

## Programme Specification

### I. Programme Details

<b>Programme title</b>	Buddhist Studies			
<b>Final award</b> ( <i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the <a href="#">Taught Degree Regulations</a></i> )	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	BSc	<input type="checkbox"/>	MSc	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other ...	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	Distance-learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	On-campus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Professional body accreditation</b> ( <i>if applicable</i> )	n/a			
<b>Academic year this specification was created</b>	2016/17			
<b>Dates of any subsequent amendments</b>				

### II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A sound knowledge and understanding of selected approaches, methods and theories in relation to one or more areas of Buddhist Asia.</li> <li>2. Advanced skills in researching and writing about Buddhism from an academic perspective, also as a platform for further research at doctoral level.</li> <li>3. Advanced skills in presentation or communication of knowledge and understanding of topics in religious studies.</li> <li>4. Specialisation in one area from among those covered by the units listed in the programme structure.</li> </ol>
---

### 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"> <li>1. Students will learn how to assess data and evidence critically, locate and synthesise source materials, critically evaluate conflicting interpretations and sources, use research resources (library catalogues, journal databases, citation indices) and other traditional sources.</li> <li>2. Subject specific skills, for instance, textual criticism, edition, translation, and interpretation of literary, epigraphical, and ethnographic sources, as well as analysis of archaeological and art-historical artefacts.</li> <li>3. Whenever appropriate, students will enhance their knowledge of one Buddhist language, or gain familiarity with one of these languages, freely chosen among a wide pool on offer.</li> <li>4. Students will gain familiarity with Buddhism in its various regional and historical contexts, and with the academic field of Buddhist Studies, its rich history and the variety of academic perspectives on Buddhism.</li> </ol>	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition through lectures and seminars. Students are required to attend all classes, study extensively on their own and prepare non-assessed work (for presentation at course seminars) regularly.</li> <li>• Acquisition through preparation of essays and dissertations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be assessed by a variety of methods: long essays, seen or unseen examinations, group or individual presentations, coursework and a dissertation (the dissertation is a required method of assessment for the MA).</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquisition through taking optional courses in the study of the religions of Asia or Africa.</li> </ul>	
--	--

<b>Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students should become precise and cautious in their assessment of evidence, and understand through practice what documents can and cannot tell us.</li> <li>Students will develop the capacity to discuss theoretical and epistemological issues in an articulate, informed, and intellectual manner.</li> <li>Students will learn to become precise and critical in their assessment of scholarly arguments and to question interpretations, however authoritative, in order to reassess evidence for themselves.</li> <li>Students will learn to present complex arguments clearly and creatively.</li> <li>Those students who take a language option should be able to assess primary sources in foreign languages and critically evaluate interpretations proposed by different scholars.</li> <li>Students will acquire both theoretical and regional expertise in order to develop and apply sound academic approaches to the study of Buddhism.</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquisition of all skills will be fostered directly through the programme's core options and indirectly through both the additional options, and supervision of the students' dissertations.</li> <li>The development of intellectual skills will be facilitated through lectures and seminars, and students' progress will be monitored through close assessment and supervision of coursework as well as through non-assessed seminar presentations. All courses will introduce information that will need to be assessed critically and will demonstrate how conflicting interpretations arise from the same information. By the acquisition of language skills, students will be enabled to assess primary sources in foreign languages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The emphasis on assessed written work (by essay and examination) is in order to ensure advanced level training in skilled cognitive argumentation as a core contribution to preparation for further postgraduate study at the MPhil/PhD level.</li> </ul>

<b>Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills</b>	
<p>The programme aims to help students with the following practical skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic writing</li> <li>IT-based information retrieval and processing</li> <li>Presentational skills</li> <li>Independent study skills and research techniques</li> <li>Reflexive learning</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquisition of academic writing skills through the preparation of long essays and the dissertation.</li> <li>Acquisition of information retrieval skills through course teaching and training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seen or unseen examinations, essays, group or individual presentations, dissertation.</li> </ul>

<p>sessions offered by the Library and Information Services staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition of presentational skills through seminar and tutorial presentations.</li> <li>• Acquisition of examination techniques through training sessions offered by the Learning and Teaching Unit.</li> <li>• Acquisition of independent study skills and research techniques through supervised individual research and writing (dissertation and long essays).</li> <li>• Acquisition of reflexive learning through seminar discussion and supervised coursework.</li> </ul>	
--	--

<b>Learning Outcomes: Transferable skills</b>	
<p>The programme will encourage students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Write concisely and with clarity.</li> <li>2. Effectively structure and communicate ideas (oral and written).</li> <li>3. Explore and assess a variety of sources for research purposes.</li> <li>4. Work to deadlines and high academic standards.</li> <li>5. Assess the validity and cogency of arguments.</li> <li>6. Make judgements involving complex factors.</li> <li>7. Develop self-reflexivity.</li> <li>8. Question the nature of social and cultural constructs.</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition of transferable skills through:</li> <li>• Lectures</li> <li>• Regular monitoring and feedback on student progress during each stage of the programme's courses.</li> <li>• Substantial elements of independent learning, with feedback</li> <li>• Seminar discussion and individual supervision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through seen or unseen examinations, dissertation, long essays, individual or group presentations and course work.</li> </ul>

<b>General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes</b>
<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 <a href="https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/">https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/</a>) 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 Buddhist Studies**

	<b>Dissertation</b>
credits	60
module code	15PSRC990
module title	Dissertation in Buddhist Studies
status	compulsory module

	<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>
credits	15		30		15		30		30
module code	15PSRH050		from List A		from List A or B		from List A, B or C		any module from the Open Options list subject to convenor approval
module title	Critical Concepts in Buddhist Studies	+		+		+		+	
status	core module		guided option*		guided option*		guided option*		open option

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

Code	Title	Credits
<b>List A:</b>		
15PSRH008	Buddhism in Tibet	15
15PSRC172	Buddhist Meditation in India and Tibet	30
15PSRH038	Chinese Religious Texts: A Reading Seminar	15
15PSRH053	Chinese Buddhism in the Pre-modern Period	15
15PSRH018	East Asian Buddhist Thought	15
15PSRH014	Features of Buddhist Monasticism	15
15PSRC059	History and Doctrines of Indian Buddhism	30
15PARH078	Imag(in)ing Buddhahood in South Asia (1)	15
15PSRH051	Imag(in)ing Buddhahood in South Asia (2)	15
15PSRC168	Oriental religions in European academia and imagination, 1815-1945	30
15PSRC071	Religious Practice in Japan: Texts, Rituals and Believers	30
15PSRH009	The Buddhist Conquest of Central Asia	15
<b>List B:</b>		
15PSRC176	Basic Pali	30
15PSRC024	Jainism: History, Doctrine and the Contemporary World	30
15PSRC053	Pali: Intermediate Level	30
15PSRH036	The Great Tradition of Taoism	15
15PSRC173	The Origins and Development of Yoga in Ancient India	30
<b>List C: Relevant modules outside the Department of Religions &amp; Philosophies</b>		
<b>Languages</b>		
15PJKH035	Japanese 1A (PG)	15
15PJKH036	Japanese 1B (PG)	15
15PJKC009	Japanese 2 (PG)	30
15PJKC010	Japanese 3 (PG)	30
15PJKC011	Japanese 4 (PG)	30
15PJKC012	Japanese 5 (PG)	30
15PSEC039	Burmese Language 1 (PG)	30
15PSEC045	Burmese Language 2 (PG)	30
15PJKH037	Korean 1A (PG)	15
15PJKH038	Korean 1B (PG)	15
15PJKC013	Intermediate Korean (PG)	30
15PEAC018	Advanced Korean Readings (PG)	30
15PCHH039	Tibetan (Classical) 1A (PG)	15
15PCHH040	Tibetan (Classical) 1B (PG)	15
15PSAH024	Nepali Language 1A (PG)	15
15PSAH025	Nepali Language 1B (PG)	15
15PSAC299	Nepali Language 2 (PG)	30
15PSAC309	Prakrit Language 1 (PG)	30
15PSAH020	Sanskrit Language 1A (PG)	15
15PSAH021	Sanskrit Language 1B (PG)	15
15PSAC306	Sanskrit Language 2 (PG)	30
15PCHH031	Chinese 1A (PG)	15
15PCHH032	Chinese 1B (PG)	15
15PCHC011	Chinese 2 (PG)	30
15PCHC009	Chinese 3 (PG)	30
15PCHC012	Chinese 4 (PG)	30
15PCHC010	Special Course in Chinese: Reading Classical and Literary Chinese (PG)	30
15PSEH024	Thai Language 1A (PG)	15
15PSEH025	Thai Language 1B (PG)	15
15PSEC041	Thai Language 2 (PG)	30
15PSEC042	Thai Language 3 (PG)	30
15PSEH020	Vietnamese Language 1A (PG)	15
15PSEH021	Vietnamese Language 1B (PG)	15
15PSEC037	Vietnamese Language 2 (PG)	30
<b>Relevant modules in other departments</b>		
15PARC032	Art and Archaeology of the Silk Road	30
15PARH057	Buddhist and Hindu Art of the Maritime Silk Route	15
15PARH074	Critical Themes in Tibetan Art	15
15PARH056	Sacred Art and Architecture of Ancient Korea	15
15PARH076	The Figure of the Buddha: Theory, Practice and the Making of Buddhist Art History	15
15PARC034	The Indian Temple	30
15PARH075	Tibetan Buddhist Monuments in Context	15
15PMUH017	Aspects of Music and Religion in South East Asia	15