

## **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 baseline 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 &/or Archaeology
Final award	BA
Intermediate awards	None
Mode of attendance	Full-time/Part-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?	This is the only BA in the history of art offered anywhere in Europe that deals entirely with the art of Asia and Africa. It offers a unique opportunity to study art from a non-Eurocentric perspective. The programme also offers courses based on archaeological materials
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 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. Final-year students normally research and write a 10,000-word Independent Study Project
Assessment summary	Courses are examined by essay(s) and examination. Generally two essays are required, worth a total of 30% of the marks, and one examination worth 70%

## 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
<b>First year cores</b>						
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		
5	2		Options	120 (cumulative total)		
6	3		Options	90 (cumulative total)		
6	3	151900038	Selected Sites in Asia and Africa	30		
<b>OR</b>						
6	3 (or final)		Independent Study Project	30		

In the second and third years students are required to take four units, either three art and archaeology units together with a relevant unit in another department (e.g. anthropology, history, study of religions, language) or two art and archaeology units, a language unit and a relevant unit in one of the discipline departments. The latter option enables greater specialisation in a particular region. Certain units taught at the Institute of Archaeology, the History of Art department, and elsewhere within University College London, may also be available. The selection of units in the third year is normally intended to develop the chosen specialisations of the second year.

#### Undergraduate Option Course Units

- African Art II: West Africa & the Atlantic World; History, Historiography and the

#### Visual Arts.

- Archaeology of Early Imperial China
- Architecture of Tibet & the Himalayas
- Art & Archaeology Essay On An Approved Topic
- Art and Archaeology of Ancient China
- Arts of Tibet
- Buddhist Arts of Korea
- Contemporary Arts in Southeast Asia
- Contemporary Korean Arts in East Asia
- Independent Study Project in History of Art/Archaeology
- Introduction to the Art and Archaeology of Africa
- Introduction to the Art and Archaeology of East Asia
- Introduction to the Art and Archaeology of South and Southeast Asia
- Introduction to the Art and Archaeology of the Near and Middle East
- Japanese Art
- Mosaics, Manuscripts, and Wall Painting in Islamic Art
- Selected Sites in Asian and African Art and Archaeology
- Temple, City and Empire in South India 1300-1800
- The Sources of Islamic Art and Architecture
- Theory and Method in the Study of Asian and African Art
- Traditional Art and Modern South Asia
- African Art I: Context and Representation
- African Art III: the Art and Architecture of North Eastern Africa
- Africans in the Americas: Identities and Representation
- Angkor and Khmer Art in Southeast Asia
- Art and Culture in Imperial China
- Art and Culture in Modern China
- Art and Material Culture of the Islamic World: 7th to 14th Centuries
- Art and Ritual in Buddhist South Asia
- Arts of the Buddha in Southeast Asia
- Hindu Art in Medieval India
- Islamic Architecture
- Islamic Painting
- Island Arts of South East Asia
- Paintings of Korea
- Persian Painting From the 13th-19th Century
- Royal Arts of Korea
- The Archaeology of East, South and Southeast Asia
- The Decorative Arts of Islam

#### The Visual Culture of Eighteenth-Century Japan

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

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## **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?

## **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](#);