

Programme Specification 2015/16

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 in History of Art & Archaeology and another subject
Final award	BA
Intermediate awards	None
Mode of attendance	Full-time
UCAS code	N/A
Professional body accreditation	N/A
Date specification created/updated	Oct 2015

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 History of Art degree provides students with a general grounding across the broad field of courses covering Africa, pre-Islamic and Islamic Near and Middle East, South Asia, South East Asia and North East Asia (China, Japan and Korea).
Who would it suit?	The course is a well-rounded humanities BA, but can lead specifically to museum or gallery work, the international art market, or positions in art administration
Programme structure	Lecture/seminar courses are taken. In the

	<p>first year, an introduction to the art history and (where relevant) archaeology of Asia and Africa is given, as well as a comprehensive introduction to the theories governing art-historical and archaeological study. Students can specialise by region or topic thereafter, if they choose.</p> <p>The structure of courses reflects the importance given to conceptual and methodological clarity, and to independent interests of students.</p> <p>Particular importance is given to the training of the student's visual memory through the study of slide images. Special emphasis is given to the exploration of arts and artefacts as evidence in historical, religious and cultural studies of societies and cultures.</p>
Assessment summary	<p>Courses are examined by essay(s) and examination. Generally two essay are required, worth a total of 30% of the marks, and one examination worth 70% Final-year students normally research and write at 10,000-word Independent Study Project</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/>

PROGRAMME AIMS

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

- To acquire a general knowledge of history of Asian and African art and/or archaeology, and detailed knowledge of selected parts.
- To develop critical thinking and further ability to express ideas in discussion, and in extended prose writing
- To hone skills of visual analysis and the ability to discuss material objects in the languages of art history and/or archaeology
- To think cross-regionally, and to consider the movement of material objects in and between cultures

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

What will the student learn?

Knowledge

- To acquire knowledge of those aspects of the history of art and/or archaeology that have been chosen for study

- To appraise Asian or African materials within the context of the discipline/s of art history and/or archaeology
- To set the art history and/or archaeology of the chosen region within the historical and social settings of the period
- To understand the capacity of materials to offer transregional insights

Intellectual (thinking) skills

- To analyse visual materials and make meaningful statements about them
- To consider the discipline/s of art history and/or archaeology and its/their role in understanding materials from Asia and/or Africa
- To think critically about the existing corpus of writing relating to relevant materials
- To conduct original research and to frame findings in a critical way
- To listen to oral argument, absorb it, and participate in constructive debate

Subject-based practical skills

- To analyse materials, and gain the ability to speak and write about visual data
- Cogent understanding of the discipline/s of art history and/or archaeology and its/their bearing on the material culture of Asia and/or Africa

Transferable skills

- Furthering critical analysis and the language to frame discussion, especially as relating to visual materials
- To use and so expand the visual memory.
- To further skills in reading and investigating, and expression of these in essay writing, including, where relevant, under pressure of time restraint

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE 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.

Level	Year	Course Code	Course Title	Credit	Status	Notes
First year						
BA	1	TBA	Theory in Art History and Archaeology	0.5	Core	New

BA	1	TBA	Great Works	0.5	Compulsory	New
BA	1		Perspectives & Themes - art and archaeology of Africa	0.5	Compulsory	PREVIOUS NAME--Intro. to the art and archaeology of Africa
BA	1		Perspectives & Themes -art and archaeology of the Near & Middle East	0.5	Compulsory	PREVIOUS NAME-Intro. to the art and archaeology of the Near & Middle East
BA	1		Perspectives & Themes -art and archaeology of South and South-East Asia	0.5	Compulsory	PREVIOUS NAME-Intro. to the art and archaeology of South and South-East Asia
BA	1		Perspectives & Themes -art and archaeology of East Asia	0.5	Compulsory	PREVIOUS NAME-Intro. to the art and archaeology of East Asia
BA	1		OPEN OPTION	1.0 equivalent		
Second year						
<p>Students can pursue courses of their interest, building towards a cumulative knowledge of their chosen subject/region. Two-subject degree students take 4 units in total, of which 2 must be from History of Art & Archaeology</p> <p>Up to date details of the courses on offer for the current academic year can be found at: http://www.soas.ac.uk/art/programmes/bahistart/</p>						
	2/3		African Art II: West Africa & the Atlantic World; History, Historiography and the Visual Arts.	45	Optional	

	2/3		Archaeology of Early Imperial China	15	Optional	
	2/3		Architecture of Tibet & the Himalayas	15	Optional	
	2/3		Art and Archaeology of Ancient China	15	Optional	
	2/3		Arts of Tibet	15	optional	
	2/3	154900 158	Buddhist Arts of Korea	15	Optional	
	2/3	154900 167	Chinese Arts and Modernity	15	Optional	
	2/3	154900 14	Contemporary Arts in Southeast Asia	15	Optional	
	2/3	154900 149	Contemporary Korean Arts in East Asia	15	Optional	
	2/3/4	154900 110	Japanese Art	45	Optional	
	2/3/4	154900 134	Mosaics, manuscripts and wall paintings in	45	Optional	
	2/3/4	151900 038	Selected sites	45	Optional	
	2/3	154900 108	Sources of Islamic Art and Architecture	45	Optional	
	2/3	154900 161	Traditional Art and Modern South Asia	0.5	Optional	

Third Year

The choice of courses is presumed to build upon those of the previous year. A variety of course combinations is possible: Two-subject degree students normally take 1 unit from the department's option courses, along with the Independent Study Project.

- 1 Art/Archaeology units
- Independent Study Project
- 2 units from other subject

Details of these courses may be found at:

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/art/programmes/bahistart/>

2/3	154900124	African Art II: West Africa & the Atlantic World; History, Historiography and the Visual Arts.	45	Optional/	
2/3	154900142	Archaeology of Early Imperial China	15	Optional	

2/3	154900165	Architecture of Tibet & the Himalayas	15	optional	
2/3	154900143	Art and Archaeology of Ancient China	15	optional	
2/3	154900164	Arts of Tibet	15	optional	
2/3	154900158	Buddhist Arts of Korea	15	Optional	
2/3	154900167	Chinese Arts and Modernity	15	Optional	
2/3	15490014	Contemporary Arts in Southeast Asia	15	Optional	
2/3	154900149	Contemporary Korean Arts in East Asia	15	Optional	
2/3/4	154900110	Japanese Art	45	Optional	
2/3/4	154900134	Mosaics, manuscripts and wall paintings in Islamic Art	45	Optional	
2/3/4	151900038	Selected sites	45	Optional	
2/3	154900108	Sources of Islamic Art and Architecture	45	Optional	
2/3	154900161	Traditional Art and Modern South Asia	15	Optional	
3	154900123	Independent Study Project	45	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

- Students are required to attend all classes, study extensively on their own and prepare non-assessed work, and sit examinations
- Tests of knowledge acquisition is via essay writing, and in-class tests based on visual materials
- All courses have dedicated BLE site for learning and revision of visual materials

Intellectual (thinking) skills

- Courses introduce information that will need to be assessed critically and will demonstrate how conflicting interpretations arise from the same information
- Weekly practice at presenting seminars, discussing each others' and the tutor's ideas
- Frequent discussion of visual materials in the language or the history of art and/or archaeology

Subject-based practical skills

- Listening to lectures
- Sitting examinations
- Engagement with prescribed readings and also further investigation of data through independent research
- Seminar discussions
- In-class tests, and writing of essays (with specified length and specified deadlines)

Transferable skills

- Through essay, seminar participation and investigation of materials in libraries, museums and other (e.g. virtual resources)
- Through discussions, tests, and writing

REFERENCE POINTS

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

1. School learning and teaching strategy
2. Staff research
3. QAA framework for higher education qualifications
4. Relevant subject 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

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