauge the aptitudes reached. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOAS language assessments will take the form of mid-term and final written and oral examinations, assessed coursework, regular homework, role-play, pair and group activities.

Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ability to identify, describe and analyse problems and devise and sustain appropriate strategies for their resolution 2. communicate information, ideas and arguments cogently and coherently both 3. orally and in writing with due regard for the target audience 4. oral and written application of linguistic and literary concepts and methods of inquiry 5. gather, process and evaluate information, critically and from a non-Eurocentric perspective 6. ability to structure and manage independent learning and to make use of scholarly and other primary sources related to Iran, Persian and the wider Persianate world

7. appreciate the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Each course, whatever the format of teaching, involves discussion of key issues, practice in applying concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of material, and feedback on work submitted. The ability to identify, analyse and resolve issues, and the appreciation of uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge, are developed through readings and preparations for lectures and through classroom activities and discussions and assessed by presentations, essays and written examinations where applicable. Guided readings, classroom discussions and essays and exams are the primary way for students to demonstrate their ability to gather and synthesize information. Preparation for literature and non language use modules and tutorial discussions provide a progressive introduction to the skills necessary to do this. The ability to structure and manage independent learning, as well as best use of primary and research articles on Iran or Persian will be developed by encouraging and guiding students to choose their own topics for coursework essays in years 3 and 4 and for their Independent Study Project. 	

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Gather, sift, process and evaluate information from a variety of print, audio-visual and electronic sources Communicate orally and in writing in Persian, fluently, effectively and appropriately with grammatical accuracy and idiomatic knowledge with native and other competent speakers Read and understand modern Persian to an advanced level of proficiency contextualize and comment satisfactorily on Persian texts from a variety of sources from medieval to modern print and digital media Demonstrate a good level of knowledge and understanding of the structures, registers and varieties of Persian Demonstrate a broad knowledge and, using appropriate methodologies, a critical understanding of the culture, politics, history, religion and society of Iran and other Persian speaking countries

<p>7. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and useful understanding of the linguistic principles required to analyse Persian</p> <p>8. Plan, undertake and produce a bibliographically based piece of research on a topic within the broader spectrum of Persian language, literature or culture if the option of an ISP is selected</p> <p>9. Adapt to diverse situations, customs and traditions by living and studying in Iran</p>	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to learn, comprehend, and communicate in Persian, orally, aurally and in writing, will be fostered in the language modules and the Year Abroad, and where appropriate supplemented by course packs. • The ability to gather and analyse linguistic and cultural data is through regular attendance at language classes, use of Audio Visual material provided and accompanying the course, computer assisted learning, classroom discussions and independent study through weekly homework, directed readings and essay writing. • All learners receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in libraries and elsewhere. Comprehensive bibliographies and reading. Reading lists are provided for each course at the outset, as are guidelines for the research and production of coursework essays and extended essays. Facilities such as Virtual Learning Environment dedicated to specific courses also enhance practical skills. • Discussion of linguistic, literary and historical concepts through the course of classroom instruction and participation. • The ability to research political, economic and social phenomena through both primary and secondary sources through appropriate and academic use of resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language use skills are assessed in regular formative tests, and written and oral examinations at the end of the academic year. Research, analysis and literary or cultural comprehension are primarily assessed through coursework, especially written essays, and through the Independent Study Project in the final year.

Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills
<p>The programme will encourage and equip students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gather, process and evaluate information efficiently from a variety of paper, 2. audio-visual and digital sources 3. Structure and communicate ideas effectively and with clarity, both orally and in writing 4. Use IT effectively both as a means of communication and as an aid to learning 5. Manage time and work to deadlines 6. Work independently 7. Be self-reliant, confident and make judgments on complex issues

<p>8. Assess the relevance and importance of others' ideas and develop an understanding of relativity of cultures and traditional attitudes</p> <p>9. Participate constructively in groups</p>	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All courses require regular written work, usually in the form of essays, and regular feedback on this is given to the learner to develop not only understanding but also research techniques and powers of concise and clear expression. • Time management and adherence to deadlines, as well as working independently are skills that are acquired progressively through essay writing and Independent Study Project, and where relevant scholarship and travel grant application deadlines. • Understanding the relevance and importance of other cultures and ideas is developed through classroom discussion and the Year Abroad, which will also strengthen the benefits of constructive participation in group activities. • The use of Virtual and Digital Learning resources, encouragement to use Persian word-processing for homework and other communication as they progress through the degree and retrieval of information and data from printed and on-line material will reinforce the effective use of I.T. • Where appropriate the students are encouraged to conduct interviews and carry out field research for their Independent Study Project in the final year which will further aid their ability to structure their studies, assess the validity of arguments and to be receptive to others' ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the above will be systematically and progressively assessed through coursework and classroom and seminar participation and final examinations.

BA Persian & [...]

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	60	+	60
	module code	155901242		
	module title	Intensive Persian Language		
	FHEQ	level 5		
	status	core module		
				second subject

Year 2	credits	120
	module title	Study Abroad
	status	compulsory module

Year 3	credits	30	+	30	+	60				
	module code	155900802								
	module title	Advanced Persian Language								
	FHEQ	level 6								
	status	core module								

Year 4	credits	30	+	30	+	30	+	30						
	module code	155901184												
	module title	Independent Study Project in Persian Studies												
	FHEQ	level 6												
	status	compulsory module												

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

FHEQ level	Code	Title	Credits
List A: Persian language			
5	155901242	Intensive Persian Language	60
6	155900802	Advanced Persian Language	30
5	155901372	Classical Persian Poetry	30
5	155901379	Modern Persian Poetry	30
5	155900334	Classical Persian Prose Texts	30
5	155900336	Modern Persian Prose Literature	30
6	155901184	Independent Study Project in Persian Studies	30

List B: approved options in NME

4	155901205	Introduction to Arabic Culture	30
5	155901258	The Muslim World: Unity in Diversity	30
5	155901375	Introduction to Sufism	30
5	155901380	Nation and Nationalism in Middle Eastern fiction (in translation)	30
4	155900947	Introduction to Israeli Culture	30
6	155901338	Islamic Intellectual Tradition	30
6	155905000	Cinemas of the Middle East and North Africa 1	15
6	155905001	Cinemas of the Middle East and North Africa 2	15
4	158000183	Middle Persian	30
5	155906046	Elementary Written Turkish A	15
5	155906047	Elementary Written Turkish B	15
5	155906050	Arabic 100 A	15
5	155906051	Arabic 100 B	15
5	155901203	Arabic 200	30
6	155901204	Arabic 300	30
5	155906052	Modern Hebrew Language: Elementary A	15
5	155906053	Modern Hebrew Language: Elementary B	15

List C: other Persian and Middle East-related modules

History. Before selecting a module, students must first check that the module is at the correct level. They must also ensure that they meet any pre-requisites.

4	154800230	H130 Introduction to the History of the Near and Middle East	30
5	154800227	H248 The Making of the Modern Middle East	30
5	154800211	H246 Cities of Paradise and Empire	30
5	154800222	H247 Medieval Iran: Nomads, Settlers and Dynasts	30
6	154800291	H434 The Mongols and the Islamic World (I)	30

Religions & Philosophies. Before selecting a module, students must first check that the module is at the correct level. They must also ensure that they meet any pre-requisites.

5	151230006	Islam and the West	15
4	158000189	Islam: Foundations	15
4	158000187	Zoroastrianism: Foundation	15
5	158000022	Mysticism in the Great Traditions	30
5	158000188	Developments in Muslim Religious Thought	15
5	158000149	Messianic Movements in Muslim History	15
5	158000163	Minority Religions in the Contemporary Middle East	15
5	158000029	Zoroastrianism in the Ancient and Modern Worlds	30
5	158000147	Shi'a Islam: Religious Authority and Community Identity	30

History of Art & Archaeology. Before selecting a module, students must first check that the module is at the correct level. They must also ensure that they meet any pre-requisites.

4	154900101	Perspectives and Themes: Art and Archaeology of the Near and Middle East	15
5	154900138	Art and Material Culture of the Islamic World: 7th to 14th Centuries	30
5	154900134	Mosaics, Manuscripts, and Wall Painting in Islamic Art	30
5	154900186	House and Tomb in the Muslim World	15
6	154900188	Islamic Art and Architecture of Medieval Iran and Central Asia (10th-13th centuries)	15
5	154900187	Mosque and Palace in the Muslim World	15

Law. Before selecting a module, students must first check that the module is at the correct level. They must also ensure that they meet any pre-requisites.

6	155200037	Islamic law	30
---	-----------	-------------	----

Politics & International Studies. Before selecting a module, students must first check that the module is at the correct level. They must also ensure that they meet any pre-requisites.

5	153400060	Government and politics of the Middle East	30
5	153400081	International Relations of the Middle East	30

Department of Economics. Before selecting a module, students must first check that the module is at the correct level. They must also ensure that they meet any pre-requisites.

6	153400031	Economic development of the modern Middle East	30
---	-----------	--	----