

Programme specification 2012/2013

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 Korean
Final award	BA Honours
Intermediate awards	n/a
Mode of attendance	Full-time
UCAS code	UGEF0016
Professional body accreditation	n/a
Date specification created/updated	April 2011

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?	In recent years Korean studies has developed into a viable and multi-faceted scholarly discipline. SOAS is currently one of two universities in the UK to offer a BA degree in Korean (single-subject and two-subject degree). As a major centre for Asian studies in the UK, SOAS is committed to ensuring that it provides an environment in which the full range of Korean studies can be consolidated and encouraged to expand further. The single-subject Korean degree combines study of the written and spoken

	<p>language along with lecture courses that focus on Korean culture, society, literature, and history. Students also have access to other Korea-related courses offered in other departments including art history and music, as well as seminars and events hosted by the Centre of Korean Studies. It provides intensive training in the language and aims to impart to its students an understanding of pre-modern Korean tradition, sensitivity to Korea's experiences under Japanese colonial rule (1910-1945) and during the Korean War, and the tools with which to interpret modern Korean culture and society to the West.</p>
Who would it suit?	<p>The programme suits anyone interested in studying the language, culture, history, and literature of Korea in an academic context.</p> <p>The career paths of our graduates include business and management, government agencies, NGOs, university administration, teaching and research (including further study at the postgraduate level).</p>
Programme structure	<p>In the first year, students concentrate on language study complemented by introductory courses on Korean history and culture. They are required to spend their second year at Korea University in Seoul, where they focus on intensive language training which is essential to any further study of the subject. The third and fourth years are devoted to applying and furthering their language skills through courses that involve reading and analysing advanced texts and literary works, and enhancing their critical skills and knowledge of Korea through courses on Korean literary traditions and socio-cultural developments.</p> <p>In Year 1, students take 3 or 4 units of Korean courses (2 language units, 1 unit in modern culture and society, and possibly 1 additional unit in pre-modern history), and/or 1 open option unit (i.e. course in a subject or language other than those named in the student's chosen</p>

	<p>degree title).</p> <p>Year 2 is a compulsory language year abroad at Korea University in Seoul. Students enrol in the Korean Regular Course each term for three terms (Fall, Winter, and Spring quarter sessions), fulfil coursework requirements and sit the local examinations at Korea University. Students are also required to write and submit a Year Abroad Project (an essay of approximately 5,000~10,000 words).</p> <p>In Year 3, single-subject students choose at least 2 units of Korean language courses from the approved list. The remaining unit(s) are made up from other courses available on the BA Korean syllabus and/or 1 open option unit.</p> <p>In Year 4, single-subject students take the Independent Study Project in Korean Language and Culture (1 unit), and choose at least 1 unit of Korean language-use course from the approved list. The remaining unit(s) are made up from other courses available on the BA Korean syllabus and/or 1 open option unit.</p>
Assessment summary	<p>Assessment for language courses typically combines classroom tests and/or written coursework, oral exam, and written exam.</p> <p>Assessment for non-language courses typically varies between a 20/80 balance between coursework essays and final written exam, and 100% coursework essays.</p> <p>The balance between coursework assessment and examinations varies from course to course and details can be found on the course description pages published on the SOAS website.</p>

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

SOAS has general minimum entrance requirements for registration for an undergraduate degree and these can be viewed at [\(http://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/entryreq/\)](http://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/entryreq/)

- **A Levels:** AAB
- A Level language preferred
- **IB:** 36 (6/6/6)
- **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%

While no prior knowledge of the language or the region is required, a foreign language at A level, or equivalent, is preferred

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

PROGRAMME AIMS

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

- To acquire a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of Korea and Korean culture;
- To acquire a strong command of both spoken and written forms of Korean;
- To develop critical knowledge of Korean traditions, culture and society, and the tools with which to interpret them in an academic context;
- To provide a structured experience of living and studying in Korea during the Year Abroad.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

What will the student learn?

Knowledge

1. Advanced active and passive competence in modern Korean
2. Intermediate passive competence in pre-modern and mixed script Korean, including knowledge of the standard dictionaries and reference works essential to maintaining and furthering such competence
3. Understanding of the linguistic structures of modern Korean
4. Thorough ability in reading and translating modern Korean texts in different styles and genres
5. Detailed knowledge of the history, development and current state of Korean

culture, especially literature.

6. Key methods and concepts of literary, historical and linguistic analysis
7. Good general knowledge of Korean history, culture and society

Intellectual (thinking) skills

1. Critical reasoning, from a non-Eurocentric perspective
2. Oral and written application of linguistic, literary and philosophical concepts
3. Written formulation of problems, hypotheses, methods of inquiry and conclusions
4. Demonstrate and exercise independence of mind and thought

Subject-based practical skills

The programme aims to teach students the following:

1. Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources
2. Plan, undertake and report both bibliographically-based and fieldwork-based research
3. Understand, speak, read and write modern Korean at a high level of proficiency
4. Read pre-modern and mixed script Korean texts at an intermediate level of proficiency
5. Apply key methods and concepts of literary, historical and linguistic analysis
6. Experience of living and studying in Korea

Transferable skills

The programme will encourage students 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/file60378.pdf>

Students must take **a total of four units each year**, and a **minimum of 12 units in Korean** over the course of the degree.

Programme structure diagram

Below is a structure diagram for this programme.

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
4	1	155900842	Elementary Korean	30	Core	
4	1	155901256	Elementary Korean II	30	Compulsory	
4	1	155900809	Culture and Society in 20th Century Korea	30	Core	
4	1 or 3	155901263	History and Culture of Korea to the Late 19th Century	30	Option 1	This course may also be taken in Year 3, if not taken in Year 1.
4	1		Open option unit	30	Option 2 (open option)	
5	2	Language Year Abroad (compulsory) Students spend their Year Abroad at Korea University in Seoul. Students are required to enrol in the Korean Regular Course each term for three terms (Fall, Winter, and Spring quarter sessions), fulfil coursework requirements and sit the local examinations at Korea University. Students are also required to write and submit a Year Abroad Project (an essay of approximately 5,000~10,000 words) upon their return, but no later than 1 September. The project can be on any topic related to Korea, and students can consult different subject tutors for reading suggestions and advice if so required.				
5	3		2 units of language courses to select from List A below (Year 3 Korean Language Course Options)	60	Compulsory	Single-subject students are normally advised to take Introduction to Mixed Script, Composition in Korean (0.5 unit) and Korean Conversation (0.5 unit)
5	3		Remaining 2 units from List C below	60		Most of the courses can be taken in either Year 3 or 4, with a few exceptions. These are indicated in the list.
6	4	155900795	Independent Study Project in Korean Language and Culture	30	Compulsory	
6	4		At least 1 unit of an advanced	30	Compulsory	Some of the courses require the

			language course to select from List B below			course convenor's approval, which are indicated in the list.
6	4		Remaining 2 units from List B and/or C below	Total of 60		Most of the courses can be taken in either Year 3 or 4, with a few exceptions. These are indicated in the list.

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 (Year 3 Korean Language Course Options)

- [Introduction to Mixed Script Korean](#) 155900844
- [Composition in Korean](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155900722
- [Korean Conversation](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155900915
- High Intermediate Readings in Korean (code tbc)

List B (Year 4 Korean Language Course Options)

- [Readings in Korean Literature](#) 155901385
- [Advanced Readings in Modern Korean](#) 155900968
- [Korean-English-Korean Translation](#) 155901276
- [Advanced Composition in Korean](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 2 – *subject to course convenor's approval*
- [Composition in Korean](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155900722
- [Korean Conversation](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155900915

List C (Years 3 and 4 Course Options)

- [Trajectories of Modernity in 20th Century Korean Literature](#) (0.5 Unit) 61631
- [Literary Traditions and Culture of Korea](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 61639
- [Korean Conversation](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155900915
- [The Other Korea: North Korea Since 1945](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 2 155901356
- [Extended Essay in Korean Language and Culture](#) (0.5 Unit) Term 1 155900676
- [History and Culture of Korea to the late 19th Century](#) 155901263 – *Year 3, if not taken in Year 1*
- [History and Structure of the Korean Language](#) 155901272 – *Year 4*

Courses taught in other Departments, which count as Korean units

- [Royal Arts of Korea](#) (0.5 Unit) – *Art & Archaeology Department*
- [Buddhist Arts of Korea](#) (0.5 Unit) – *Art & Archaeology Department*

- [Contemporary Korean Arts in East Asia](#) (0.5 Unit) – *Art & Archaeology Department*
- Up to 1 open option unit from another department in any year of study

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

What methods will be used to achieve the learning outcomes?

Knowledge

- Acquisition of 1, 2 and 4 is through language acquisition and language use courses, tutorials, regular assessed and non-assessed coursework throughout the degree.
- Acquisition of 3 is through lectures and practical exercises in language acquisition courses.
- Acquisition of 4 and 5 is through the reading, translation, analysis and interpretation of different genres of texts in upper level courses (Years 3 and 4).
- Acquisition of 5 and 6 is addressed specifically through lectures, seminars, and coursework in the relevant modules throughout the degree.
- Acquisition of 7 is through coursework and the BA dissertation (ISP) in Years 3 and 4.
- Acquisition of all elements is furthered by the compulsory inclusion of a year abroad (Year Two), spent in Korea, providing total immersion in the modern language and culture.

Assessment: Testing of the knowledge base is through

- a) written examinations, typically containing both seen and unseen elements;
- b) oral examinations / presentations
- 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 of intellectual skills (oral presentation, participation in classroom discussion, essay writing) is typically reflected in the “coursework mark” for upper level courses in literature, linguistics and history.

Subject-based practical skills

- Guidance on how to identify, locate and use material in the library and elsewhere is provided in the context of all non-language acquisition courses.
- Throughout the four years, all students take classes that involve the use of modern Korean.
- Key methods and concepts of literary, historical and linguistic analysis are taught in dedicated units at various levels.
- The compulsory year in Korea provides students with an invaluable experience that greatly enhances, in practical terms, their position on the job

market after graduation.

Assessment:

Skills 1, 2 and 5 are primarily assessed through coursework, essays, the language year abroad project and the BA dissertation (ISP).

Skills 3 and 4 are assessed through written and oral examinations and coursework.

Transferable skills

- Skill 1: The year abroad, and the uniquely multicultural constitution of the teaching staff, are key elements in providing students with a learning experience that actively fosters intercultural awareness and a non-Eurocentric perspective.
- Skills 2, 4, 5 and 7 are typically learned in the process of carrying out research assignments (coursework, essays, etc.) as well as during classroom discussions.
- Skills 3 and 6 are important elements of the entire learning experience, but specifically of the year abroad.

Assessment of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 is through various types of coursework and research assignments already 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.

REFERENCE POINTS

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

1. School learning and teaching strategy
2. QAA framework for higher education qualifications
3. 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

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