

## 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 base-line information for all statements relating to the programme and is updated as approved amendments are made.

#### CORE INFORMATION

Programme title	BA South Asian Studies and International Management (4 years)
Final award	BA
Intermediate awards	NA
Mode of attendance	Full-time
UCAS code	Not yet awarded
Professional body accreditation	N/A
Date specification created/updated	December 2010

#### 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. <b>Click here for more information.</b>
What is special about this programme?	SOAS is the only University in the UK where you can combine the study of management with the study of the language and culture of South Asia as part of your BA degree. The four-year degree gives you the unique opportunity of spending the third year attending an intensive language programme in India, Nepal or Bangladesh and experiencing life and study in South Asia in what is a unique life experience. At SOAS, on the management side you

	<p>will study general courses on accounting, business, management and marketing that will include concrete examples from Asia, advanced courses on economy and finance in East Asia, and you will be able to focus on finance and management of South Asia in your essays and final dissertation.</p> <p>On the South Asian side you will be able to choose from a range of exciting courses on the culture and society of South Asia, including unique courses in cinema, literature, art, music, religion, history, politics, law, economics and anthropology. We offer the widest range of culture courses on South Asia, both at introductory and specialist levels.</p> <p>If you choose to study languages, in Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, Sanskrit and Urdu ('pathway languages') we offer language courses at beginner, intermediate and advanced level. We also offer courses that use the language skills you acquire to gain access to the present and past culture of South Asia through written and audio-visual texts.</p> <p>We also offer a more limited range of language courses in Tamil, Sinhala, Gujarati and Punjabi, subject to a minimum number of students.</p>
Who would it suit?	<p>Our BA South Asian Studies and International Management (3 years) prepares you for a career in management and finance in or with South Asia. As the economies of South Asia continue to expand, a knowledge of language and culture will be more and more of an asset in the world of commerce and international trade.</p> <p>Other career paths of our graduates include international development and aid agencies, print journalism and media, local, national and international government agencies, overseas companies, teaching, law, librarianship, arts administration.</p> <p>Many of our graduates choose to pursue</p>

	<p>Masters' programmes that either focus on particular aspects of South Asia, or are linked to professional qualifications in law, development, media, etc.</p>
Programme structure	<p>BA South Asian Studies and International Management as a 3-year degree combines the study of management and finance (with particular focus on Asia) with the the study of South Asia from a number of aspects (culture, history, music, art, literature, politics, economics, law, anthropology). The programme consists of four courses every year, with at least five courses completed in your first subject and four in the second subject.</p> <p>Students can choose whether to pursue language learning or focus exclusively on culture courses related to South Asia. Students who decide not to pursue language study and spend the third year abroad can transfer to the BA South Asian Studies and International Management 3-year degree.</p> <p>The first year features the core course <a href="#">South Asian Culture</a>, a modular course surveying the cultural history of South Asia; a language course or an introductory course on the art, religion or history of South Asia; 2 half unit introductory courses on accounting, management and/or quantitative and analytical techniques for managers; and a course on the economy of either China or Japan &amp; Korea.</p> <p>In Year 2 you will take four half unit courses on corporate finance and finance accounting, international business strategy, international marketing and managerial accounting. For your other two units you continue language work in the pathway language of choice (core) in combination with an intermediary course relevant to that language</p> <p>Year 3 is spent attending an intensive language course in India, Nepal or Bangladesh, with opportunities to liaise</p>

	<p>with local and international companies and to collect material for the Independent Study Project in year 4.</p> <p>In Year 4 you will choose two half-unit advanced courses on economics and finance in East Asia; an undergraduate dissertation (ISP) of 10,000 words on a topic of your choice related to management and/or finance in South Asia; and two further units of intermediate or advanced language and/or culture courses on South Asia.</p> <p>Introductory language courses taught in Year 1 assume no previous knowledge of the chosen language or its script: they start completely from scratch. Courses in modern languages concentrate on all four linguistic skills – understanding, speaking, reading and writing; classes are small and interactive, with students being encouraged to use the language actively from the outset. There is usually a 40/60 balance between coursework and exam in language courses. Many of our introductory language courses have been written especially for our needs by members of the Department staff; and intermediate and advanced language courses feature a wide range of ‘real world’ teaching and study materials.</p>
Assessment summary	<p>Assessment for language courses typically involves a 20/20/60 balance between classroom tests and/or written coursework during the year, oral exam, and written exam.</p> <p>Assessment for culture courses typically varies between a 20/80 balance between coursework essays and final written exam, and 100% coursework essays.</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:** ABB
- A Level language desirable but not essential

- **GCSE Maths B**
- **IB:** 34 (5/5/5)
- **BTEC:** DDM
- **Scottish Highers:** AABBB
- **Scottish Advanced Highers:** ABB
- **Irish LC:** 320 points from 5 Higher level subjects at grade C1 or above
- **Advanced Placement:** 4 4 4 (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

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

- *To provide solid grounding and training in management and finance, with particular focus on Asia;*
- *To provide an excellent and broad-ranging foundational knowledge of the culture of South Asia;*
- *To make students competent in one or more South Asian language, with a sensitive awareness of its cultural context;*
- *To enable students to acquire direct experience of living and studying in a South Asian country through the Year Abroad.*
- *To prepare the student for either working in South Asian societies or in a context with South Asian connections, such as with South Asian diaspora in the UK.*

## PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

What will the student learn?

### Knowledge

- a coherent and solid knowledge of management and finance, with direct reference to Asia;
- a competence in speaking, reading and writing a South Asian language that will enable students to work in South Asia or with South Asians and to use primary texts in that language;
- a broad knowledge and understanding of South Asian culture, in its historical and contemporary developments;
- a detailed knowledge of a selected area of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh).
- for students who pursue language study, basic competence in speaking, reading and writing a South Asian language that will help students work in South Asia or with South Asians;

### Intellectual (thinking) skills

- the ability to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques at the forefront of economic and financial knowledge related to Asia.
- the ability to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research in the various disciplines relating to South Asia;
- an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge related to South Asia, and in particular of conflicting ideas and debates relating to economics, history, language, culture, and politics.
- the ability to manage one's own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources such as research articles and/or original materials related to South Asia.

#### **Subject-based practical skills**

- Analyse cultural data and make judgements on the basis of conflicting evidence.
- Analyse quantitative data for the purposes of management and finance.
- Assess the validity of different approaches to the same data or ideas.
- Comprehend, and communicate in, a South Asian language — through both speech and writing.
- Research cultural and economic phenomena through both primary and secondary sources, making appropriate use of library and online resources.

#### **Transferable skills**

The programme will encourage students to:

- Write and speak with clarity and concision.
- Use a variety of sources as research materials.
- Work to deadlines.
- Develop self-reflexiveness.
- Develop an understanding of the relativity of cultures and “cultural” (or encultured) attitudes.
- Assess the validity of arguments and make judgements on complex situations.

### **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 take the equivalent of 4 course units each year, with at least five completed courses in the first subject and four in the second subject. The third year counts as Year Abroad.

If a student passes 4 course units in one pathway language then the language will be named in the degree title, e.g. South Asian Studies (Hindi). Text, Directed Readings and literature courses and an ISP in which the language is used to a large extent all count as language courses. Students must discuss this with their UG tutor at the end of year 1 or the beginning of year 2. The specialism will be added at the award stage only, when the degree has been completed, and will not feature during application or enrolment.

### Programme structure diagram

Below is a structure diagram for this programme.

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
4	1	155900812	South Asian Culture	30	Core	
4	1		Pathway language course	30	core	Usually Bengali/Hindi/Nepali/Sanskrit/Urdu 1 unless student has prior language knowledge
4	1		Management in China: Domestic and International Developments OR Management in Japan and Korea	30	compulsory	
4	1		2 half unit courses in International Management	30	Compulsory/option 1	Introduction to Accounting; Understanding Company Accounts and Reports; Quantitative and Analytical Techniques for Managers; and Principles and Management of Marketing
5	2		pathway language course from List A	30	core	Usually Bengali/Hindi/Nepali/Sanskrit/Urdu 2 or language course at further level

						from Year 1
5	2		a course related to the pathway language	30	compulsory	<p>Bengali pathway: Modern Bengali Texts [Y2 course, mistake on website]</p> <p>Hindi pathway: Readings in Contemporary Hindi</p> <p>Nepali pathway: Society, Culture and Politics in Nepal</p> <p>Sanskrit pathway: Selected Texts from Sanskrit Epics OR two half courses in Sanskrit and/or Prakrit at an appropriate level</p> <p>Urdu pathway: Imagining Pakistan: culture, politics and gender</p>
5	2		Two half units in International Management	30	Option 1	To be chosen from among: Corporate Finance and Financial Accounting; Managerial Accounting; International Business Strategy; Managerial Economics; Qualitative and Case Study Research; and International Marketing I.
5	2		Another two half units in International Management	30	Option 2	To be chosen from among: Corporate Finance and Financial Accounting; Managerial Accounting; International Business Strategy; Managerial Economics; Qualitative and Case Study Research; and International Marketing I.
6	3		Year Abroad		Compulsory	Depending on their language pathway, students will spend the whole academic year in India (Hindi, Urdu, Sanskrit), Nepal (Nepali) or Bangladesh (Bengali).



						There students are expected to attend an intensive language course at an appointed institution and are required to sit local examinations
7	4	155900955	Independent Study Project in South Asian Studies	30	Option 1	
7	4		Course from list A	30	Option 1	Must be at intermediate or advanced level
7	4		Course from list C	30	Option 1	course choice may be restricted depending on chosen pathway
7	4		Independent Study Project in International Management	30	Option 3	
7	4		Two half unit courses in IM	30	Option 4	To be chosen from among: Financial Strategy; Finance in China; Finance in Japan/Korea; Contemporary Issues in Chinese economics; Contemporary Issues in Economics with applications to Japan and Korea; International Marketing II; International Human Resource Management; and Corporate Governance.

#### **List A South Asian language courses**

The list below indicates the pathway along which students can progress as they do their South Asian language courses. Students may not take more than one language course at elementary level in any given year. Passing of the intermediate level course (or its equivalent) in Bengali OR Hindi OR Nepali OR Sanskrit OR Urdu is a pre-requisite for admission to the Year Abroad.

### **Elementary level**

- Bengali Language 1
- Hindi Language 1
- Nepali Language 1
- Sanskrit Language 1
- Urdu Language 1
- Basic Pali
- Gujarati Language 1
- Sinhala Language 1
- Tamil Language 1
- [Introduction to Prakrit](#) (0.5)
- Elementary Written Persian (Dept. of the Near & Middle East)

### **Intermediate level**

- [Bengali Language 2](#)
- [Hindi Language 2](#)
- [Nepali Language 2](#)
- [Sanskrit Language 2](#)
- [Urdu Language 2](#)
- [Urdu Literacy](#)
- [Intermediate Pali](#)
- [Sinhala Language 2](#)
- [Tamil Language 2](#)
- [Readings in Prakrit](#) (0.5)

### **Advanced level**

- [Advanced Bengali](#)
- [Directed Readings in a South Asian Literature or Culture \(Bengali\)](#) (0.5)
- [Hindi Language 3](#)
- Hindi Language 4
- Literature and Colonialism in North India (0.5) Term 1
- Narratives of Mobility in Hindi Literature (0.5) Term 2
- [Directed Readings in a South Asian Literature or Culture \(Hindi\)](#) (0.5)
- [Nepali Language 3](#)
- [Directed Readings in a South Asian Literature or Culture \(Nepali\)](#) (0.5)
- [Classical Sanskrit Court Literature](#)
- Selected Texts in Sanskrit Epic
- Readings in Sanskrit Systematic Thought
- Vedic Sanskrit (Dept. of the Study of Religion)
- [Directed Readings in Sanskrit](#) (0.5)
- Urdu poetry (0.5) [new course]
- Gender and writing in Pakistan (0.5) [new course]
- [Directed Readings in a South Asian Literature or Culture \(Urdu\)](#) (0.5)

### **List B Introductory courses on aspects of South Asian history and culture**

- Buddhism: Foundation (0.5)
- Hinduism: Foundation (0.5)
- Introduction to Jainism
- H140 Introduction to the History of South Asia
- Intro to South and South Eastern Asian Art and Archaeology (0.5, Term 1)
- Legal Systems of Asia and Africa

### **List C Non-language-based South Asian and South Asian-related courses**

*Some courses require successful attendance of a relevant introductory course; students are advised to check the relevant course descriptions for prerequisites and consult the relevant course tutor before selecting units.*

**Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia**

- [Cinema and Society in South Asia](#)
- [Modern Bengal: the Evolution of Bengali Culture & Society from 1690 to the Present](#)
- Imagining Pakistan: culture, politics, gender
- [Society, Culture and Politics in Nepal](#)
- [South Asian Literature in English](#)
- [Extended Essay in South Asian Studies](#) (0.5)

**School of Law**

- [Law and society of South Asia](#)
- [Ethnic minorities and the law](#)

**Department of Politics and International Studies**

- [Government and politics of South Asia](#)

**Department of History**

- Culture And Identity In Modern South Asia 1800-2000
- Gandhi And Gandhism
- Histories Of Partition: India And Palestine
- The Making Of Medieval India
- Nehru And India's Modernity, 1936-64 (I)
- Body, Power And Society In Early India (I)
- Religion, State And Society In Mughal North India (I)
- Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata: The City In Modern Indian Society (I)
- Structures Of Authority: Islam, The Delhi Sultans And The Mughals 1

**Department of Art and Archaeology**

- Traditional art in modern South Asia (0.5)
- Art and Ritual in Buddhist South Asia (0.5)
- Hindu art in mediaeval India (0.5)
- Temple, city and empire in south India 1300-1800 (0.5)

**Department of Music**

- [Music in the cultures of South Asia](#) (alternating with)
- Indian Classical Music 155800046 (1 Unit)

**Department of the Study of Religions**

- Religious Philosophies of Ancient Medieval India
- Textual Sources of Classical Hinduism
- Theravada Buddhism
- Buddhist Legends: Readings in Avadana Literature (0.5)
- Conflict in Compliance: About the Lives of Buddhist Monks in Ancient India (0.5)
- Buddhist Monasticism (0.5)
- Mahayana Buddhism (0.5)
- Contemporary Islamism in South Asia: Readings in Sayyid L-A'la Mawadudi (1 Unit)
- Readings in Mahayana Sutra Literature (0.5)
- Jain scriptures (1 Unit)

**Department of Anthropology and Sociology**

- [Ethnography of a selected region - South Asia](#) (Introduction to Social Anthropology is prerequisite)

## Department of Economics

- [Economic development of South Asia](#)

### TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

What methods will be used to achieve the learning outcomes?

#### **Knowledge**

- a broad knowledge and understanding of South Asian culture, in its historical and contemporary developments is taught through a survey lecture course and tutorials, assessed through coursework essays and unseen exam;
- coherent and detailed grounding in business management and finance will be developed through a progression of lecture courses, which will include courses that apply the disciplinary knowledge to Asia; large lecture courses will also involve tutorials for small groups. Assessment will be through a combination of classroom presentations, coursework essays, written exams and the writing of an extended essay or Independent Study Project on a topic of the student's choice, which will involve the selection and analysis of primary texts and the critical discussion and assessment of secondary materials.
- competence in speaking, reading and writing a South Asian language will be achieved through a progression of language courses taught in small groups that will develop and test all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing); assessment will consist of classroom tests, written coursework, oral presentations and written and oral exams. Intermediate and advanced language courses and text courses will use a wide range of "real world" cultural texts;
- the detailed knowledge of a selected area of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh) will be developed through the combination of language learning, essay-questions and the ISP related to the area.
- for students who choose to pursue language work, basic competence in speaking, reading and writing a South Asian language will be achieved through a progression of language courses taught in small groups that will develop and test all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing); assessment will consist of classroom tests, written coursework, oral presentations and written and oral exams. Intermediate and advanced language courses and text courses will use a wide range of "real world" cultural texts;

#### **Intellectual (thinking) skills**

- the ability to devise and sustain arguments related to business management and finance, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques at the forefront of knowledge related to Asia, will be developed through lectures, tutorials, oral presentations, classroom discussions, and essay-writing;
- the ability to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research in the discipline of choice, with particular focus on South Asia, will be developed through readings for lectures, tutorials, and oral presentations, and through classroom discussions and essay-writing;
- the appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge related to South Asia will be developed through the discussion of the conflicting ideas and debates relating to economics, history, language, culture, and politics in lectures, tutorials, classroom discussions and questions set for coursework and exam essays.
- the ability to manage one's own learning, and to make use of scholarly

reviews and primary sources such as research articles and/or original materials related to South Asia will be developed by encouraging students to choose their own topics for coursework essays in years 2 and 4 and for the Independent Study Project.

### **Subject-based practical skills**

- The ability to analyse cultural data and make judgements on the basis of conflicting evidence will be fostered through course readings from year 1 onwards;
- The ability to analyse quantitative data will be developed in lectures and assignments;
- The ability to assess the validity of different approaches to the same data or ideas within the same discipline will be fostered through essay questions and classroom discussions;
- The ability to comprehend, and communicate in, a South Asian language through both speech and writing will be fostered in the language courses;
- The ability to research economic and cultural phenomena through both primary and secondary sources, making appropriate use of library and online resources, will be fostered in particular in the written essays, oral presentations and Independent Study Project.

### **Transferable skills**

The programme will encourage students to:

- Write and speak with clarity and concision by setting clear guidelines and giving detailed feedback to essays and presentations from year 1 onward;
- Use a variety of sources as research materials in their essays, oral presentations and Independent Study Project. This is particularly exhilarating for students in their final year, who find they can write on quite original topics using materials that no one has used before;
- Work to deadlines, with clear deadlines for essays and penalty for late submission.
- Develop self-reflexiveness through classroom discussion, feedback on essays and presentations, and course assessment.
- Develop an understanding of the relativity of cultures and “cultural” (or encultured) attitudes, particularly through classroom discussion.
- Assess the validity of arguments and make judgements on complex situations, in particular in essays and presentations.

### **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**

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

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