

Programme specification

SOAS, University of London

The following information forms the programme specification at SOAS, 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	Global Popular Music
Final award	BA
Intermediate awards	
Mode of attendance	Full time
UCAS code	
Professional body accreditation	N/A
Date specification created/updated	February 2014

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?	The BA Global Popular Music offers a unique and tailored programme that allows students to focus on popular and contemporary music styles and cultures in global perspective. It includes generic courses which develop an understanding of theoretical approaches to the study of popular music, practical skills courses in multimedia, and generous regional courses that build on the expertise of SOAS in the Middle East, Asia and Africa, and opportunities for directed independent study projects in popular music from around the world.
Who would it suit?	The programme leads into a number of career and vocational pathways, including arts management; festival administration and curating; music journalism; radio, television and print media research; music therapy; performing and composing; album

	production; managers, consultants, policy advisers and entrepreneurs working within the music industry in Europe, Asia and Africa; teaching; NGOs working with music; music and development, and academic research.
Programme structure	<p>In year 1, students study theoretical approaches to popular music and a regional survey of global popular music scenes, in addition to existing regional and performance courses in the Music Department.</p> <p>In year 2 they take a compulsory course in the Music Business, a practical skills course in recording or radio, and select from a range of regional popular music courses. They may also take other regional or themed Music courses, or performance.</p> <p>In year 3 they take compulsory courses Urban Soundscapes and Directed Study in Popular Music, further practical skills courses in recording or radio, and a regional popular music course. They may also take other regional or themed Music courses, or performance.</p>
Assessment summary	<p>Assessments include the following; the proportion of each type of assessment will depend on the student's choice of courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unseen written examinations, including Listening examinations. • Exercises (formative assessment) and course work (summative assessment). • Independent study projects and extended essays. • Performance examinations, including live musical performance and a viva. • Student presentations. • Recording projects. • Radio programmes.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Three A levels or equivalent with BBB (or equivalent); Music A level is NOT required.

PROGRAMME AIMS

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

- To give students a broad understanding of global popular music styles and related industries.
- To develop a globally informed understanding of the cultures and communities which form around popular music styles.
- To develop critical and writing skills, and to conduct individual research and writing on aspects of popular music.
- To develop practical and vocational skills and knowledge that will lead to professional employment.
- To provide a foundation for further study at postgraduate level.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

What will the student learn?

Knowledge & Understanding of:

1. Broad knowledge of popular music in global perspective.
2. Detailed knowledge of local and regional industries in Africa and Asia.
3. Detailed knowledge of popular music styles and cultures in Africa and Asia and their diasporas.
4. Principles and methods of the study of popular music and popular culture.
5. Music as a social phenomenon, and its capacity for expressing and defining social relationships, cultural meanings and individual and group identities.
6. The relationship of music to other aspects of culture such as media, religion, politics and economics, etc.

Intellectual (thinking) skills

- Ability to analyse and assess popular music in global perspective.
- Ability to write critically about the popular music cultures of Asia, Africa and their diasporas.
- Ability to read critically a wide range of sources and to synthesise different perspectives.
- Ability to assess concepts, hypotheses and methodologies critically in the light of evidence, and to apply insights and discoveries in one area of study to another.
- Ability to discuss and debate in seminar and tutorial contexts, and to present materials to peer groups.

Subject-based practical skills

- Knowledge of specific popular musical styles and scenes in Asia and Africa.
- Knowledge of trends in the music industry both in the UK and abroad
- The opportunity to develop performance skills in musical styles relating to Asia or Africa.
- Knowledge of the production and promotion of world music.
- Manipulation of audio, video and digital materials, and use of recording and camera equipment in the studio and in the field. Understanding of sound recording studios, radio presentation and script writing, and music journalism.

Transferable skills

Intellectual transferable skills:

- skills of research and exploration; gathering, synthesis and evaluation of evidence, including the ability to quote from and acknowledge written sources;

the ability to examine assumptions critically in the light of evidence; the ability to employ reasoning and logic in order to analyse data, and to formulate relevant arguments and hypotheses; and the ability to express, interpret and discuss such analyses, arguments and hypotheses;

2. Practical transferable skills:

- ability to synthesise inputs (materials, knowledge, instinct, tradition) in order to generate informed and personally owned outputs in written, aural or practical format;
- ability to work as an integrated member of a team, to respond to partnership and leadership, and to lead others in team-work (as in ensemble/choral performance, and leading such groups);
- skills in public presentation (as in musical performance and oral presentation);
- IT skills including word processing, use of online and CD-ROM/DVD-ROM information sources, and use of studio and field audio/video recording equipment;
- language skills, including as appropriate the study of one or more foreign languages;
- an appropriate outlook and experience for work in multi-cultural environments;
- awareness of issues within the arts world as they affect the promotion and performance of Asian and African music
- development of relevant skills including interviewing and presentations

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR GAINING 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/degreeteeregulations/file60378.pdf>

Year 1:

Students take the 6 compulsory 15 credit courses in the "Compulsory Courses" listing below, plus one unit of open option courses.

Year 2:

Students take the compulsory 15 credit course The Music Business. They must choose one of the 15 credit skills courses listed below; two of the popular music 15 credit courses listed below; other courses offered within the Music Department to the value of at least 30 credits (one unit). They may select up to one unit (30 credits) from an open option course.

Year 3:

Students take the compulsory 15 credit course Urban Soundscapes, and the compulsory 15 credit course Directed Study in Popular Music. They must choose one of the 15 credit skills courses listed below; one of the popular music 15 credit courses listed below; other courses offered within the Music Department to the value of at least 30 credits (one unit). They may select up to one unit (30 credits) from an open option course.

Programme structure diagram

Below is a structure diagram for this programme.

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
Compulsory courses						
4	1	NEW	Studying Popular	15	Compulsory	

			Music			
4	1	NEW	Global Pop	15	Compulsory	
4	1	155800071	Sounds and Cultures 1	15	Compulsory	
4	1	155800060	Music and Culture	15	Compulsory	
4	1	155800072	Sounds and Cultures 2	15	Compulsory	
4	1	155800062	Performance 1b	15	Compulsory	
5	2	155800053	The Music Business	15	Compulsory	
6	3	NEW	Directed Study in Popular Music	15	Compulsory	
6	3	155800083	Urban Soundscapes	15	Compulsory	
Optional courses						
	2/3	155800084	Global Hip-hop	15	Optional	
	2/3	155800081	Popular and fusion music in South East Asia	15	Optional	
	2/3	155800077	Pop and Politics in East Asia	15	Optional	
	2/3	155800074	Klezmer music: roots and revival	15	Optional	
	2/3	155800075	Popular music and politics in Israel	15	Optional	
	2/3	155800079	Atlantic Africa: (P)Layers of mediation in African popular music	30	Optional	
	2/3	155800058	The world of Cuban music	15	Optional	
	2/3	155800069	Introduction to Sound Recording 1	15	Optional	
6	3	NEW	Introduction to Sound Recording 2	15	Optional	
Area courses						
	2/3	155800080	Music and religion in South East Asia	15	Optional	
	2/3	155800078	Musical Traditions of East Asia	15	Optional	
	2/3	155800046	Indian Classical Music	30	Optional	
	2/3	155800036	Music in the Cultures of South Asia	30	Optional	
	2/3	155800059	Music of Central Asia	15	Optional	
	2/3	155800022	Music in Africa	30	Optional	
	2/3	155800056	Music in the Mande cultural world	30	Optional	
General courses						
4	1	155800061	Performance 1a	15	Optional	

	2/3	155800082	Composition	15	Optional	
	2/3	155800073	Gender and Music	15	Optional	
	2/3	155800054	Music in Religion	15	Optional	
	2/3	155800055	Music, Shamanism and Healing	15	Optional	
Project courses						
	2/3	155800066	Extended essay in Music 1	15	Optional	

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.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

What methods will be used to achieve the learning outcomes?

Knowledge and understanding are communicated, learned and assessed by a varied mix of methods:

- Lectures and seminars.
- Musical performance and composition.
- Student presentations.
- Virtual Learning Environment, on-line resources and CAL.
- Library work – reading and listening.
- Studio work – recording, editing.
- Fieldwork – recording, interviewing, participant observation.
- Work experience

Assessment:

- Unseen written examinations, including Listening examinations.
- Exercises (formative assessment) and course work (summative assessment).
- Independent study projects and extended essays.
- Performance examinations, including live musical performance and a viva voce element.
- Student presentations.

Intellectual skills are cultivated and assessed through all the methods listed above.

Practical and transferable skills are acquired through lectures, private study, CAL, on-line resources and library research, and such radio skills as presentation and script writing, and interviewing techniques; **assessed** by coursework (written and audio recordings) and where relevant listening examinations; group or private performance tuition; **assessed** by coursework, performance and viva voce examination. Studio and equipment training, **assessed** by coursework and independent study projects. Exercises, student presentations and coursework with written/oral feedback from tutors, and **assessed** through Independent Study Projects and other coursework.

Transferable skills are learned throughout the curriculum; in particular, through coursework, independent study projects and written examinations, and through practical training, performance examinations, student presentations, coursework, independent study projects, open option courses, studio and radio experience and written examinations.

REFERENCE POINTS

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

1. SOAS Vision and Strategy Statement, and SOAS Learning and Teaching Strategy.
2. Market interest, as understood from discussion with internal and external parties.
3. Observations of staff about the destinations of graduates in Music.
4. Staff research.
5. QAA framework for higher education qualifications.
6. Relevant subjects' benchmark.

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](#) and [Postgraduate](#) Handbooks;
- [Quality Assurance Handbook](#);
- [UCAS website](#);
- [QAA website](#);