

Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Islamic Societies and Cultures Islamic Societies and Cultures & Intensive Language (Arabic)			
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 Islam 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 Islam 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 Islam on a solid methodological and disciplinary basis. 4. In the two-year Intensive Language pathway, the student will also be expected to achieve a certain level of language proficiency, depending on language chosen and entry level (in the case of Arabic).

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"> • By a mixture of unseen examination, dissertation, long essay and coursework

Learning Outcomes: Transferrable 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 hones the skill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Totality of skills assessed in unseen examinations, long essays, coursework and the dissertation

Learning Outcomes: Linguistic skills (in the Intensive Language pathway)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To acquire/develop skills in a relevant language to the level specified in the respective programme specifications 2. To demonstrate awareness of the conceptual and communicative underpinnings of a relevant language and through this inter-linguistic and inter-cultural 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 through intensive language study. • Ability to read and process a modern written language on a variety of topics • Ability to speak and understand that language to an intermediate or advanced level (depending on entry level) • Experience of living and studying in that language during period of study abroad. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment through unseen examinations, coursework, 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 Islamic Societies & Cultures & Intensive Arabic (two years full-time)

Year 1	credits	Taught Component SOAS 30	Taught Component 30	Taught Component 30	Taught Component 30	Taught Component Abroad 45
	module code	15PNMC418	15PNMC419			
	module title	Intermediate Arabic/English Translation Project (PG)	Higher Intermediate Arabic/English/Arabic Translation Project	major from List A	minor from List B	Study Abroad
		Language Component	Language Component	Discipline Component	Discipline Component	

Year 2	credits	Taught Component 30	Taught Component 30	Taught Component 30	Dissertation 60
	module code	15PNMC420			15PNMC995
	module title	Advanced Arabic/English/Arabic Translation Project (PG)	minor from List B	from List A or B or from list of open options	Dissertation in Islamic Societies & Cultures
	status	Language Component	Discipline Component	Discipline Component	Discipline Component

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

Code	Title	Credits
List A (Major Options)		
15PNMC228	Modern Trends in Islam	30
15PLAC121	Islamic law (MA/LLM)	30
15PLAC130	Law and society in the Middle East and North Africa	30
15PHIH039	The Early Development of Islam: Emerging Identities and Contending Views	15
15PHIH045	The Origin of Islam: Sources and Perspectives	15
15PNMC388	Medieval Arabic Thought: the Philosophical and Theological Traditions	30
List B (Minor Options)		
Near and Middle East		
15PNMC410	Early and Medieval Arabic Linguistic Thought: Scholarship and Literature	30
15PNMC411	Arabic Women's Writing: Theories and Practices	30
15PDSH019	Problems of development in the Middle East and North Africa	15
15PLAC150	Human rights and Islamic law	30
15PECC341	Economic development of the Middle East	30
15PARH035	Art and Architecture of the Fatimids	15
15PGNH001	Gender in the Middle East	15
15PPOC026	Comparative politics of the Middle East	30
Europe:		
15PARH034	Islam and the West: Artistic and Cultural Contacts	15
15PSRC158	Muslim Britain: Perspectives and Realities - 15PSRC158	30
Languages: maximum of 30 credits!		
15PNMC422	Persian for Readers of Arabic Script	30
15PNMH012	Introduction to Standard Modern Arabic A (PG)	15
15PNMH013	Introduction to Standard Modern Arabic B (PG)	15
15PNMC390	Arabic 300 (Postgraduate)	30
15PNMC382	Arabic 2 (PG)	30
15PNMC402	Advanced Standard Modern Arabic	30
15PNMC391	Arabic 4 (PG)	30
15PAFH029	Swahili 1 A (PG)	15
15PAFH030	Swahili 1 B (PG)	15
15PAFC141	Intermediate Swahili 2A (PG)	30
15PAFC142	Swahili 3 (PG)	30
15PSAH026	Urdu Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSAH027	Urdu Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSAC301	Urdu Language 2 (PG)	30
15PSEH018	Indonesian Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSEH019	Indonesian Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSEC033	Indonesian Language 2 (PG)	30
15PSEC034	Indonesian Language 3 (PG)	30
15PSEC035	Indonesian Language 4 (PG)	30
Asia:		
15PSAH013	Imagining Pakistan (PG)	15
15PHIC042	Islam In South Asia	15
15PPOH022	State and Society in Central Asia and the Caucasus	15

MA Islamic Societies & Cultures & Intensive Arabic (four years part-time)

Year 1	credits	Taught Component SOAS 30	Taught Component SOAS 30	Taught Component Abroad 45
	module code	15PNMC418	15PNMC419	
	module title	Intermediate Arabic/English Translation Project (PG)	Higher Intermediate Arabic/English/Arabic Translation Project	Study Abroad
		Language Component	Language Component	

Year 2	credits	Taught Component SOAS 30	Taught Component SOAS 30
	module code	15PNMC420	
	module title	Advanced Arabic/English/Arabic Translation Project (PG)	major from List A
		Language Component	Discipline Component

Year 3	credits	Taught Component SOAS 60
	module title	minor from List B
		Discipline Component

Year 4	credits	Taught Component SOAS 30	Dissertation 60
	module code		15PNMC995
	module title	from List A or B or from list of open options	Dissertation in Islamic Societies & Cultures
		Discipline Component	Discipline Component

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

Code	Title	Credits
List A (Major Options)		
15PNMC228	Modern Trends in Islam	30
15PLAC121	Islamic law (MA/LLM)	30
15PLAC130	Law and society in the Middle East and North Africa	30
15PHIH039	The Early Development of Islam : Emerging Identities and Contending Views	15
15PHIH045	The Origin of Islam: Sources and Perspectives	15
15PNMC388	Medieval Arabic Thought: the Philosophical and Theological Traditions	30
List B (Minor Options)		
Near and Middle East		
15PNMC410	Early and Medieval Arabic Linguistic Thought: Scholarship and Literature	30
15PNMC411	Arabic Women's Writing: Theories and Practices	30
15PDSH019	Problems of development in the Middle East and North Africa	15
15PLAC150	Human rights and Islamic law	30
15PECC341	Economic development of the Middle East	30
15PARH035	Art and Architecture of the Fatimids	15
15PGNH001	Gender in the Middle East	15
15PPOC026	Comparative politics of the Middle East	30
Europe:		
15PARH034	Islam and the West: Artistic and Cultural Contacts	15
15PSRC158	Muslim Britain: Perspectives and Realities - 15PSRC158	30
Languages: maximum of 30 credits!		
15PNMC422	Persian for Readers of Arabic Script	30
15PNMH012	Introduction to Standard Modern Arabic A (PG)	15
15PNMH013	Introduction to Standard Modern Arabic B (PG)	15
15PNMC390	Arabic 300 (Postgraduate)	30
15PNMC382	Arabic 2 (PG)	30
15PNMC402	Advanced Standard Modern Arabic	30
15PNMC391	Arabic 4 (PG)	30
15PAFH029	Swahili 1 A (PG)	15
15PAFH030	Swahili 1 B (PG)	15
15PAFC141	Intermediate Swahili 2A (PG)	30
15PAFC142	Swahili 3 (PG)	30
15PSAH026	Urdu Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSAH027	Urdu Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSAC301	Urdu Language 2 (PG)	30
15PSEH018	Indonesian Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSEH019	Indonesian Language 1 B (PG)	15
15PSEC033	Indonesian Language 2 (PG)	30
15PSEC034	Indonesian Language 3 (PG)	30
15PSEC035	Indonesian Language 4 (PG)	30
Asia:		
15PSAH013	Imagining Pakistan (PG)	15
15PHIC042	Islam In South Asia	15
15PPOH022	State and Society in Central Asia and the Caucasus	15