

## 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	African Studies and ...
Final award	BA Honours
Intermediate awards	n/a
Mode of attendance	Full-time
UCAS code	African Studies may be combined with: Development Studies, (TL59 BA/DVSAF) Economics, (TL51 BA/ECAF) Geography**, (TL57 BA/GEAF) History, (VT15 BA/HAF) History of Art/Archaeology, (TV53 BA/ASHAA) Linguistics, (TQ51 BA/AFLG) Music, (WT35 BA/MSAF) Politics, (TL52 BA/POLAF) Social Anthropology, (TL56 BA/SAAF) Study of Religions (VT65 BA/SRAF)  ** Taught at King's College London
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 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, and open options can be taken in history, politics, law, economics and social anthropology.
Who would it suit?	Our BA African Studies + another subject is suited to students who wish to combine a specialist knowledge of an African language and African culture(s) with an Africa-focused discipline. 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., African Studies.
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 course options are available within the department (see list A).</p> <p>Year 1: students take one unit in a selected language (Amharic, Hausa, Somali, Swahili, Yoruba, Zulu), plus one of the two core courses Language in Africa or Culture in Africa. They also take two units in the other subject.</p> <p>Year 2: students take a further unit in the selected language, plus one from list A. They also take either two units in the other subject, or one other subject unit and a list A course. Students who do not continue the language option following year 1 take another list A option instead.</p> <p>Year 3: students take a further (advanced) unit in the selected language, plus one course from list A. They also take either two units in the other subject, or one other subject unit and a list A course.</p>
Assessment summary	<p>Assessment of language classes is typically based on a written exam at the end of the year as well as oral exam(s), in-term exams and assignments.</p> <p>Assessment of non-language/culture courses are assessed by a combination coursework essays and final written exam; some courses are assessed by coursework essays only.</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 (selected) African cultures;
- To acquire communicative competence in both written and spoken forms of the chosen African language, in addition to a sensitive (non-Eurocentric) awareness of the cultural context;
- To enhance overall career prospects by providing specialist training and knowledge in an Africa-focussed discipline subject.

### **PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES**

What will the student learn?

#### **Knowledge**

- Competence in speaking, reading and writing a major African language;
- A broad knowledge and understanding of African culture(s);
- A solid knowledge of the elected discipline subject with direct reference to Africa.

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

- 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 Africa.
- 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.

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

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

#### **Transferable skills**

The programme will encourage students to:

- Communicate effectively in the selected language .
- 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>

### Degree title

If a student passes Language in Africa and four course units in one language then the language may optionally be named in the degree title, e.g. African Studies (Swahili). This option is available for Swahili, Hausa and Somali only. One of the four courses may be an Independent Study Project in which the language is used to a large extent. Students must discuss this with their tutor at the end of year 1 or the beginning of year 2.

### Programme structure diagram

Below is a structure diagram for this programme.

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
4	1	n/a	Language level 1 from the list of options	30	compulsory	Students must pass Culture in Africa and <b>either</b> the first year language course unit <b>or</b> Language in Africa in order to proceed.
4	1	1559008 67 1559008 38	Language in Africa or Culture in Africa	30	compulsory	
	1	n/a	Two course units in the other subject	60		
5	2	n/a	Language level 2 or course(s) to the value of 1 unit from the list of options	30	compulsory	Language 2 (must pass to proceed to Language year 3)
5	2	n/a	Course(s) to the value of 1 unit from the list of options	30	compulsory	
	2	n/a	Two course units in the other subject	60		

6	3	n/a	Language level 3 or course(s) to the value of 1 unit from the list of options	30	compulsory	
6	3	n/a	Course(s) to the value of 1 unit from the list of options	30	compulsory	
	3	n/a	Two course units in the other subject	60		

### 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](#).