

Programme specification 2016-2017

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 Arabic and a Language
Final award	BA Honours
Intermediate awards	n/a
Mode of attendance	Full-time
UCAS code	Arabic may be combined with: French* Hebrew QTX6 BA/HEA Indonesian TTJ6 BA/IA Persian T621 BA/PA Turkish TF69 BA/TUA ** Taught at University College, London (Apply to UCL for this degree)
Professional body accreditation	n/a
Date specification created/updated	March 2017

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. The School 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?	At SOAS the study of Arabic can be combined with Hebrew, Indonesian, Persian and Turkish a range of languages. For the BA Arabic and French UCL is the admitting institution.

	<p>Combined-honours degrees in Arabic are intended to give students a solid grounding in Modern Standard and Classical Arabic, as well as conversational ability in Colloquial Arabic, in combination with an advanced command of the second language. Students are required to spend the third year of studying Arabic and the other language abroad at a university in the Middle East</p>
Who would it suit?	<p>Anyone who enjoys language learning and would like to combine the study of Arabic language and culture with a language.</p> <p>Graduates go on to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in fields such as the media, banking, finance, trade or diplomacy, with focus on the Middle East, or in other fields related to the second subject of the degree. • join companies, government agencies, NGOs or other organisations that have dealings with the Middle East • specialise at MA level in fields such economics, law, politics or international relations • engage in research and teaching in Arabic or Islamic Studies
Programme structure	<p>In the first year the Programme's major component is the intensive study of Modern Standard Arabic. This consists of 90 credits involving up to 15 hours of tuition per week. The fourth module of 30 credits is chosen <u>either</u> from the second language <u>or</u> from one of the following modules:</p> <p>Introduction to Arabic Culture</p> <p>Literatures of the Near and Middle East</p> <p>History of the Near and Middle East</p>

	<p>In the second year students take the 30 credit Arabic language module Arabic 2, two modules of 60 credits in the second language and choose ONE 30 credit module of the following:</p> <p>Introduction to Islamic Texts</p> <p>Introduction to Arabic Literature</p> <p>Introduction to Arabic Dialects</p> <p>The third year of the degree is the Year Abroad programme. Students spend the first half of the year studying colloquial and modern standard Arabic at one of the following institutions: the Alexandria School of Languages (ACL) in Alexandria, Egypt; An-Najah National University in the West Bank, Nablus; the Alif Institute in Fez, Morocco; or The Qasid Institute in Amman, Jordan. The second half of the year is spent at a selected institution located in the country where the other language they are studying is spoken (i.e. Israel, France, Turkey, Iran or Indonesia).</p> <p>In the final year students choose at least one Arabic-related module of 30 credits from a list of options covering language, modern and classical literature and Islamic texts, as well as at least two modules totaling 60 credits in the second language. Students may also choose one open option of 30 credits.</p>
Assessment summary	<p>Assessment for language courses typically involves a balance between classroom tests and/or written coursework during the year (20%), oral exam (20%), and written exam (60%). Assessment for literature and culture courses typically involves a balance</p>

	between coursework essays (30%) and final written exam (70%).
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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 ABB
- 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 make the student competent in Classical and Modern Standard Arabic.
- To provide conversational ability in colloquial Arabic.
- To provide students with a working knowledge of the second language.
- To familiarise the student with the culture and history of the Middle East.
- To provide a structured experience of living and studying in a Middle Eastern country during the Year Abroad.
- To prepare the student for working in Middle Eastern societies or in a context with Arab and Middle Eastern connections.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

What will the student learn?

Knowledge

- Advanced knowledge of Arabic language.
- Substantial knowledge of Arabic literature and culture.
- Key methods and concepts of linguistic and literary analysis.
- Intercultural awareness and understanding.
- Working knowledge of the second language.

Intellectual(thinking) skills

Ability to:

1. Identify, describe and analyse problems and devise appropriate strategies for their resolution.
2. Communicate information, ideas and arguments cogently and coherently both orally and in writing with due regard for the target audience.
3. Apply linguistic, literary and cultural concepts.
4. Demonstrate and exercise independence of mind and thought.
5. Appreciate the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge.

Subject-based practical skills

Ability to:

1. Communicate in Arabic, appropriately and with a good degree of grammatical accuracy, with native and other competent speakers.
2. Exploit for a variety of purposes and, as appropriate, contextualise a broad range of materials written or spoken in Arabic.
3. Apply effectively and appropriately Arabic-language skills in a professional context.
4. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and effective understanding of the structures, registers and varieties of Arabic.
5. Demonstrate an effective understanding of the linguistic principles required to analyse Arabic.
6. Demonstrate an appropriate level of skills in the second language.

Transferable skills

The programme will encourage students to:

1. Gather, process and evaluate critically information from a variety of paper, audio-visual and electronic sources
2. Structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing
3. Use IT effectively both as a means of communication and as an aid to learning
4. Manage time and work to deadlines
5. Work independently
6. Be self-reliant and confident
7. Assess the relevance and importance of others' ideas
8. Participate constructively in groups

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/degreetregulations/file60378.pdf>

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
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4	1)	Arabic 1	90	Core	
	1		<p>Either one module in the second language or one of the following: Introduction to Arabic Culture</p> <p>Literatures of the Near and Middle East</p> <p>History of the Near and Middle East</p>	30		
5	2	155901204	Arabic 2	30	Core	
5	2	<p>155901115</p> <p>155905004</p> <p>155901396</p>	<p>One module from the following: Introduction to Islamic Texts</p> <p>Introduction to Arabic Literature</p> <p>Introduction to Arabic Dialects</p>	30	Compulsory	
	2		Two modules in the second language	60	Core	
5	3		Year abroad	4 units = 120	Core	
6	4		At least one Arabic related unit from List A	30	Compulsory	
	4		At least two units in the second language	60	Compulsory	

	4		One open option	30		

The availability of optional/elective courses may vary in a given academic session due to factors such as staff absence and student numbers. For an up to date list of courses running in a given academic session please refer to the degree structures as listed on the SOAS website for the degree programmes taught by each Department.

List A: Arabic-related Fourth Year Options (not all are running every year)

- Arabic 4 155900899
- Arabic Women's Writing 155901406
- Politics and Aesthetics in Modern Arabic Literature 155901382
- Culture, Society and Politics in Classical Arabic Literature 155901373
- Reading Classical Arabic historians 155901334
- Language and Oral Literature of an Arabic Vernacular 155901376
- Quran and Hadith Studies 155900734
- Islamic Texts 155900356
- Independent Study Project in Arabic Studies (using language sources) 155901344

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

What methods will be used to achieve the learning outcomes?

Knowledge

- Competence in reading, writing and speaking Arabic and the second language will be achieved through a progression of intensive language courses taught in plenary and small groups that will develop and test all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing); assessment will consist of classroom tests, written coursework, oral presentations, and written and oral exams. Intermediate and advanced language courses and text courses will use a wide range of "real world" cultural and literary texts.
- A knowledge of selected aspects of literature and culture of Arabic and the second language will be developed through lecture courses delivered by specialists at the forefront of their disciplines; large lecture courses will also involve tutorials for small groups. Assessment will be through a combination of classroom presentations, coursework essays, written exams and the writing of an extended essay or Independent Study Project on a topic of the student's choice, which will involve the selection and analysis of primary texts and the critical discussion and assessment of secondary materials.
- First-hand knowledge and familiarity with Middle Eastern society and culture will be developed through the combination of language learning, studying and living in a Middle Eastern country during the year abroad, disciplinary courses related to that area and the ISP.

Intellectual (thinking) skills

- The ability to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques at the forefront of knowledge related to Arabic Studies as well as to the second language, will be developed through lectures, tutorials, oral presentations, classroom discussions, and essay-writing.
- The ability to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research related to literature and culture of Arabic and the second language will be developed through readings for lectures, tutorials, and oral presentations, and through classroom discussions and essay-writing.
- The appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge will be developed through the discussion of the conflicting ideas and debates relating to Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies in lectures, tutorials, classroom discussions and questions set for coursework and exam essays.
- The ability to manage one's own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources such as research articles and/or original materials related to Arab Studies and to the second language will be developed by encouraging students to choose their own topics for coursework essays in years 2 and 4.

Subject-based practical skills

- The ability to analyse cultural data and make judgements on the basis of conflicting evidence will be fostered through course readings from year 1 onwards.
- The ability to comprehend, and communicate in Arabic and the second language through both speech and writing will be fostered in the language courses.
- The ability to assess the validity of different approaches to the same data or ideas will be fostered through essay questions and classroom discussions.
- The ability to research cultural phenomena through both primary and secondary sources, making appropriate use of library and online resources, will be fostered in particular in the written essays and oral presentations.

Transferable skills

The programme will encourage students to:

- Write and speak with clarity and concision by setting clear guidelines and giving detailed feedback to essays and presentations from year 1 onward.
- Use a variety of sources as research materials in their essays and oral presentations. This is particularly exhilarating for students in their final year, who find they can write on quite original topics using materials that no one has used before.
- Work to deadlines, with clear deadlines for essays and penalty for late submission.
- Develop self-reflectiveness through classroom discussion, feedback on essays and presentations, and course assessment.
- Develop an understanding of the relativity of cultures and “cultural” (or encultured) attitudes, particularly through classroom discussion.
- Assess the validity of arguments and make judgements on complex situations, in particular in essays and presentations.

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

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