

Revised undergraduate 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 Social Anthropology and another Subject
Final award	BA Honours
Intermediate awards	n/a
Mode of attendance	Full Time
UCAS code	n/a
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?	The SOAS Anthropology Department is consistently ranked amongst the highest in the UK. It was rated 2nd equal behind Cambridge in the Guardian University Guide 2010 based on the 2008 RAE results. The guide also rates SOAS as the top London Anthropology Department overall. Our programme is also part of the largest concentration of Africa and Asia scholars in the United Kingdom and we uniquely offer close working relations with experts in Asian and African

	<p>languages, as well as on the full range of arts and social sciences applied to Africa and Asia. This programme offers the added feature of enabling students to choose in addition to anthropology their own specialised combination with other disciplines, area studies or language.</p>
<p>Who would it suit?</p>	<p>The Department enjoys a lively cohort of undergraduate students who have decided to take the 'SOAS experience' rather than apply to a more conventional university. Typically they are strongly committed to Asian or African studies and therefore attracted to the prospect of an undergraduate life with kindred spirits. Our programme also opens an extremely wide field of future employment possibilities in private organizations, government agencies, international organizations, non-profit agencies and education where the skills of social anthropology are valued for doing research, planning, training, advocate jobs, development work and management in an increasingly global workplace characterised by ever more social and cultural diversity.</p>
<p>Programme structure</p>	<p>Most two subject degrees take three years, but degrees including Arabic, Chinese, Hausa, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, Swahili, Turkish and some South East Asia languages are taken over four years with the first and second years mainly devoted to language study. Two-subject degree students take a minimum of 5 course units in Anthropology. Students take core or compulsory courses which are designed to teach substantial knowledge of the history of the discipline and relevant theoretical, methodological and empirical aspects. They can additionally choose from a range of optional courses.</p> <p>A foundational first year comprises of two units of anthropology core courses and two units from their other subject. One core course introduces students to key issues in anthropology and to the historical figures whose ideas shaped the</p>

	<p>discipline; and the second offers an introduction to the body of Western social theory, which anthropology developed as a part of, from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries.</p> <p>In the second year combined degree students take two compulsory units. The Theory in Anthropology course further develops the level of anthropological theory covered in the first year. The other required course is chosen from a range of regional ethnography courses which offers in depth coverage on one of the SOAS areas.</p> <p>In the third year there are no compulsory courses required, but two subject students are recommended to take the Contemporary Trends in the Study of Society course, which brings students up to date with the latest developments in the discipline. As an alternative, two subject students may choose from a list of optional anthropology courses that complement the theoretical and regional emphasis of the core courses. The subjects of the thematic courses reflect the expertise and research interests of the members of the department.</p>
Assessment summary	Coursework essays, unseen examinations, group and individual presentations, and Independent Study Projects.

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/>

The BA Social Anthropology programme specific entry requirements are as follows:

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?

- This programme aims to allow students to explore fundamental questions about the common and diverse social and cultural conditions of our humanity.
- This programme aims to communicate knowledge of the main research, theories and methods of social anthropology and specifically of how they may be applied for a better understanding of the societies and cultures of Asia and Africa.
- This programme aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to enable them to proceed to relevant professional employment or to pursue higher level qualifications in social anthropology and related fields.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

What will the student learn?

Knowledge

- All students will have opportunities to study and learn about the discipline of social anthropology: its history, concepts, methods, approaches and diverse sub-fields.
- Students will learn about anthropological theory and the development of analytical approaches in the discipline from the nineteenth century to contemporary ideas, movements and trends.
- Students will study various applications of anthropological theory and ideas to the study of culture and society, on both large and small scales and in a wide variety of global locations.
- Students will have an opportunity to pursue in-depth studies of the society and culture of at least one ethnographic region in Asia and Africa covered by SOAS. They will study the history of anthropological interest in that region and how these inform contemporary social and cultural research agendas.

Intellectual (thinking) skills

- Students will learn to rigorously, critically and independently engage with questions about anthropological knowledge and issues of representation.
- Students will acquire the ability to read and comprehend a wide range of both descriptive and analytic anthropological scholarship.
- Students will learn to discuss and debate anthropological issues in an articulate, informed and coherent manner.
- Students will learn how to frame and present original written arguments with reference to information on societies and cultures and in relation to existing scholarship.

Subject-based practical skills

- Students will learn to engage critically with debates on social and cultural

issues, to pose relevant questions, to formulate coherent arguments and express them with clarity and precision both orally and in writing.

- Capacity to think both critically and creatively about anthropological issues and topics.
- Students will gain a cogent understanding of the relativity and diversity of social structures, cultural values, beliefs and attitudes.

Transferable skills

- The programme will encourage students to write concisely and with clarity.
- Students will learn how to explore, evaluate and use a variety of sources as part of research practice.
- Students will learn to work to strict deadlines and high standards.
- Students will learn to work constructively and collaboratively in small 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.

Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
1	151801001	Introduction to Social Anthropology	30	Core	
1	151801003	Social Theory	30	Core	
2	151802033	Theory in Anthropology	30	Core	
2		Ethnography of a selected region	0	Compulsory	
3		Contemporary Trends in the Study of Society or Optional course	30	Core	

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

What methods will be used to achieve the learning outcomes?

Knowledge

Students will have the opportunity learn specific anthropological subjects through lectures and seminars, supplemented by directed study of texts/journal articles and by assignment or project work. Assessment consists of a combination of coursework essays, unseen written examinations, group and individual presentations, and Independent Study Projects. Assessment methods will require some demonstration of subject knowledge and understanding.

Intellectual (thinking) skills

Students will be able to acquire intellectual skills through their participation in teaching, monitoring and feedback in lectures, writing tasks, seminar discussions, supervisions and guidance.

Subject-based practical skills

Reflexive learning and general study skills essential to anthropological scholarship will be acquired in classes and tutorials. These will be honed through course readings, the preparation of class presentations, writing essays, and preparing for course examinations. There is regular monitoring and feedback on student progress during each stage of the course. Advice and relevant examples in the different kinds of work and source materials used in the course are extensively used to support student learning.

Transferable skills

- Acquisition of writing skills will be achieved through producing essays, and some students will produce dissertation-length Independent Study Projects (ISP). · Research methods and skills will be learned in classes and tutorials, as well as from supervisors for ISPs and extended ethnographic essays.
- Exam writing techniques will be acquired through the writing of end-of-year exams in all core courses and in most optional courses.
- Oral communication skills will be honed in the exercise of individual and group presentations in classes and tutorials, as well as in general class discussions.
- Basic IT skills are acquired through the use of the library information sources, using email and conducting web-based searches, and using word-processors to produce essays and other coursework.

REFERENCE POINTS

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

- SOAS Learning and Teaching Strategy
- Faculty Learning and Teaching Strategy
- Staff research
- QAA framework for higher education qualifications
- Association of Social Anthropologists subject benchmark statement. All students completing the course will have achieved the 'threshold' level and

the majority will have achieved the 'focal' level indicated in the benchmark statement.

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 in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology student-staff forum that meets once every term specifically to address student concerns and suggestions.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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