

Programme specification

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 International Relations and ...
Final award	BA Honours
Intermediate awards	N/A
Mode of attendance	Full time
UCAS code	
Professional body accreditation	N/A
Date specification created/updated	April 2013

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 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 International Relations Joint Honours degree at SOAS is unique in several respects. First, it combines a broad-based training in the discipline of international relations with a strong grounding in the politics of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Second, it provides a perspective on global politics that does not take the European or North American experience as its primary reference point and thus is appropriate for understanding and engaging with the range of interests and perspectives that define

	<p>contemporary world politics. Third, the Joint degree allows students an unrivalled range of options to choose from for their second subject. The study of International Relations can be combined with a wide range of social science and humanities subjects, or with the study of languages and regions of Asia, Africa and the Middle East only available at SOAS.</p> <p>The BA International Relations Joint Honours degree offers courses at multiple levels in all the major sub-disciplines in International Relations: International Relations Theory; International Security; International Political Economy; International Organisation; Global Governance; Regionalism; Human Rights; and Foreign Policy.</p> <p>The BA International Relations Joint Honours degree is taught by an international group of scholars who are highly regarded experts in their fields. Many academic staff have long-standing and direct involvement with countries in Asia, Africa or the Middle East and knowledge of one or more of the languages of their regions of interest. The unrivalled diversity of our staff and students makes for an exciting and unique learning experience.</p>
Who would it suit?	<p>The BA International Relations Joint Honours degree programme at SOAS is suited to those with a keen intellectual interest in the study of world politics and international relations. It trains students to come to grips with global political issues such as imperialism, multiculturalism, poverty, development, international organizations, conflict, revolution, security, and migration.</p> <p>Our BA International Relations Joint Honours degree also prepares you for an international career in government, business or international organisations, especially in areas related to Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Our graduates have</p>

	<p>pursued a wide range of careers. These include diplomatic services and civil services in several countries, international development and aid agencies, NGOs and charities, print and broadcasting journalism, teaching, think-tanks and risk assessment consultancies.</p> <p>A substantial number of our students go on to do postgraduate work in politics and international relations. Our International Relations degree opens up many exciting career paths and offers strong career prospects.</p>
<p>Programme structure</p>	<p>The degree programme consists of four units each year. Students have the opportunity to choose from a wide range of disciplinary and regional units.</p> <p>A minimum of FIVE course units in Politics are required to qualify for a joint degree.</p> <p>Our units or courses assume no previous disciplinary or regional knowledge. These are taught through lectures and tutorial seminars. Each course typically involves weekly lectures of 1 hour each and weekly tutorials of 1 hour each.</p> <p>Students taking BA International Relations with another subject must satisfy the requirements of both Departments.</p>
<p>Assessment summary</p>	<p>The BA International Relations Joint Honours degree is assessed over three years through a combination of short essays, examinations, extended essays and dissertations (Independent Study Projects or ISPs).</p> <p>Assessment for politics courses varies from a 20/80 balance between coursework essays and final written exam, and 100% coursework essays.</p> <p>The option of a final year independent study project (10,000 words) allows</p>

	students to focus in depth on issues of particular interest to them.
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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:** AAA
- **IB:** 38 (7/6/6)
- **BTEC:** DDD
- **Scottish Highers:** AAAAA
- **Scottish Advanced Highers:** AAA
- **Irish LC:** 360 points from 5 Higher level subjects at grade C1 or above
- **Advanced Placement:** 4 5 5 (Two semesters - UCAS Group A) plus US HSGD with GPA 3.0
- **Euro Bacc:** 85%
- **French Bacc:** 15/20
- **German Abitur:** 1.5
- **Italy DES:** 85/100
- **Austria Mat:** 1.5
- **Polish Mat:** 80%

PROGRAMME AIMS

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a strong background in the concepts, theories and methods in the study of international relations. • To develop excellent knowledge of the international politics of Asia, Africa and/or the Middle East • To use empirical evidence from around the world, with a particular emphasis on Asia, Africa and the Middle East, to assess the applicability and limitations of disciplinary concepts, theories and methods. • The ability to think critically, write persuasively and to analyse international politics from a variety of scholarly perspectives • To prepare students for entry to postgraduate study and professional employment. |
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PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

What will the student learn?

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| <p>Upon completion of this programme, the student should be able to:</p> <p>Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate basic knowledge of a wide range of concepts, theories, and methods in the discipline of international relations. • Demonstrate advanced knowledge of a variety of contemporary debates in international relations. • Develop detailed knowledge of regional politics and foreign relations in one or more regions in Asia, Africa, or the Middle East. |
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- Assess the relevance of mainstream approaches in International Relations for the analysis of the international politics of Asia, Africa, or the Middle East.
- Challenge commonly held views about major political issues related to Asia, Africa and/or the Middle East, including the student's own previous assumptions.

Intellectual (thinking) skills

- Analyse academic materials to identify their key arguments and underlying assumptions.
- Evaluate arguments and empirical evidence from a variety of intellectual perspectives in a critical and balanced manner, with due regard to their strengths and limitations.
- Construct arguments drawing upon leading theories, concepts and debates relating to Asia, Africa and/or the Middle East.
- Exercise independence of thought, including a willingness to challenge own previous assumptions about various issues.
- Engage in debates about current political controversies.

Subject-based practical skills

- Collect and synthesise information from a range of library and internet sources
- Structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing
- Assess the validity of different approaches to a topic
- Make judgments in contexts of conflicting evidence

Transferable skills

- Work independently and manage schedules
- Explain and evaluate complex ideas and situations
- Work effectively under time constraints
- Work productively in and contribute to 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/degreeregulations/file60378.pdf>

Programme structure diagram

Below is a structure diagram for this programme.

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
4	1	New Course	Introduction to Political Analysis	30	Core	Proposal Attached
AND						
4	1	New Course	Introduction to	30	Core	Proposal

			International Relations			Attached
OR						
4	1	New Course	Introduction to Global History	30	Core	Proposal Attached
Remaining courses to be taken from second subject area						
ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINARY UNITS						
5/6	2	153400077	War, Society and World Politics	30		
5/6	2	New course	Politics of the World Economy	30		Proposal Attached
ONE OF THE FOLLOWING REGIONAL UNITS						
5/6	2	153400078	International Relations of East Asia	30		
5/6	2	New Course	International Relations of Africa	30		Proposal Attached
5/6	2	New Course	International Relations of the Middle East	30		Proposal Attached
5/6	2	New Course	International Relations of South Asia	30		Proposal Attached
COURSES TO THE VALUE OF AT LEAST ONE UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING						
6	3	153400070	Globalisation and Global Governance	15		
6	3	153400073	Identity in International Relations	15		
6	3	153400068	International Organisation of World Politics	15		
6	3	New Course	Political Economy of the International Investment Regime	15		Proposal Attached
ADDITIONAL UNITS FROM THE FOLLOWING						
6	3	New Course	Independent Study Project	30		Prerequisite: Introduction to Political Analysis
5/6	3	153400077	War, Society and World Politics	30		As Above
5/6	3	New course	Politics of the World Economy	30		As Above
5/6	3	153400078	International Relations of East Asia	30		
5/6	3	New Course	International Relations of Africa	30		As Above
5/6	3	New Course	International Relations of the Middle East	30		As Above
5/6	3	New Course	International	30		As Above

			Relations of South Asia			
PLEASE NOTE: Students taking BA International Relations with another subject must satisfy the requirements of both Departments.						

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

- Basic knowledge of concepts, theories and methods in international relations is to be achieved through Year 1 course lectures and tutorial presentations and discussions. It is assessed through coursework essays and unseen examinations.
- Advanced knowledge of contemporary debates in politics and/or international relations is to be achieved through lectures, tutorial discussions and oral presentations in Year 2 - 3 DISCIPLINARY courses. It is assessed through coursework essays, unseen examinations, extended essays and ISPs.
- Detailed knowledge of political processes in one or more regions among Asia, Africa, or the Middle East is to be developed through lectures, tutorial discussions, oral presentations in Year 2-3 REGIONAL courses. It is assessed through coursework essays, unseen examinations, extended essays and ISPs.
- Evaluation of the relevance of mainstream approaches for the analysis of politics of Asia, Africa, or the Middle East is to be taught through lectures, tutorial discussions, and questions set for presentations, essays, and exams in Year 1-3 courses. It is assessed through coursework essays, unseen examinations and ISPs.

Intellectual (thinking) skills

- Teaching: Learning outcomes will be achieved through attendance of lectures, independent reading of required literature, analysis and synthesis of materials in tutorial presentations, discussions, and assessed work.
- Assessment: Through unseen examinations, essay assignments, extended essays, and ISPs.

Subject-based practical skills

- Teaching: Learning outcomes will be achieved through course readings; lectures and post-lecture questions; oral presentations and classroom discussions; essays and ISPs; questions set for presentations and essays, in the expectation that students will fulfil the requirements for reading and writing for their courses.
- Assessment: Through essay assignments, extended essays, unseen examinations, and ISPs.

Transferable skills

- Teaching: Learning outcomes will be achieved through independent reading and writing for coursework; contributions to tutorial presentations and regular classroom discussions; and through the opportunity to choose of topics and frame questions for ISPs.
- Assessment: Through essay assignments, oral presentations, unseen examinations, ISPs and contribution to classroom discussions.

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. Student feedback

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;
- student representation at departmental meetings

FURTHER INFORMATION

Add in links to other relevant information, both internal and external, including:

- [SOAS Vision and Strategy Statement](#);
- [Undergraduate Handbook](#);
- [Departmental handbook](#)
- [Quality Assurance Handbook](#);
- [UCAS website](#);
- [QAA website](#);
- [Programme Webpage](#)