

## Programme specification 2012/2013

### School of Oriental and African Studies

The following information forms the programme specification at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. It gives definitive information relating to a programme of study and is written for a public audience, particularly prospective and current students. It is also used for other purposes such as initial programme approval, and is therefore produced at the start of the programme development process. Once approved, it forms the base-line information for all statements relating to the programme and is updated as approved amendments are made.

#### CORE INFORMATION

Programme title	BA African Language and Culture <i>N.B. This Programme Specification includes both the Hausa and Swahili language pathways.</i>
Final award	BA Honours
Intermediate awards	n/a
Mode of attendance	Full-time
UCAS code	T508 BA/ALC
Professional body accreditation	n/a
Date specification created/updated	April 2011

#### WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAMME?

Why study at SOAS?	SOAS is unique as the only higher education institution in the UK specialising in the study of Africa, Asia and the Middle East. It also has the largest concentration of specialist faculty concerned with the study of these areas at any university in the world. SOAS is consistently ranked among the top higher education institutions in the UK and the world and it also offers a friendly, vibrant environment for students in a diverse and close-knit community.
What is special about this programme?	SOAS is the only university in the UK where you can learn a major sub-Saharan language (Hausa or Swahili) combined with more general (African) culture/language studies as part of a BA degree. The non-language/culture options cover a wide range of subjects, including unique specialist Africa-centred courses in cinema, literature, art, music, religion, history, politics, law, economics and anthropology. The 4-year degree gives you the unique opportunity of spending the third year attending an intensive <u>Hausa</u> language and culture programme at a university in northern Nigeria (usually Usman

	<p>Danfodiyo University, Sokoto) as part of a unique life experience and introduction to (west) Africa.</p> <p><u>Swahili</u>: in East Africa (the Zanzibar State University, and Research Institute of Swahili Studies of Eastern Africa) as part of a unique life experience and introduction to (east) Africa.</p>
Who would it suit?	<p>Our BA African Language and Culture (Hausa, Swahili) degree is focused and is ideal for anyone wishing to develop a specialist knowledge of Hausa/Swahili culture, society and language. Career paths of our graduates include journalism/media (e.g., BBC World Service), publishing, UK and international government agencies, NGOs (e.g., Amnesty International). Some of our graduates proceed to SOAS Masters programmes, e.g., MA African Studies.</p>
Programme structure	<p>Students take four course-units per academic year, and must pass at least three to proceed to the following year. Non-language courses are available within the department and students can also take one open option per year (courses outside the Africa department and not named in the actual degree). They can elect to take a maximum two cognate courses in other departments, e.g., Development Studies, Social Anthropology.</p> <p>Year 1: students take one unit in Hausa or Swahili, two compulsory units on culture and language in Africa, and one open option unit from a cognate subject/discipline.</p> <p>Year 2: students take two units in Hausa or Swahili, and two non-language/culture courses (one or two from the list of options, or an open option).</p> <p>Year 3: <u>Hausa</u>: two terms intensive language/culture courses at a northern Nigerian university. Students conduct research and collect data which forms the basis for writing up a “Year Abroad Project” of 10,000 words on their return.</p> <p>Year 3 <u>Swahili</u>: two terms intensive language/culture courses in east Africa. In addition to coursework study, students conduct research and collect data which forms the basis for writing up an essay of 5,000 words, or two 2,500 words essays, in Swahili.</p>

	<p>Year 4: students take one unit in advanced Hausa or Swahili, and three non-language units from the list of options (one of the courses can be an open options).</p> <p>First-year introductory language courses assume no previous knowledge of Hausa or Swahili. Courses in all four years are designed to provide basic communicative competence in oral and written Hausa or Swahili, and concentrate on all four linguistic skills – understanding, speaking, reading and writing. Classes are typically ten or less for Hausa, with many more for Swahili, and interactive, with students being encouraged to use the language actively from the outset.</p>
Assessment summary	<p>Assessment of the Hausa language classes is typically based on a one (3 hrs) written paper at the end of the year (60%), two mid-term written examinations (10% total) and three oral examinations (30% total).</p> <p>Assessment of the Swahili language classes is typically based on a one (3 hr) written paper at the end of the year (= 60%) + two mid-term written quizzes (= 20% total), an oral, and aural (language lab based) examinations (= 20% total).</p> <p>Assessment of non-language courses typically involves a balance between coursework essays and final written exam, some courses are assessed by coursework essays only.</p> <p>Year (3) abroad (Hausa): Students take written and oral examinations at the host university in northern Nigeria. In addition students conduct research for a 10,000 words Year Abroad project.</p> <p>Year (3) abroad (Swahili): two terms intensive language/culture courses in east Africa. In addition to coursework study and assessment at partner universities, students conduct research and collect data which forms the basis for writing up an essay of 5,000 words, or two 2,500 words essays, in Swahili.</p>

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

SOAS has general minimum entrance requirements for registration for an undergraduate degree and these can be viewed at (<http://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/entryreq/>)

- **A Levels: AAB**

- A Level language preferred
- **IB:** 36 (6/6/6)
- **BTEC:** DDM
- **Scottish Highers:** AAABB
- **Scottish Advanced Highers:** AAB
- **Irish LC:** 340 points from 5 Higher level subjects at grade C1 or above
- **Advanced Placement:** 4 4 5 (Two semesters - UCAS Group A) plus US HSGD with GPA 3.0
- **Euro Bacc:** 80%
- **French Bacc:** 14/20
- **German Abitur:** 2.0
- **Italy DES:** 80/100
- **Austria Mat:** 2.0
- **Polish Mat:** 75%

### **PROGRAMME AIMS**

What will this programme give the student an opportunity to achieve?

- To acquire a broad foundational knowledge of the culture of East or West Africa and the Hausa-speaking Sahel area or Swahili-speaking coastal area in particular;
- To acquire communicative competence in both written and spoken Hausa/Swahili, in addition to a sensitive (non-Eurocentric) awareness of its cultural context;
- To provide students with the opportunity to acquire direct experience of living and studying in an East or West African Muslim environment (year 3);
- To enhance overall career prospects by providing specialist skills.

### **PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES**

What will the student learn?

#### **Knowledge**

- Competence in speaking, reading and writing a major African language, including an appreciation of its poetry and prose via the literature component;
- A broad knowledge and understanding of (East/West) African culture, in its historical and contemporary developments, and the Hausa- or Swahili-speaking Muslim regions in particular;
- Sensitivity to the importance and distinctiveness of cultural and intellectual achievement, and to the existence of distinct and/or complementary value systems in different cultures and periods.

#### **Intellectual (thinking) skills**

- An ability to understand and manipulate the core syntax of Hausa or Swahili, and to analyze language data and patterns.
- In the case of Hausa or Swahili literature courses, an ability to objectively assess varying interpretations and handle different genres.
- An ability to manage one's own learning, and to make critical and balanced use of scholarly works related to the cultures and societies of (East/West) Africa.

### Subject-based practical skills

- Comprehend and communicate in a major African language — through both speech and writing.
- Research topics using both primary and secondary sources, making appropriate use of library and online resources.

### Transferable skills

The programme will encourage students to:

- Communicate in Hausa or Swahili with clarity and concision.
- Use a variety of sources as research materials.
- Work to deadlines.
- Develop an understanding of the relativity of cultures and culture-specific behaviours and attitudes.
- Assess the validity of arguments and make balanced judgements on complex situations.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR GAINING AN AWARD

How will the student's study be structured? How will they achieve an award?

### Structure, duration and requirements for gaining an award

SOAS has standard requirements relating to the structure and duration of undergraduate programmes and for the award and classification of these programmes.

Details can be found at <http://www.soas.ac.uk/registry/degreeregulations/file60378.pdf>

### Programme structure diagram

Below is a structure diagram for this programme (Hausa pathway).

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
4	1	155900834	Hausa 1	30	core	
4	1	155900867	Language in Africa	30	compulsory	
4	1	155900838	Culture in Africa	30	compulsory	
4	1	n/a	open option	30		Related course from another Department, e.g., in Development Studies, Economics, History, Law, Politics, Social Anthropology
5	2	155900324	Hausa 2A	30	core	
5	2	155900818	Hausa 2B	30	compulsory	
5	2	n/a	Course(s) to the value of 1 unit from the list of options	30	compulsory	
5	2	n/a	open option	30		Related course from another Department, e.g.,

						in Development Studies, Economics, History, Law, Politics, Social Anthropology
5	3		Year Abroad		compulsory	Students will spend the whole academic year attached to a university in northern Nigeria, where they take intensive language/culture courses and local examinations
6	3		Year Abroad Project (African Studies/Hausa)		compulsory	Written upon the return from Nigeria
6	4	n/a	Advanced Hausa language course	30	compulsory	
6	4	n/a	Course(s) to the value of 1 unit from the list of options	30	compulsory	
6	4	n/a	Course(s) to the value of 1 unit from the list of options	30	compulsory	
6	4		Course(s) to the value of 1 unit from the list of options or open option	30		

Below is a structure diagram for this programme (Swahili pathway).

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
4	1	155900985	Swahili 1	30	core	
4	1	155900867	Language in Africa	30	compulsory	
4	1	155900838	Culture in Africa	30	compulsory	
4	1	n/a	open option	30		Related course from another Department, e.g., in Development Studies, Economics, History, Law, Politics, Social Anthropology
5	2	155900986	Swahili 2A	30	core	
5	2	155900987	Swahili 2B	30	compulsory	
5	2	n/a	Course(s) to the value of 1 unit from the list of options	30	compulsory	
5	2	n/a	open option	30		Related course from another Department, e.g., in Development Studies, Economics, History,

						Law, Politics, Social Anthropology
5	3		Year Abroad		compulsory	For Swahili, students will spend the whole academic year attached to a university in northern Nigeria, where they take intensive language/culture courses and local examinations
5	3		Year Abroad Project (African Studies/Swahili)		compulsory	Written following SOAS exams
6	4	n/a	Advanced Swahili language course	30	compulsory	
6	4	n/a	Course(s) to the value of 1 unit from the list of options	30	compulsory	
6	4	n/a	Course(s) to the value of 1 unit from the list of options	30	compulsory	
6	4		Course(s) to the value of 1 unit from the list of options or open option	30		

### List of optional courses

Not all courses may run every year; some courses require prerequisites; some courses are only available for certain years of study. Check the course webpages for details and consult with your tutor.

Normally students are not allowed to take a course outside of the years for which it is intended, although occasionally exceptions can be made in consultation with the Undergraduate Tutor and / or the Associate Dean (Undergraduate). Note that the list of options includes both culture courses and language courses. Students may take courses in another African language.

- [Contemporary African literature](#) 155900839
- [History in African and Caribbean literature](#) 155901013
- [African language literatures \(oral and written\)](#) 155900677
- [Representations and transformations: South African drama and film](#) 155901165
- [The structure of Bantu languages](#) 155901257
- [Theory and practice of Swahili translation](#) 155901259
- [Religions of Africa](#) (0.5 Unit) 158000119
- [Religion in Africa](#) 155901151
- [Extended essay in African studies \(a\)](#) (0.5 Unit) 155900762
- [Extended essay in African studies \(b\)](#) (0.5 Unit) 155901188
- [Independent study project in African studies](#) 155900763
- [Directed study of an African language](#) 155900934
- [Black urban studies](#) (0.5 Unit) 151230001
- [Introduction to Pan-Africanism](#) (0.5 Unit) 151230002

- [Music in Africa](#) 155800022
- [The World of Cuban Music](#) (0.5 Unit) 155800058
- [Music in the Mande Cultural World \(1 Unit\)](#) 155800056
- [African Art I: Context and Representation](#) 154900105
- [African Art II: West Africa & the Atlantic World; History, Historiography and the Visual Arts.](#) 154900124
- [African Art III: the Art and Architecture of North Eastern Africa](#) 154900132
- [Africans in the Americas: Identities and Representation](#) (0.5 Unit) 154900166
- [Amharic 1](#) 155900832
- [Amharic 2](#) 155900378
- [Hausa 1](#) 155900834
- [Hausa 2\(a\) intermediate](#) 155900324
- [Hausa 2\(b\) survey of hausa literature](#) 155900818
- [Hausa 3\(a\) advanced](#) 155900327
- [Hausa 3 \(b\) selected texts](#) 155900603
- [Hausa 3e advanced hausa: translation skills \(Kano course\)](#) 155900961
- [Hausa 3f advanced hausa: comprehension and composition \(Kano course\)](#) 155900962
- [Hausa 3g advanced hausa: speaking and listening skills \(Kano course\)](#) 155900963
- [Somali 1](#) 155900831
- [Somali 2](#) 155900811
- [Advanced somali:formal usage](#) 155901291
- [Advanced somali: literature and culture](#) 155901292
- [Swahili 1](#) 155900985
- [Swahili 2a intermediate](#) 155900986
- [Swahili 2b - introduction to Swahili literature](#) 155900987
- [Swahili 3](#) 155900635
- [Swahili 4](#) 155900636
- [Theory and practice of Swahili translation](#) 155901259
- [Yoruba 1](#) 155900833
- [Yoruba 2](#) 155900935
- [Zulu 1](#) 155900840
- [Zulu 2](#) 155900851

## TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

What methods will be used to achieve the learning outcomes?

### Knowledge

- Knowledge will be gained by attending lectures and tutorials for the course, reading the books and articles recommended by the teachers and where appropriate through audio-visual materials.
- Those students taking an African language will be taught reading, writing, speaking and listening comprehension all of which will be assessed by written examination, course work and oral examination. Audio-visual materials and computer assisted language learning materials, where available, may also be used.

- In later years students may gain greater knowledge of a specific region in Africa by choosing to write essays (where choice is possible) on that region. Students may also concentrate on a specific area in the Independent Study Project full unit course or the Extended Essay half unit course.

#### **Intellectual (thinking) skills**

- Through engagement with teachers and other students in tutorials the student will develop their critical and analytical skills and the ability to discuss matters relating to African language, culture and society in an objective and mutually respectful manner.
- Course work, extended essays and the Independent Study Project provide the opportunity to demonstrate the critical and analytical skills which are developed through guidance and feedback from the teachers.

#### **Subject-based practical skills**

- In most courses the practical skill of presenting a synthesis of material gained from secondary and sometimes primary sources in the form of essays and, for some courses maybe presentations, will be developed during the degree.
- All students develop the practical skill of using the language they learn at a level appropriate to the course.
- The development of writing skills in an academic context is developed through the writing of essays and other course work including the final Independent Study Project (when chosen).

#### **Transferable skills**

- Research and writing skills will be developed through the writing of course work and the dissertation.
- The skills of independent learning will be gained by students as they undertake the reading and writing of course work during a particular course.
- The assessment of written course work and the drafts of the Independent Study Project or Extended Essays (when chosen) will help develop the transferable skill of writing in a suitable register and presenting ideas and knowledge.

### **REFERENCE POINTS**

What has been the basis for the design of this programme?

1. School learning and teaching strategy
2. QAA framework for higher education qualifications
3. QAA subject benchmark statement Languages and related studies (2007)

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ENHANCEMENT**

SOAS has internal procedures to assure the quality of provision to be offered to students and to enhance the quality in the light of experience following delivery, taking into account the input of external experts and students. The procedures are set out in the School's Quality Assurance Handbook and can be viewed at (<http://www.soas.ac.uk/add/qualityassurance/quality-assurance-handbook/>).

SOAS is also subject to periodic external review from bodies such as the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and relevant professional and statutory regulatory bodies.

The procedures described in the Quality Assurance Handbook are in place to provide a high quality student experience for those choosing to study at SOAS, and student input and evaluation of their experiences is greatly valued. Students make an input to the ongoing development of their programmes, and the environment in which they operate, in a number of ways, including:

- formal student evaluation as part of the annual programme review;
- student representation on School committees at various levels (through the Students' Union) where many relevant issues are discussed.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Add in links to other relevant information, both internal and external, including:

- [SOAS Vision and Strategy Statement](#);
- [Undergraduate Handbook](#);
- [Quality Assurance Handbook](#);
- [UCAS website](#);
- [QAA website](#).