

Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Near and Middle Eastern Studies Near and Middle Eastern Studies & Intensive Language
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. The programme aims at academic training in the study of Middle East through a variety of disciplines, cultural contexts and periods. 2. The programme aims at equipping students with an advanced level of understanding of disciplinary academic topics and issues regarding Islamic tradition, law and art, as well as the place of Middle East in modern politics and alongside other religions. 3. The programme aims at equipping students with the critical and analytical skill that enable them to conduct research on the Middle on a solid methodological and disciplinary basis. 4. In the two-year Intensive Language pathway, the student will also be provided with a near proficient ability in a relevant language.

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. Subject-specific skills are an amalgam of the skills described for each of the three options chosen by candidates from the cross-department/faculty choices available in the relevant course-descriptors. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are required to attend lectures and seminars. They are expected in addition to study extensively on their own and prepare non-assessed work on a regular basis. • The relevant paths for each individual option are set out in the relevant course-descriptors. 	

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 should also come 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. Communicate effectively in writing. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All courses will introduce information that will need to be assessed critically and will demonstrate how conflicting interpretations might arise from the same information. In this way relevant skills will be imparted. 	

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Language-students will learn the chosen language at the appropriate level. 2. Present seminar-papers. 3. Listen and discuss ideas introduced during seminars. 4. Practise research-techniques in a variety of specialised research-libraries and institutes. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language-students will practise speaking, reading and writing in the said language. • The writing of long essays and the dissertation will hone writing ability. • Preparation and planning the necessary essays and dissertation will hone skills in retrieval and selection. • Presentation of, and discussion within, seminars will result in acquisition of these skills. • Observance of deadlines for submitted work will hone this self-disciplinary aspect of research-work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment is by a mixture of unseen examination, dissertation, long essay and coursework.

Learning Outcomes: Transferable skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Writing good essays and dissertations. 2. Structure and communicate ideas effectively, both orally and in writing. 3. Study a variety of written and digital materials in libraries and research-institutes of a kind they will not have used as undergraduates. 4. Present (non-assessed) material orally. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice at writing long essays, coursework and the dissertation tests the skill. • Participation in presentation and discussion of seminars. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Totality of skills assessed in unseen examinations, long essays, coursework and the dissertation.

Learning Outcomes: Linguistic skills (two-year Intensive Language pathways)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To acquire/develop skills in a language spoken in the Near and Middle East to Effective Operational Proficiency level 2. To demonstrate awareness of the conceptual and communicative underpinnings of that language and through this interlinguistic and intercultural understanding. 3. Communicate in written and spoken medium in a relevant language. 4. Engage with people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, understand the role of different frames of reference. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of a spoken and written modern language of the Near and Middle East through intensive language study. • Ability to read and process a modern written language of the Near and Middle East on a variety of topics • Ability to speak and understand that language to an advanced level • Experience of living and studying in that language during period of study abroad. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment through unseen examinations, course work, long essays and a dissertation, together with the incorporation of materials in the language in coursework and exams.

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 Near & Middle Eastern Studies

	Dissertation
credits	60
module code	15PNMC996
module title	Dissertation in Near & Middle Eastern Studies
status	compulsory module

With 30-credit major

	Taught Component	+	Taught Component	+	Taught Component
credits	30		60		30
module code					
module title	major - see list		minor - see list		from list below or from open options list
status	core module		guided option*		guided option*

With 15-credit major

	Taught Component	+	Taught Component	+	Taught Component
credits	15		75		30
module code					
module title	major - see list		minor - see list		from list below or from open options list
status	core module		guided option*		guided option*

NB: In Area Studies degrees:

- 1) a maximum of **60 credits** can be taken in any one discipline.
- 2) a minimum of **three disciplines** must be covered.
- 3) for students opting to take two language acquisition modules, only **one** of these can be at introductory level.

Code	Title	Credits
Anthropology and Sociology		
Available as minors only		
15PANH024	Issues in the Anthropology of Gender	15
15PANH067	Culture and Society of Near and Middle East	15
Art and Archaeology		
Available as majors or minors		
15PARH070	Islamic Art & Architecture of Medieval Anatolia and the South Caucasus (11-13th centuries)	15
15PARH054	Arab Painting	15
15PARH035	Art and Architecture of the Fatimids	15
15PARH034	Islam and the West: Artistic and Cultural Contacts	15
15PARH068	Art and Architecture of the Early Ottomans and the Beyliks (13-15th centuries)	15
15PARH080	Islamic Art and Architecture of Eastern Mediterranean of the Period of the Crusades (11th-14th centuries)	15
Development Studies		
Available as a major or minor		
15PDSH019	Problems of Development in the Middle East and North Africa	15
Economics		
Available as a major or minor		
15PECC341	Economic development of the Middle East	30
Gender		
Available as a minor only		
15PGNH001	Gender in the Middle East	15
15PGNH002	Gendering Migration & Diasporas	15
15PGNH007	Queer Politics in Asia, Africa and the Middle East	15
History		
Available as majors or minors		
Please note that the 'Modernity and Transformation' modules can be taken together or individually, ONLY as majors.		
15PNMC378	Reading Classical Arabic Historians: Themes and Trends in Islamic Historiography	30
15PNMH006	Critical Perspectives on Palestine Studies I: History and Politics	15
15PNMH007	Critical Perspectives on Palestine Studies II: Culture and Society	15
15PHIH037	Encountering the Other: the Middle East during the Crusading Period	15
15PNMC038	Israel and the Palestinians	30
15PNMH011	Zionism: Critical Perspectives	15
15PNMH008	Jerusalem: Life in a Contested Place	15
15PHIH006	Outsiders in Medieval Middle Eastern Societies: Minorities, Social Outcasts and Foreigners	15
15PNMC377	Turkey: Continuity and Change	30
15PHIH031	Modernity and the Transformation of the Middle East I	15
15PNMC405	Iran: History, Culture, Politics	30
15PHIH032	Modernity and the Transformation of the Middle East II	15
15PHIH044	Islam in South Asia	15
15PHIH048	The End of Empire in the Middle East and the Balkans I	15
15PHIH049	The End of Empire in the Middle East and the Balkans II	15
Language		
You may only select modules to the value of 60 credits from the languages below.		
Students are allowed to take any of the NME language modules offered in any given year		
15PNMH012	Introduction to Standard Modern Arabic A (PG)	15
15PNMH013	Introduction to Standard Modern Arabic B (PG)	15
15PNMC407	Arabic 200 (PG)	30

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15PNMC382	Arabic 400 (PG)	30
15PNMC402	Arabic 500	30
15PNMC391	Arabic 600 (PG)	30
15PNMC418	Intermediate Arabic/English Translation Project (PG)	30
15PNMC419	Higher Intermediate Arabic/English/Arabic Translation Project (PG)	30
15PNMC420	Advanced Arabic/English/Arabic Translation Project (PG)	30
15PNMC392	Elementary Hebrew (PG)	30
15PNMC393	Hebrew 2 (PG)	30
15PNMC394	Hebrew 4 (PG)	30
15PNMH014	Elementary Written Turkish A (PG)	15
15PNMH015	Elementary Written Turkish B (PG)	15
15PNMC395	Intensive Turkish Language (PG)	30
15PNMC397	Ottoman Turkish Language (PG)	30
15PNMC044	Advanced Translation (Turkish)	30
15PNMC427	Turkish 3 (PG)	30
15PNMH016	Elementary Written Persian A (PG)	15
15PNMH017	Elementary Written Persian B (PG)	15
15PNMC408	Persian Language 3 (PG)	30
15PNMC422	Persian for Readers of Arabic Script (PG)	30
15PNMC415	Intensive Persian Language	30
15PNMC033	Intermediate Persian Language	30
15PNMH009	Practical Translation Persian into English	15
15PNMH010	Practical Translation English into Persian	15
15PNMC384	Elementary Persian Texts (PG)	30
15PSRC033	Avestan I	30
15PSRC034	Pahlavi Language	30
Law		
Available as majors or minors		
15PLAC121	Islamic Law (MA/LLM)	30
15PLAC130	Law and Society in The Middle East and North Africa	30
15PLAC150	Human Rights and Islamic Law	30
Literature		
Available as majors or minors		
15PNMC412	Identity and Language in Hebrew Literature	30
15PNMC379	Modern Palestinian Literature (PG)	30
15PNMC411	Arabic Women's Writing: Theories and Practices	30
15PNMC347	Social and Political Dimensions of Modern Arabic Literature	30
15PNMC045	Arabic Popular Literature: Themes, Genres & Theory	30
15PNMC048	Arabic Poetry and Criticism	30
15PNMC378	Reading Classical Arabic Historians: Themes and Trends in Islamic Historiography	30
15PNMC388	Medieval Arabic Thought: the Philosophical and Theological Traditions	30
15PNMC401	Classical Persian Poetry (Masters)	30
15PNMC002	Modern Arabic Literature and the West	30
Media		
Available as minors only		
15PMSC005	Communication, Culture and Politics in the Middle East: Theoretical and Analytical Approaches	30
15PNMC230	Film and Society in the Middle East	30
15PMSH003	Mediated Culture in the Middle East: Politics and Communications	15
15PMSH006	Theoretical Approaches to International Journalisms	15
15PMSH007	Theoretical and Contemporary Issues in Global Media and Post-National Communication	15
15PMSH009	International Political Communication	15
15PMSH004	Transnational Communities and Diasporic Media: Networking, Connectivity, Identity	15
Music		
15PMUH024	Ethnicity, Religion and Gender in Middle Eastern Musical cultures	15
15PARH094	Music on the Silk Road: travel and circulation (PG)	15
15PMUH022	Music, Nation and Conflict in Jerusalem	15
Politics		
The two 15 credit modules below together constitute the major option for Politics of the Middle East		
15PPOH008	Political society in the Middle East	15
15PPOH011	State and transformation in the Middle East	15
Available as a minor only		
15PPOC026	Comparative politics of the Middle East	30
15PPOH022	State and Society in Central Asia and the Caucasus	15
15PPOH023	Geopolitics and Security in Central Asia and the Caucasus	15
Available as a minor only		
These modules are capped and may be available (as minors) only in exceptional circumstances and to well-qualified students, following prior approval of the module convenor, if places are available.		
15PPOH009	Political violence	15
15PPOC027	International politics of the Middle East	30
15PPOH010	Politics of Resistance in the Middle East	15
15PPOH007	Islam and political ideologies	15
15PPOH019	Violence, justice and the politics of memory	15
15PPOH006	Islam and politics	15
15PPOH034	The Law & Politics of State Violence	15
15PPOH044	The Politics of Solidarity and Transnationalism in the Arab World	15
15PPOH042	Urban Politics in the Middle East	15

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Available as majors or minors

15PNMC038	Israel and the Palestinians	30
15PNMC377	Turkey: Continuity and Change	30
15PNMH006	Critical Perspectives on Palestine Studies I: History and Politics	15
15PNMH007	Critical Perspectives on Palestine Studies II: Culture and Society	15

Study of Religions**Available as majors or minors**

15PSRC052	Zoroastrianism: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives	
15PSRC175	Christians and Muslims in Syriac Texts	30
15PNMC228	Modern Trends in Islam	30
15PSRH030	Religion, Nationhood and Ethnicity in Judaism	15

Translation Studies**Available as a minor only**

15PLIH047	Translation Theory	15
15PJKH017	Translation Studies and Methodology	15
15PLIH049	Translation Technology	15
15PJKH019	Translating Cultures 1	15
15PJKH020	Translating Cultures 2	15