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 Swahili and …
Final award	BA Honours
Intermediate awards	n/a
Mode of attendance	Full-time
UCAS code	Swahili may be combined with: Development Studies,(LTY5 BA/SWDVS) Economics, (LTD5 BA/SWEC) French*, Geography**, (LTT5 BA/SWGE) History, (TVN1 BA/SWH) History of Art/Archaeology, (VT35 BA/HAASw) Law, (MTD5 BA/SWLW) Linguistics, (QTD5 BA/LGSW) Music,(TWN3 BA/SWMS) Politics, (LTG5 BA/SWPOL) Social Anthropology, (LTQ5 BA/SWSA) Study of Religions (TVN6 BA/SWSR) Taught at University College London (UCL); apply to UCL only ** Taught at King's College London
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. It 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?	SOAS is the only university in the UK where you can learn a major sub-Saharan language (in this case, Swahili), combined with more general

	(African) culture/language studies as part of a BA degree. The non-language/culture options cover a wide range of subjects, including unique specialist Africa-centred courses in cinema, literature, art, music, religion, and open option units can be taken in history, politics, law, economics and social anthropology.
Who would it suit?	Our BA Swahili and another subject is suited to students who wish to combine a specialist knowledge of Swahili culture, society and language with an Africa-focussed discipline. Career paths of our graduates include journalism/media (e.g., BBC World Service), publishing, UK and international government agencies, NGO's (e.g., Amnesty International). Some of our graduates proceed to SOAS Masters programmes, e.g., African Studies.
Programme structure	Students take four course-units per academic year, and must pass at least three to proceed to the following year. They must also pass at least eight units in Swahili (this includes Language in Africa), and at least five units in the other subject. Year 1: students take one unit in Swahili, together with Language in Africa; plus two units from their other subject. Year 2: students take two units in Swahili, and two units in their other subject. Year 3: two terms intensive language/culture courses at East African universities (Zanzibar and Lamu). In addition, students are required to write a research based essay of 5,000 words, or two essays of 2,500 words each, in Swahili. Year 4: students take one unit in advanced Swahili, one course from list A and two units from their other subject. First-year introductory language courses assume no previous knowledge of Swahili. Courses in all four years are designed to increase communicative proficiency in oral and written Swahili, and concentrate on all four linguistic skills – understanding, speaking, reading and writing. Classes are typically small (ten or less) and interactive, with students being encouraged to use the language actively from the outset.
Assessment summary	Assessment of the Swahili language classes is

	based on one (3 hrs) written paper at the end of the year (60%), two mid-term written examinations (20% total), oral and aural (language lab based) examinations (20% total). Year (3) abroad: Students' language and culture skills and knowledge are assessed at partner institutions. In addition, students are required to write a research based essay of 5,000 words, or two essays of 2,500 each, in Swahili.

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 acquire a broad foundational knowledge of (selected) African cultures, especially the East African Swahili region where Swahili is most widely used;
- To acquire communicative competence in both written and spoken forms of the chosen African language, in addition to a sensitive (non-Eurocentric) awareness of the East African cultural context;
- To enhance overall career prospects by providing specialist training and knowledge in an Africa-focussed discipline subject.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

What will the student learn?

Knowledge

- Competence in speaking, reading and writing a major African language;
- A broad knowledge and understanding of African culture(s);

- A solid knowledge of the elected discipline subject with direct reference to Africa.

Intellectual (thinking) skills

- An ability to manage one's own learning, and to make critical and balanced use of scholarly works related to the cultures and societies of Africa.
- An ability to understand and manipulate the core syntax of Swahili, and to analyze language data and patterns.
- In the case of Swahili literature courses, an ability to objectively assess varying interpretations and handle different genres.
- Sensitivity to the importance and distinctiveness of cultural and intellectual achievement, and to the existence of distinct and/or complementary value systems in different cultures.

Subject-based practical skills

- Comprehend and communicate in a major African language — through both speech and writing.
- Communicate effectively in Swahili.
- Research (discipline-based) topics using both primary and secondary sources, making appropriate use of library and online resources.

Transferable skills

The programme will encourage students to:

- Use a variety of sources as research materials.
- Work to deadlines.
- Develop an understanding of the relativity of cultures and culture-specific behaviours and attitudes.
- Assess the validity of arguments and make balanced 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 4 course units each year, and must pass at least three course units in order to proceed to the following year, including any core courses. Over the four years they must pass take at least 8 Hausa units (this includes Language in Africa) and at least 5 units in the other subject.

Students must pass Language 1 in order to take Language 2, and Language 2 to take Language 3. Students who fail Language 1 (or achieve only 40-50% overall) are not required to take Language 2 in the second year (and then change to the African Studies degree).

Programme structure diagram
Below is a structure diagram for this programme.

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title Swahili and another subject	Credit	Status	Notes
4	1	155900985	Swahili 1	30	core	
4	1	155900867	Language in Africa	30	compulsory	
	1	n/a	Two course units in the other subject	60		
5	2	155900986	Swahili 2A	30	core	Swahili 2A (must pass to proceed to year 3)
5	2	155900987	Swahili 2B	30	compulsory	a course on Swahili literature
	2	n/a	Two course units in the other subject	60		
6	3		Year Abroad		compulsory	Students will spend the whole academic year attached to a university in Tanzania (Zanzibar) and Kenya (Lamu), where they take intensive language/culture courses and local examinations
6	3		Year Abroad Project (African Studies/Swahili)		compulsory	
6	4	n/a	Advanced Swahili language course	30	compulsory	
5/6	4	n/a	Course from the List of options below	30		
	4	n/a	Two course units in the other subject	60		

List of optional courses
Not all courses may run every year; some courses require prerequisites; some courses are only available for certain years of study. Check the course webpages for details and consult with your tutor.
Normally students are not allowed to take a course outside of the years for which it is intended, although occasionally exceptions can be made in consultation with the Undergraduate Tutor and / or the Associate Dean (Undergraduate). Note that the list of options includes both culture courses and language courses. Students may take courses in another African language.

- Contemporary African literature 155900839
- History in African and Caribbean literature 155901013
- African language literatures (oral and written) 155900677
- Representations and transformations: South African drama and film

155901165

- The structure of Bantu languages 155901257
- Theory and practice of Swahili translation 155901259
- Religions of Africa (0.5 Unit) 158000119
- Religion in Africa 155901151
- Extended essay in African studies (a) (0.5 Unit) 155900762
- Extended essay in African studies (b) (0.5 Unit) 155901188
- Independent study project in African studies 155900763
- Directed study of an African language 155900934
- Black urban studies (0.5 Unit) 151230001
- Introduction to Pan-Africanism (0.5 Unit) 151230002
- Music in Africa 155800022
- The World of Cuban Music (0.5 Unit) 155800058
- Music in the Mande Cultural World (1 Unit) 155800056
- African Art I: Context and Representation 154900105
- African Art II: West Africa & the Atlantic World; History, Historiography and the Visual Arts. 154900124
- African Art III: the Art and Architecture of North Eastern Africa 154900132
- Africans in the Americas: Identities and Representation (0.5 Unit) 154900166
- Amharic 1 155900832
- Amharic 2 155900378
- Hausa 1 155900834
- Hausa 2(a) intermediate 155900324
- Hausa 2(b) survey of hausa literature 155900818
- Hausa 3(a) advanced 155900327
- Hausa 3 (b) selected texts 155900603
- Hausa 3e advanced hausa: translation skills (Kano course) 155900961
- Hausa 3f advanced hausa: comprehension and composition (Kano course) 155900962
- Hausa 3g advanced hausa: speaking and listening skills (Kano course) 155900963
- Somali 1 155900831
- Somali 2 155900811
- Advanced somali:formal usage 155901291
- Advanced somali: literature and culture 155901292
- Swahili 1 155900985
- Swahili 2a intermediate 155900986
- Swahili 2b - introduction to Swahili literature 155900987
- Swahili 3 155900635
- Swahili 4 155900636
- Theory and practice of Swahili translation 155901259
- Yoruba 1 155900833
- Yoruba 2 155900935
- Zulu 1 155900840
- Zulu 2 155900851

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

What methods will be used to achieve the learning outcomes?

Knowledge

- ☐ Knowledge will be gained by attending lectures and tutorials for the course, reading the books and articles recommended by the teachers and where appropriate through audio-visual materials.
- ☐ Those students taking an African language will be taught reading, writing, speaking and listening comprehension all of which will be assessed by written examination, course work and oral examination. Audio-visual materials and computer assisted language learning materials, where available, may also be used.
- ☐ In later years students may gain greater knowledge of a specific region in Africa by choosing to write essays (where choice is possible) on that region. Students may also concentrate on a specific area in the Independent Study Project full unit course or the Extended Essay half unit course.

Intellectual (thinking) skills

- ☐ Through engagement with teachers and other students in tutorials the student will develop their critical and analytical skills and the ability to discuss matters relating to African language, culture and society in an objective and mutually respectful manner.
- ☐ Course work, extended essays and the Independent Study Project provide the opportunity to demonstrate the critical and analytical skills which are developed through guidance and feedback from the teachers.

Subject-based practical skills

- ☐ In most courses the practical skill of presenting a synthesis of material gained from secondary and sometimes primary sources in the form of essays and, for some courses maybe presentations, will be developed during the degree.
- ☐ All students develop the practical skill of using the language they learn at a level appropriate to the course.
- ☐ The development of writing skills in an academic context is developed through the writing of essays and other course work including the final Independent Study Project (when chosen).

Transferable skills

- ☐ Research and writing skills will be developed through the writing of course work and the dissertation.
- ☐ The skills of independent learning will be gained by students as they undertake the reading and writing of course work during a particular course.
- ☐ The asssessment of written course work and the drafts of the Independent Study Project or Extended Essays (when chosen) will help develop the transferable skill of writing in a suitable register and presenting ideas and knowledge.

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 Handbook;
- Quality Assurance Handbook;
- UCAS website;
- QAA website.