

Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Islamic Studies			
Final award (<i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the Taught Degree Regulations</i>)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" 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 offer students the opportunity to concentrate on the Qur'an, the Hadith and other Islamic texts, in the original Arabic; 2. to provide a unique training in the translation of Islamic religious material; 3. to develop practical skills in research and the presentation of results by writing essays or other pieces of work and by writing a substantial dissertation.
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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. How to assess data and evidence critically from manuscripts and digital sources, solve problems of conflicting sources and conflicting interpretations, locate materials, use research sources (particularly research library catalogues) and other relevant traditional sources. 2. Systematic understanding of Arabic material from the Qur'an and Hadith as well as representative texts in theology, Islamic philosophy, law and mysticism. 3. Ability to identify and explain stylistic features of the Qur'an and Hadith and understand the methodologies used for their authentication, interpretation and translation into English. 4. Ability to understand technical terms and to place passages in their historical and intellectual context. 5. Ability to understand current issues in Islamic thought and movements, relating them to their historical origins and contemporary world situations. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of research and assessment skills through seminars and classes. Students are required to attend all classes, study extensively on their own and prepare non-assessed work regularly. • Acquisition of knowledge and understanding of Islamic texts, technical terms and current issues through intensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations, coursework and a dissertation.

<p>study and discussion in class and in tutorials of texts covering all these disciplines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be required to prepare texts and other material extensively on their own and be able to give oral presentations and seminars as well as essays. • The students will be introduced to the main library resources on Islamic Studies, at SOAS. 	
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Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will learn to become precise and cautious in their assessment of evidence, and to understand through practice what documents can and cannot tell us. 2. Students will learn to question interpretations, however authoritative, and reassess evidence for themselves. 3. Students will acquire an ability to represent with intelligence, fairness and integrity views different from their own, show the basis on which they stand and discuss them. 4. Students will learn to demonstrate sophisticated understanding of religious issues and intellectual flexibility, using various methods of study, such as the linguistic, historical, hermeneutic and social sciences. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of assessment skills is fostered in all courses offered in the programme, in that all courses will introduce information that will need to be assessed critically and will demonstrate how conflicting interpretations arise from the same information. • Acquisition of presentation skills through discussion of texts, in class, tutorials, seminars and essays, of material that shows various and conflicting views and discussing these calmly and objectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations, coursework, and a dissertation.

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate effectively in writing. 2. Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources. 3. Present seminar papers. 4. Listen and discuss ideas introduced during seminars. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of writing skills through the writing of long essays and dissertations. • Acquisition of research skills through extensive research in libraries. • Acquisition of oral communication skills through regular seminar presentations. • Acquisition of listening and discussion skills through seminar discussions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By unseen examination, dissertation, and coursework.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition of time management skills through the setting of clear deadlines for the submission of written work. 	
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Learning Outcomes: Transferable skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Write good essays and dissertations. Structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing. Understand unconventional ideas. Study a variety of written and digital materials, in libraries and research institutes of a kind they will not have used as undergraduates. Present (non-assessed) material orally. Be able to manage time. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition of essay writing skills through long essays, coursework and dissertation. Acquisition of effective and structured oral and written communication skills through seminar presentations, discussions and essays. Acquisition of understanding of unconventional ideas through discussions of material with conflicting views. Acquisition of research skills through introduction to relevant library resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through unseen examinations, dissertation and coursework.

General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes
<p>Masters programmes (with the exception of two-year full-time MAs) consist of 180 credits, made up of taught modules of 30 or 15 credits, taught over 10 or 20 weeks, and a dissertation of 60 credits. The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which optional.</p> <p>As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/) such as reading and research, preparing coursework, revising for examinations and so on. Also included is class time, for example lectures, seminars and other classes. Some subjects may have more class time than others – a typical example of this are language acquisition modules.</p> <p>At SOAS, most postgraduate modules have a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary.</p> <p>More information can be found on individual module pages.</p>

MA Islamic Studies

	Dissertation
credits	60
module code	15PNMC999
module title	Dissertation in the Languages & Cultures of the Near & Middle East
status	compulsory module

	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component
credits	60	30	30
module code	major from List A	minor from List A or B	from List A or open options list
module title			
status	guided option*	guided option*	open option

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

List A

15PNMC410	Early and Medieval Arabic Linguistic Thought: Scholarship and Literature	30
15PNMC006	Qur'an and Hadith Studies	30
15PNMC142	The Qur'an: Language, Style and Translation in English	30
15PNMC037	Islamic Legal Texts in Arabic	30
15PNMC144	Islamic Texts	30
15PNMC145	Translation of Islamic Texts (a project)	30
15PNMC036	Sufism	30
15PNMC423	Early and Classical Qur'anic Exegesis: Literature and Thought	30
15PNMC228	Modern Trends in Islam	30

List B

15PLAC121	Islamic law (MA/LLM)	30
15PARH035	Art and Architecture of the Fatimids	15
15PARH034	Islam and the West: Artistic and Cultural Contacts	15
15PSRC175	Christians and Muslims in Syriac Texts	30