Revised undergraduate programme specification 2016/2017

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 Middle Eastern Studies
Final award	BA Honours
Intermediate awards	n/a
Mode of attendance	Full-time
UCAS code	T600 BA/MES
Professional body accreditation	n/a
Date specification updated	January 2014

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAMME?
(This information will be used for marketing purposes as summary information about the programme for prospective students. It should be written accordingly, using brief, headline statements and bullet points. The first section is standard text for all programme specifications and should therefore not be amended: subsequent sections should be completed by individual authors.)

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. **Click here for more information.**
What is special about this programme?	The BA Middle Eastern Studies is a three-year programme that offers students the opportunity to study the history and culture of the Middle East alongside with acquiring competence in one or more Middle Eastern languages.
Who would it suit?	

	The BA Middle Eastern Studies is a three-year programme that prepares you for a career working in, or in connection with, the Middle East. The degree is ideal for students who do not seek the intensive engagement with language demanded by the four- or three-year language degrees (BA Arabic, BA Turkish, BA Persian, BA Hebrew and Israeli Studies), or who, for whatever reason, are unable to leave the UK to study abroad for a year, but who desire a working knowledge of a Middle Eastern language to enhance their engagement with the diversity of Middle Eastern culture. Students graduating with this degree have opportunities to work in education, the Middle Eastern media, the BBC, in the press, the Civil Service and non-governmental organisations, and wherever a knowledge of the Middle East is a key skill.
Programme structure	The BA Middle Eastern Studies three-year degree allows for the study of the Middle East in a broad context, with the possibility of focusing on culture, history, literature and politics. compulsory language course in their first year of their studies. In the second and third years they may continue with the same language, choose another language, or take a non-language course as an open option. In year 1 students also take an overview course on pre-modern Middle Eastern literature; this is complemented by an introductory course on Arabic or Israeli culture. They may also take an option from a list of courses dealing with Middle Eastern history and culture.

	In year 2 students take a course on the modern literatures of the Middle East and a course on the history of the Muslim world; students may continue the language they started in year 1, may take another language at beginner's level, or in exceptional cases where taking language courses may hinder graduation, they may take a course from the list of optional courses; in addition, students take an optional course from a list of Middle East-related courses or take an approved course that is outside the prescribed syllabus of the programme (open option). In year 3 students take a course on the cinema culture of the Middle East; students may continue the language they started in year 1, may take another language at beginner's level, or in exceptional cases where taking language courses may hinder graduation, they may take an open option; In addition, students take one optional course from a list of Middle East-related courses and take an approved course that is outside the prescribed syllabus of the programme (open option).
Assessment summary	Assessment for language courses typically involves a balance between classroom tests and/or written coursework during the year, oral exam, and written exam. Assessment for culture courses typically varies between a 20/80 balance between coursework essays and final written exam, and 100% coursework essays. Consult the course convenor or the SOAS website for details of the assessment arrangement for each course.

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**: 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%

PROGRAMME AIMS

- broad knowledge of the Middle East and the region's diversity
- a basic grounding in one or more of its main languages that gives a firm foundation for further language study
- familiarity with the cultures of the region through the study of language, literature, history, cinema, art, music, politics and economics

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge
- Appreciation of a range of cultural aspects of the region (to include literature, history and Islam) and at least one of its languages.
- Knowledge of the basic categories relating to learning one Middle Eastern Language

Intellectual (thinking) skills
- Ability to understand and manipulate ideas relating to the non-language courses taken.
- Ability to conduct research on a chosen theme.
- Ability to think critically

Subject-based practical skills
The programme aims to help students with the following practical skills:
Improvement on writing-skills and the ability to express ideas in well- constructed prose. Ability to construct and comprehend arguments.
Ability to understand a Middle Eastern language.

Transferable skills
- The programme will encourage students to:

  o Think critically.

  o Absorb and synthesize material written from a variety of standpoints.

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<table>
<tr><td>o</td><td>Evaluate arguments.</td></tr>
<tr><td>o</td><td>Conduct some research and present their findings/arguments in (sustained) (written format.</td></tr>
</table>

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR GAINING AN AWARD

How will the student's study be structured? How will they achieve an award?
(*The initial statement below is standard text regarding SOAS requirements relating to the structure and duration of programmes and requirements for gaining an award and should not be amended. Individual authors should then complete the programme structure diagram with information relevant to this programme.*)

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.
(*To be completed by individuals completing the template. It is intended that the structure grid should provide a clear picture of the course units to be taken as the student progresses through the programme. The "status" column should indicate whether the course is "core", "compulsory" etc. The final column provides an opportunity for authors to add any further relevant information which might relate to options, prerequisites, pathways etc.*)

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
4	1	155900991	Literatures of the Near and Middle East	30	core	Leads on to 155901380
4	1	155901205 155900947	Introduction to Arabic Culture OR Introduction to Israeli Culture	30	compulsory	prepares for 155900208 and 15590380
4	1	n/a	Language option from the list	30	compulsory	
4	1	n/a	Course from the list	30	optional	

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			of optional courses			
5	2	155901380	Nation and Nationalism in Middle Eastern Fiction	30	core	follows from 155901380, leads on to 15590500+1
5	2	155901258	The Muslim World: Unity in Diversity	30	compulsory	
5	2	n/a	Course from list of languages OR a course from the list of optional courses	30	optional	
5	2	n/a	course from list of optional courses or an open option	30	open	
6	3	155905000 155905001	Cinemas of the Middle East and North Africa 1+2	30	compulsory	
6	3	n/a	Choice of language course from the list OR an open option	30	open	
6	3	n/a	course from list of optional courses	30	optional	
6	3	n/a	open option	30	open	

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 of Language Courses
- Arabic 100 - 155901202 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Arabic 200 - 155901203 (1 Unit) - Full Year

- Arabic 300 - 155901204 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Arabic 2 - 155900897 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Arabic 500 - 155900898 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Arabic 4 - 155900899 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Qur'anic Arabic - 155901400 (1 Unit) - Full Year - Not Running 2015/2016
- Modern Hebrew Language: Elementary - 155901407 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Modern Hebrew Language: Intermediate - 155900713 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Modern Hebrew Language: Advanced - 155900714 (1 Unit) - Full Year - Not Running 2015/2016
- Elementary Written Persian - 155901053 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Elementary Persian Texts - 155901155 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Persian Language 2 - 155900801 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Persian Language 3 - 155900802 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Elementary Written Turkish - 155901051 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Intermediate Modern Turkish Language - 155900547 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Advanced Modern Turkish Language - 155900548 (1 Unit) - Full Year - Not Running 2015/2016
- Structure of Abkhaz - 155901176 (1 Unit) - Full Year - Not Running 2015/2016

List of Optional Courses Related to the Middle East

Before selecting a course, student's must first check that the course is at the correct level. They must also ensure that they meet any pre-requisites.

- H130 Introduction to the History of the Near and Middle East - 154800230 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Judaism: Foundation - 158000148 (0.5 Unit) - Term 1
- Islam: Foundations - 158000189 (0.5 Unit) - Term 1
- Persian Poetry in Translation - 155901277 (1 Unit) - Full Year - Not Running 2015/2016
- Middle Persian - 158000183 (1 unit Unit)
- Ottoman Turkish Language - 155900549 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Introduction to Sufism - 155901375 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- History of Zionism - 155901168 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Israeli History and the Israel-Palestine Conflict - 155901167 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Introduction to the Art and Archaeology of the Near and Middle East - 154900101 (0.5 Unit) - Term 2
- Art and Material Culture of the Islamic World: 7th to 14th Centuries - 154900138 (1 Unit) - Full Year - Not Running 2015/2016
- Mosaics, Manuscripts, and Wall Painting in Islamic Art - 154900134 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Music of the Middle East and North Africa - 155800068 (1 Unit) - Full Year - Not Running 2015/2016
- Islamic law - 155200037 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Shi'a Islam: Religious Authority and Community Identity - 158000147 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- H248 The Making of the Modern Middle East - 154800227 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Developments in Muslim Religious Thought - 158000188 (0.5 Unit) - Term 2
- Messianic Movements in Muslim History - 158000149 (0.5 Unit) - Term 1

- Zoroastrian Literature in Translation - 158000095 (1 Unit) - Full Year - Not Running 2015/2016
- Zoroastrianism in the Ancient and Modern Worlds - 158000029 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Economic development of the modern Middle East - 153400031 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Government and politics of the Middle East - 153400060 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Eastern Christianity - 158000132 (0.5 Unit) - Term 1
- Orthodox Christianity - 158000131 (0.5 Unit) - Term 2
- Martyrs & Monks in Eastern Christian Writings - 158000130 (1 Unit) - Full Year - Not Running 2015/2016
- Syriac Texts on Christians and Muslims - 158000034 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism - 158000151 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Daily Life of Jews in Antiquity - 158000155 (0.5 Unit) - Term 1 - Not Running 2015/2016
- The Bible and its Interpretation in Ancient Judaism - 158000160 (0.5 Unit) - Term 2 - Not Running 2015/2016
- The Role and Representation of Women in Judaism - 158000154 (0.5 Unit) - Term 2 - Not Running 2015/2016
- Identity and Language in Hebrew literature - 155901411 (1 Unit) - Full Year - Not Running 2015/2016

Additional Optional Courses Only Available in Year 3.

- Independent Study Project in Middle Eastern Studies - 155901386 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Independent Study Project in Persian Studies - 155901184 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Independent Study Project in Hebrew/Israeli Studies - 155900738 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Independent Study Project (Turkish Literature) - 155901052 (1 Unit) - Full Year
- Independent Study Project in Arabic Studies - 155900733 (1 Unit) - Full Year

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

What methods will be used to achieve the learning outcomes?

(Provide details of the teaching, learning and assessment methods to be used, cross-referenced to the learning outcomes given above (listing under the same four headings might be helpful). Audience awareness is again important in relation to language used. The following examples might provide general guidance:

Knowledge: *subject knowledge is often developed through lectures and seminars, supplemented by directed study of texts/journal articles and by assignment or project work. Assessment is generally through unseen written examinations, but most assessment methods will require some demonstration of subject knowledge and understanding.*

Intellectual (thinking) skills: *skills such as analysis, synthesis, evaluation and application are often practised and demonstrated through active learning processes involving assignments or projects, and group learning activities (seminars/tutorials, workshops, fieldtrips etc). Assessment might utilise written examinations or problem-based exercises. Independent project work or research dissertations might be used to demonstrate subject-specific intellectual skills.*

Subject-based practical skills: this will vary from discipline to discipline, but will generally require development through opportunities to practise the activity in an appropriate learning context (for example in a laboratory, studio or work placement). Workbooks/practice manuals might also be provided. Assessment of competence in exercising a practical skill must involve demonstration of it.
Transferable skills: skills that are readily transferable to employment and related contexts such as communication, teamwork etc can be developed through naturally arising opportunities within the curriculum or through work placements. Written communication will be enhanced through essay/dissertation writing or writing up projects. Oral communication can be developed in presentations and group work. Team working skills may be demonstrated and assessed through collaborative projects.)

Knowledge
- lectures and seminars
- directed reading of articles from secondary literature
- directed reading of primary texts
- reading in another language
- writing in another language
- instruction in grammar and repetitive exercises to practise such
- end of year exams

Intellectual (thinking) skills
- Writing essays for deadlines
- Writing reaction papers and reports
- Instruction in reading strategies
- Group work in seminars and projects
- end of year exams

Subject-based practical skills
- Coaching in construction of arguments through essay marking, tutorials, seminars
- Coaching in comprehension of arguments through instruction in reading strategy
- In class language testing

Transferable skills
- Class discussion, comments on essays
- Essay writing, directed reading
- Essay wiritng, seminars, group work
- Language Tuition
- Essay Writing, with option of Independent Study Project

REFERENCE POINTS
The following reference points were used in designing the programme:
- School Learning and Teaching Strategy
- Staff research
- QAA framework for higher education qualifications
- QAA subject benchmark statement Languages and related studies (2007)
- Student Evaluation and end of degree feedback sessions.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ENHANCEMENT

(The following text is standard information common to all programme specifications and should not be amended by individuals completing the template except where indicated.)
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;
- end of degree feedback sessions.

FURTHER INFORMATION
(The following text is standard information common to all programme specifications and should not be amended by individuals completing the template except where indicated.)
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;
- *Authors to add any further links which are particularly relevant to this programme.*