

## Revised undergraduate programme specification 2016-17

### 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 ... (4 years)  |
| Final award                        | BA Honours  |
| Intermediate awards                | n/a   |
| Mode of attendance                 | Full-time   |
| UCAS code                          | tbc<br>South Asian Studies may be combined with:<br>Development Studies TLH9 BA/SASDVS<br>Economics TLH1 BA/SASEC<br>Geography** TLHR BA/SASGE<br>History VT1J BA/SASH<br>History of Art/Archaeology VTH3 BA/HAASAS<br>Law TMH1 BA/SASLW<br>Linguistics TQH1 BA/LGSAS<br>Music WTH3 BA/SASMS<br>Politics TLFH BA/SASPOL<br>Social Anthropology TL3Q BA/SASSA<br>Study of Religions VTQ3 BA/SASSR<br><br>** Taught at King's College, London |
| Professional body accreditation    | n/a   |
| Date specification created/updated | February 2016   |

#### 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.<br><b>Click here for more information.</b> |
| What is special about this programme? | SOAS is the only University in the UK  |

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|                    | <p>where you can study South Asian languages (Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, Sanskrit, Urdu) as part of your BA degree, and combine in-depth language learning with training in a discipline that will also include modules focusing on your area of choice.</p> <p>In Hindi, Nepali, Sanskrit and Urdu ('pathway languages') we offer language modules at beginner, intermediate and advanced level, depending on your level of skills. We offer a more limited range of modules in Bengali, and single modules in Punjabi, Pali and Prakrit. Other modules will use the language skills you acquire to gain access to the present and past culture of South Asia through written and audio-visual texts. You will also be able to choose from a range of exciting modules on the culture and society of South Asia, including unique modules in cinema, literature, art, music, religion, history, politics, law, economics and anthropology. We offer the widest range of culture modules on South Asia in the UK, both at introductory and specialist levels. 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.</p> |
| Who would it suit? | <p>Our BA South Asian Studies and... (4 years) transforms your interest in South Asia into a serious degree, combining extensive knowledge in the area, solid linguistic skills, training in a discipline, and a host of much-valued transferrable skills.</p> <p>The 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>  |

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|                     | <p>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>Many of our graduates choose to pursue 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... as a 4-year degree combines in-depth language learning with a solid training in a discipline that includes modules focusing on your area of choice. It consists of four modules every year at SOAS and a year abroad of intensive language study in India, Nepal or Bangladesh in the third year; out of the twelve modules at SOAS, you will need to pass five modules in your first subject and four in your second subject.</p> <p>The first year features the core module <a href="#">South Asian Culture</a>, a modular course which surveys the cultural history of South Asia. This is taken alongside a language module in Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, Sanskrit, or Urdu, which is also core, which in turn leads to further units in the same language, texts and literature in Years 2, 3 and 4. Students passing 4 module units in one language may have the language named in the degree title, e.g. South Asian Studies (Hindi). Text, Directed Readings, literature modules and an Independent Study Project (ISP) in which the language is used to a large extent all count as language modules for this purpose.</p> <p>The first year also includes two modules in the other subject.</p> <p>Year 2 continues language work in the pathway language of choice (core) in combination with an intermediary module relevant to that language, and two units in</p> |

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|                    | <p>the other subject.</p> <p>Year 3 is spent attending an intensive language module in India, Nepal or Bangladesh, with plenty of opportunities to volunteer for local NGOs (valuable work experience) and planning and collecting material for the Independent Study Project in year 4.</p> <p>Year 4 includes an advanced language module (compulsive), a further relevant language module at intermediate or advanced level or an intermediate or advanced module related to South Asia taught in other Departments, and two units from the other subject.</p> <p>Introductory language modules taught in Year 1 assume no previous knowledge of the chosen language or its script: they start completely from scratch.</p> <p>Course Modules 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 modules. Many of our introductory language modules have been written especially for our needs by members of the Department staff; and intermediate and advanced language modules feature a wide range of ‘real world’ teaching and study materials.</p> <p>Students with less of a specific interest in South Asian languages are encouraged to apply or transfer to the BA South Asian Studies (3 years), which does not include the year abroad.</p> |
| Assessment summary | <p>Assessment for language modules typically involves a balance between classroom tests and/or written coursework during the year (20%), oral exam (20%), and written exam (60%).</p> <p>Assessment for literature and culture modules typically involves a balance</p>  |

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|  | between coursework essays and final written exam; some modules are assessed by coursework only. |
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## 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

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

- To provide an excellent and broad-ranging foundational knowledge of the culture of South Asia.
- To combine a language & area focus on South Asia with training in a discipline;
- 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 broad knowledge and understanding of South Asian culture, in its historical and contemporary developments;
- 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 coherent and detailed knowledge of a discipline, with direct reference to South Asia;
- a detailed knowledge of a selected area of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh).

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

- the ability to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques at the forefront of knowledge related to South 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 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.
- Comprehend, and communicate in, a South Asian language — through both speech and writing.
- Assess the validity of different approaches to the same data or ideas.
- Research cultural 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 module units each year, with at least five completed modules in the first subject and four in the second subject. The third year counts as Year Abroad.

If a student passes 4 module units in one pathway language then the language may be optionally named in the degree title, e.g. South Asian Studies (Hindi). Text, Directed Readings and literature modules and an ISP in which the language is used to a large extent all count as language modules. 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 | Module code | Module title                             | Credit | Status     | Notes   |
|-------|---------------|-------------|--|--------|------------|---|
| 4     | 1             | 155900812   | <a href="#">South Asian Culture</a>      | 30     | Core       |   |
| 4     | 1             |             | Pathway language module                  | 30     | core       | Usually Bengali/Hindi/Nepali/Sanskrit/Urdu 1 unless student has prior language knowledge  |
| 4     | 1             |             | Modules in the other subject             | 60     |            |   |
| 5     | 2             |             | pathway language module from List A      | 30     | core       | Usually Bengali/Hindi/Nepali/Sanskrit/Urdu 2 or language module at further level from Year 1  |
| 5     | 2             |             | a module related to the pathway language | 30     | compulsory | Bengali pathway: EITHER South Asian Literature in English OR Cinema and Society in South Asia: History and Social Context (0.5) and Cinema and Society in South Asia: Key Themes (0.5).<br>Hindi pathway: Readings in Contemporary Hindi.<br>Nepali pathway: Society, Culture and Politics in Nepal.<br>Sanskrit pathway: EITHER Selected Texts from Sanskrit Epics OR two half modules in Sanskrit and/or Prakrit at an appropriate level<br>Urdu pathway: Imagining Pakistan: culture, nation, gender |
| 5     | 2             |             | A further module from list A or list C   | 30     | Option 1   |   |
| 5     | 2             |             | Modules in the other subject             | 60     |            |   |
|       |               |             |  |        |            |   |

|   |   |                           |  |    |            |  |
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| 5 | 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 module at an appointed institution and are required to sit local examinations |
| 6 | 4 |                           | advanced pathway language module from List A                     | 30 | compulsory | Depending on the language, either Hindi 4, Nepali 3, an approved Sanskrit unit, or Directed Readings in a South Asian Literature or Culture (Urdu), ISP (on Bengali topic, for Bengali pathway)  |
| 6 | 4 | <a href="#">155900955</a> | <a href="#">Independent Study Project in South Asian Studies</a> | 30 | Option 1   | (not for Bengali pathway)  |
| 6 | 4 |                           | a further language module from List A                            | 30 | Option 1   | Must be at intermediate or advanced level  |
| 6 | 4 |                           | Module from list C   | 30 | Option 1   | module choice may be restricted depending on chosen pathway  |
| 6 | 4 |                           | Modules in the other subject                                     | 60 |            |  |

### 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](#)
- [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](#)
- [Pali](#): Intermediate level
- [Readings in Prakrit](#) (0.5)

#### **Advanced level**

- [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 \(Bengali\)](#) (0.5)
- [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
- Vedic Sanskrit (Dept. of the Study of Religion)
- [Directed Readings in Sanskrit](#) (0.5)
- [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: History and Social Context (0.5)
- Cinema and Society in South Asia: Key Themes (0.5)
- [Society, Culture and Politics in Nepal](#)
- [South Asian Literature in English](#)
- [Extended Essay in South Asian Studies](#) (0.5)
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#### **School of Law**

- [Law and society of South Asia](#)

#### **Department of Politics and International Studies**

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

#### **Department of History**

- H234 Culture and Identity in Modern South Asia 1800-2000
- H236 State and Society in Mughal India
- [Gandhi And Gandhiism](#)

- [Histories Of Partition: India and Pakistan, I](#)
- Histories of Partition: India and Pakistan, II

#### **Department of Art and Archaeology**

- Early Indian Art
- Gandharan Art and its Heritage
- Imag(in)ing Buddhas in South Asia (1)
- Art and Empire in India 1300-1800
- Art and Empire in Early Modern South India
- Court arts in Mughal and Rajput North India
- Traditional art and modern South Asia (0.5)

#### **Department of Music**

- Music and Religion in South Asia (0.5)
- Classical singing in India: continuity and change (0.5)

#### **Department of the Study of Religions**

- [Religious Philosophies of Ancient and Medieval India](#)
- Modern Indian Philosophy
- [Theravada Buddhism](#)
- [Non-Violence in Jain Literature, Philosophy and Law](#)

#### **Department of Anthropology and Sociology**

- [Ethnography of a selected region - South Asia](#)

#### **Department of Economics**

- [Economic development of South Asia](#) (Year 3)

### **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;
- competence in speaking, reading and writing a South Asian language will be achieved through a progression of language modules 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 modules and text modules will use a wide range of “real world” cultural texts;
- coherent and detailed grounding in a discipline will be developed through a progression of lecture modules, which will include modules that apply the disciplinary knowledge to South Asia; large lecture modules 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.
- the detailed knowledge of a selected area of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh) will be developed through the combination of language learning, studying and living in the area during the year abroad, disciplinary modules related to that area and the ISP.

**Intellectual (thinking) skills**

- the ability to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques at the forefront of knowledge related to South 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 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 readings from year 1 onwards;
- The ability to comprehend, and communicate in, a South Asian language through both speech and writing will be fostered in the language modules;
- 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 research 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 module 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**

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](#).