



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	BA Korean Studies 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 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 programme is currently the only three-year degree of its kind in the UK, where students have the option of studying Korean without a year abroad – it aims to provide an appropriate level of training in Korean language, culture and history, and in another subject. In addition to courses taught within the department (language, linguistics, history, literature and film), students also have access to other Korea-related courses offered in other departments,. Course options range from historical traditions to contemporary culture and society of Korea.
Who would it suit?	This programme is designed for students who wish to combine the study of Korean culture and language at a suitable level with another subject, and require a shorter period of study without a year abroad in

	<p>Korea.</p> <p>It is also suitable for students wishing to combine Korean studies with another East Asian language (Chinese or Japanese), with or without a year abroad in China or Japan (depending on their choice of Chinese or Japanese degree).</p> <p>It would suit students with no prior knowledge of Korean as well as those with intermediate to advanced language skills. Our students have followed a wide variety of career paths, and many spend time after graduation in Korea and/or working in areas related to Korea. Examples include government agencies, NGOs, journalism and media industry, business and management, public relations, teaching and research, including further study at postgraduate level.</p>
Programme structure	<p>Korean Course options are divided under three lists:</p> <p>List A: Language Options; List B: Non-Language Based Options (Japan & Korea Department) List C: Non-Language Based Options (Other Departments)</p> <p>In year 1, a student takes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One unit from List A (Core) • Culture & Society in 20th C Korea (Compulsory) • Two units in the other subject <p>In year 2, a student takes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One unit from List A (Core) • One unit from List A or B • Two units in the other subject <p>In year 3, a student takes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One unit from List A or B • One unit from List A, B, C • Two units in the other subject
Assessment summary	<p>Courses will be assessed in a variety of ways. Some are assessed by essay or coursework only; others will have a mixture of coursework and final exam assessment.</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/>)

- **A Levels:** AAB
- A Level language preferred
- **IB:** 35 (6/6/5)
- **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%

Minimum Entry Requirements: No prior knowledge of the language or the region is required.

Subjects Preferred: A foreign language at GCSE, A level, or equivalent, is desirable but not essential.

Interview Policy: In principle all mature students, candidates with 'non-standard' qualifications, Korean nationals, and heritage speakers (second generation Koreans abroad) are invited for interview.

PROGRAMME AIMS

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

- To receive an appropriate level of training in Korean language.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of Korea, its history and culture.
- To gain in-depth knowledge of a particular discipline, its methodologies and the subject matter, or combine the study of another East Asian language with Korean.
- To develop transferable skills in analysis and critical method in the study of Korean language and culture, with consideration to socio-historical context.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

What will the student learn?

Knowledge

- 1) Active and passive competence in modern Korean at an appropriate level, depending on entry level
- 2) Good general knowledge of Korean history, society and culture
- 3) Competence in approaching Korea-related issues critically and methodically in the context of various disciplines

Intellectual (thinking) skills

Having successfully completed the Programme, students should be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate oral and written application of linguistic, literary and philosophical concepts, as well as concepts central to the disciplines studied
- 2) Use and critically interrogate a range of primary and secondary sources (written,

- oral and/or visual)
- 3) Exercise critical reasoning, from a non-Eurocentric perspective
- 4) Master the written formulation of problems, hypotheses, methods of inquiry and conclusions
- 5) Demonstrate and exercise independence of mind and thought

Subject-based practical skills

Having successfully completed the Programme, students should be able to:

- 1) Understand, speak, read and write modern Korean at an appropriate level of proficiency (depending on entry level)
- 2) Make use of the methodologies of the disciplines studied
- 3) Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources
- 4) Plan, undertake and report bibliographically-based research

Transferable skills

Having successfully completed the Programme, students should be able to:

- 1) Adopt a non-Eurocentric perspective and foster intercultural awareness and understanding
- 2) Structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing
- 3) Participate constructively in groups
- 4) Work independently
- 5) Find information and use information technology
- 6) Be self-reliant
- 7) Assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others

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/>

Programme structure diagram

Below is a structure diagram for this programme.

Please refer to Lists A, B, C after the diagram.

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
4-6	1	One unit from List A	See List A	30	Core	
4	1	155900809	Culture & Society in 20th C. Korea	30	Compulsory	
Usually 4	1	Two units in other subject		60		Depends on requirements of second subject
5-6	2	One unit from List A	See List A	30	Core	
5-6	2	One unit from List A or B	See List A and B	30	Option	
Usually 5	2	Two units		60	Option	Depends on

		in other subject				requirements of second subject
5-6	3	One unit from List A or B	See List A and B	30	Option	
Usually 6	3	One unit from List A, B, or C	See List A, B and C	30	Option	
Usually 6	3	Two units in other subject		60	Option	Depends on requirements of second subject

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 – Language Options

Available to students depending on their language ability and subject to prerequisites (if any)

Elementary Level

Only one of these units can be studied a year.

- Basic Korean 1 – 155901399 (1 Unit)
- [Elementary Korean](#) – 155900842 (1 Unit)

Lower Intermediate Level

Only one of these units can be studied a year, subject to prerequisites.

- Basic Korean 2 – 155901404 (1 Unit)
- Intermediate Korean – 155900843 (1 Unit)

Higher Intermediate Level

Some of these courses can be studied in the same year, subject to prerequisites and convenor's approval.

- [Higher Intermediate Readings in Korean](#) – 155901392 (1 Unit)
- [Introduction to Mixed Script Korean](#) – 155900844 (1 Unit)
- [Korean Conversation](#) – 155900915 (0.5 Unit)
- [Composition in Korean](#) – 155900722 (0.5 Unit)

Advanced Level

Some of these courses can be studied in the same year, subject to prerequisites and convenor's approval.

- [Advanced Readings in Modern Korean](#) – 155900968 (1 Unit)
- [Readings in Korean Literature](#) – 155901385 (1 Unit)
- [History and Structure of the Korean Language](#) – 155901272 (1 Unit)
- [Korean-English-Korean Translation](#) – 155901276 (1 Unit)

List B – Non-Language Based Options (Japan and Korea Department)

Before selecting a course, students must first check that the course is at the correct level. They must also ensure that they meet any prerequisites.

Available to year 2 and 3 students

- [History and Culture of Korea to the late 19th Century](#) – 155901263 (1 Unit)
- [Literary Traditions and Culture of Korea](#) – 155901389 (0.5 Unit)
- [Trajectories of Modernity in 20th Century Korean Literature](#) – 155901390 (0.5 Unit)
- [The Other Korea: North Korea since 1945](#) – 155901356 (0.5 Unit)
- [1990's South Korean cinema: A critical Survey](#) – 155901401 (0.5 Unit)

List C – Non-Language Based Options (Other Departments)

Before selecting a course, students must first check that the course is at the correct level. They must also ensure that they meet any prerequisites or receive the course convenor's approval where required..

Available to year 2 and 3 students

- [Royal Arts of Korea](#) – 154900152 (0.5 Unit)
- [Buddhist Arts of Korea](#) – 154900158 (0.5 Unit)
- [Contemporary Korean Arts in East Asia](#) – 154900150 (0.5 Unit)
- [Paintings of Korea](#) – 154900157 (0.5 Unit)
- [Musical Traditions of East Asia](#) – 155800078 (0.5 Unit)
- [Pop and Politics in East Asia](#) – 155800077 (0.5 Unit)
- [Queer Cinema in Asia](#) – 155907000 (0.5 Unit)
- [International Relations of East Asia](#) – 153400078 (1 Unit)

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

What methods will be used to achieve the learning outcomes?

Knowledge

- Acquisition of 1 is through the language option courses (List A), which tend to be small-group classes with tutorials, regular assessed and non-assessed coursework.
- Acquisition of 2 is through the compulsory Culture and Society course in Year 1 and other optional courses taught within the department (List B). These can be large lecture courses or small-group classes.
- Acquisition of 3 is through courses taught in other departments (List C). These can be large lecture courses or small-group classes.

Assessment:

Testing of the knowledge base is through:

- a) written examinations, typically containing both seen and unseen elements;
- b) oral examinations
- c) assessed coursework;
- d) assessed library assignments;
- e) essays

Intellectual (thinking) skills

- Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme

outlined above. Each course involves discussion of key issues, practice in applying concepts both orally and in writing, analysis and interpretation of materials, and individual feedback sessions for learners on work produced.

Assessment:

Assessment of intellectual skills (oral presentation, participation in classroom discussion, essay writing) is typically reflected in coursework marks for the compulsory course in Year 1 and for optional courses in later years, including those in disciplines taught outside the department.

Subject-based practical skills

- Instruction in language skills is through small-group teaching.
- Guidance on how to identify, locate and use material in the library and elsewhere is provided in the context of all non-language based courses.

Assessment:

Skill 1 is primarily assessed through written and oral examinations and coursework.

Skills 2, 3 and 4 are primarily assessed through coursework and essays.

Transferable skills

- The uniquely multicultural constitution of the teaching staff is a key element in providing students with a learning experience that actively fosters intercultural awareness and a non-Eurocentric perspective (Skill 1).
- Skills 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are typically learned in the process of carrying out research assignments (coursework, essays) as well as during classroom discussions and presentations.
- Skills 3 and 6 are important elements of the entire learning experience.
- In some courses, skills 3 and 7 are further encouraged and practised through collaborative projects or group presentations.

Assessment:

Assessment of 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 is through various types of coursework and research assignments described above. Encouragement of 1, 3, 6 and 7 is also a key element of the classroom experience, as well as of personal feedback from and contact with tutors. In some courses, group presentations or collaborative projects further assess or demonstrate 3 and 7.

REFERENCE POINTS

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

- School Learning and Teaching Strategy
- Staff research
- QAA framework for higher education qualifications
- 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

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

- [SOAS Vision and Strategy Statement](#);
- [Undergraduate](#) and [Postgraduate](#) Handbooks;
- *Departmental handbooks*;
- [Quality Assurance Handbook](#);
- *Separate regs link*;
- [UCAS website](#);
- [QAA website](#);