Programme specification 2017-2018

SOAS

The following information forms the programme specification at SOAS, 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	Music
Final award	BMUS
Intermediate awards	N/A
Mode of attendance	Full time
UCAS code	W300 BA/MS
Professional body accreditation	N/A
Date specification created/updated	November 2017

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?	SOAS is the only Music department in the UK devoted to the study of world music. Our courses relate primarily to the musics of Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and their diasporas, and to the discipline of Ethnomusicology. At SOAS you can study the music of the world from the heart of London. London is home to many vibrant and diverse communities and diasporas whose music is our subject, and is host to a breathtaking array of world music concerts, workshops and festivals. It is in

many ways the natural home of ethnomusicology in the UK. Our students draw on and actively participate in this rich and varied musical life.

The SOAS Music Department is an internationally respected centre for research and teaching in Music. The Music Department achieved excellent scores in all the recent Research Assessment Exercises. We boast a faculty of internationally distinguished academic staff, who publish their research in books, articles, and reference works. They also produce CDs, host radio programmes (e.g. BBC Radio 3), and even find time to play music. We produce our own series of books on music, the SOAS Musicology Series. Music department students draw on the rich life of SOAS in many ways, participating in the diverse array of seminars held around the school, studying joint degrees, learning a language to support their doctoral research, or taking open option courses from other departments.

Performance is central to degree programmes in Music at SOAS. SOAS gives you the opportunity to study almost any Asian or African musical performance tradition for which a suitable teacher is available in London. In the BA, Performance is compulsory in year 1 and optional in years 2 and 3.

SOAS has a very active musical life. We host a highly successful, professionally-run Concert Series. We have many active student ensembles including Chinese silk-and-bamboo, Japanese, Korean samulnori, Javanese and Balinese gamelan, Thai, Middle Eastern, Klezmer, African mbira, Cuban big band and Afro-Cuban bata. We organise an annual World Music Summer School, in which students can become involved. The SOAS radio station, SOAS Radio, relies on student volunteers many of who come from the Music Department, and it

	devotes a lot of air time to world music.
Who would it suit?	This programme is suitable for students seeking a Music degree that focuses on the musics of Africa and Asia. The broad curriculum of the programme allows students to tailor their studies to their own particular interests. As public interest in the musics of the world and recognition of the value of multicultural education has increased, demand has also grown for graduates with knowledge of the world's musical traditions. A SOAS music degree is thus an important step towards specialised research or towards careers such as teaching, media, arts production and promotion and performance.
Programme structure	First-year courses cover the basic principles of ethnomusicology and survey a variety of Asian and African musics. Students additionally receive aural training (e.g. in transcription) and follow lessons in one or more Asian or African performance traditions. Qualified single-subject students may take one or two half-units in Western music at King's College, London. In Years 2 and 3, the student is encouraged to focus on the music of a selected region or regions through "area" courses focussing on Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the Jewish world. A number of non-regional "thematic" courses, performance options and independent research projects are also available. Open option courses in other departments may be taken as appropriate, once the Music requirements have been met.
Assessment summary	Assessments include the following; the proportion of each type of assessment will depend on the student's choice of courses: • Unseen written examinations, including Listening examinations. • Exercises (formative assessment)

	and course work (summative assessment).
	• Independent study projects and extended essays.
	• Performance examinations, including live musical performance and a viva voce element.
	• Student presentations.
	• Radio programmes.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A levels BBB including Music

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/)

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

To develop knowledge of Music in its practical, theoretical, historical, social and other aspects, with particular reference to the musics of Asia and Africa and the associated diaspora communities; and to develop understanding of these cultures and communities through Music.
To provide a foundation for further study at postgraduate level and for professional employment.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES
What will the student learn?

Knowledge & Understanding of:
1. Music of Asia and Africa. This is broadly defined to include: music from the major regions covered by the School, namely Africa, Near and Middle East, South and South-east Asia, East Asia and Central Asia; the music of diasporic cultures of Asian and African origin; and Asian and African contributions to global developments in music.
2. The principles and methods that may be applied to the study of any music in its cultural setting, and the problems and insights that arise when we compare musics on a worldwide basis; i.e. the theory and methods of ethnomusicology.
3. The repertoire, structures, history, theory, and processes of creation, performance, and transmission of specific musics of Asia and Africa.

4. Music as a social phenomenon, and its capacity for expressing and defining social relationships, cultural meanings and individual and group identities.

5. The relationship of music to other aspects of culture such as history, religion and philosophy, language and literature, politics and economics, etc., leading to greater awareness and understanding of the cultures of Asia and Africa and of the roles of music in human experience.

Intellectual (thinking) Skills

To varying degrees depending on the course combination chosen by the student, s/he will acquire skills including:

1. the ability to confront, explore and assimilate unfamiliar musical sounds, concepts, repertoires and practices.

2. the ability to relate music to its historical, social, cultural, political, philosophical, economic, spiritual and religious context, and to relate processes of change in music to historical, social and other factors;

3. the ability to assess concepts, hypotheses and methodologies critically in the light of evidence, and to apply insights and discoveries in one area of study to another;

4. the ability to call upon a wide knowledge and experience of the repertoire(s) studied and compare musics cross-culturally;

5. the ability to understand theoretical and aesthetic systems and relate theory and practice to each other;

6. the ability to assimilate relevant scholarly literature and relate its insights to the practice and experience of music.

Subject-based practical Skills

To varying degrees depending on the course combination chosen by the student, s/he will acquire skills including:

1. Music analytical skills, including aural recognition of musical structures and styles, and ability to understand and use music notation.

2. Performance to a basic or more advanced level on an instrument or instruments of Asia or Africa (including voice), or of a repertoire with Asian/African roots. Performance skills include: the physical skills required to play an instrument; ability to play in time, in tune, and in the appropriate style; skills of memorization, improvisation, ensemble playing etc.; and awareness of the cultural behaviour appropriate to the instrument and music concerned.

3. Manipulation of audio, video and digital materials, and use of recording and camera equipment in the studio and in the field.

4. Library research skills, and skills of writing and oral presentation.

5. Ability to combine musical knowledge with an understanding of the global market environment for music.

Transferable Skills

1. Intellectual transferable skills:
- skills of research and exploration; gathering, synthesis and evaluation of evidence, including the ability to quote from and acknowledge written sources; the ability to examine assumptions critically in the light of evidence; the ability to employ reasoning and logic in order to analyse data, and to formulate relevant arguments and hypotheses; and the ability to express, interpret and discuss such analyses, arguments and hypotheses;

2. Practical transferable skills:
- ability to synthesise inputs (materials, knowledge, instinct, tradition) in order to generate informed and personally owned outputs in written, aural or practical format;
- ability to work as an integrated member of a team, to respond to partnership and leadership, and to lead others in team-work (as in ensemble/choral performance, and leading such groups);
- skills in public presentation (as in musical performance and oral presentation);
- IT skills including word processing, use of online and CD-ROM/DVD-ROM information sources, and use of studio and field audio/video recording equipment;
- language skills, including as appropriate the study of one or more foreign languages;
- an appropriate outlook and experience for work in multi-cultural environments;
- awareness of issues within the arts world as they affect the promotion and performance of Asian and African music.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR GAINING 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

Single subject students

Year 1:
Single-subject students take the 6 compulsory 15 credit courses (90 credits in total) in the "Compulsory Courses" listing below. Their remaining 30 credits may be an "open option" course or a music course at King's College London.

Year 2:

Single-subject students take the compulsory 15 credit course Ethnomusicology Themes & Variations, listed in the "Compulsory Courses" list below. They must also take one unit chosen from the "Area Courses" list below. Remaining units can be selected from any of the course groups listed below, with up to one unit from an open option course, or music courses at Kings College London.

Year 3:

Single-subject students take the compulsory 15 credit course Urban Soundscapes. They must also take one unit chosen from the "Area Courses" list below. Remaining units can be selected from any of the course groups listed below, with up to one unit from an open option course, or music courses at Kings College London.

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

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
Compulsory courses						
4	1	155800071	Sounds and Cultures 1	15	Compulsory for single subject	
5	1	158100003	Great Works: Recordings, Objects, Films	15	Compulsory for single subject	
4	1	155800060	Music and Culture	15	Compulsory	
4	1	155800070	Intro to Music Analysis	15	Compulsory	
4	1	155800061	Performance 1a	15	Compulsory	
4	1	155800062	Performance 1b	15	Compulsory for single subject	
5	2	155800065	Ethnomusicology: Themes and Variations	15	Compulsory	
6	3	155800083	Urban Soundscapes	15	Compulsory	
Area courses						

5	2/3	155800080	Music and religion in South East Asia	15	Optional	
5	2/3	155800081	Popular and fusion music in South East Asia	15	Optional	

?	2/3	155800035	Music of Korea	30	Optional	
5	2/3	155800078	Musical Traditions of East Asia	15	Optional	
6	2/3	155800077	Pop and Politics in East Asia	15	Optional	
5	2/3	155800046	Indian Classical Music	30	Optional	
?	2/3	155800036	Music in the Cultures of South Asia	30	Optional	
6	2/3	155800059	Music of Central Asia	15	Optional	
5	2/3	155800074	Klezmer music: roots and revival	15	Optional	
?	2/3	155800075	Popular music and politics in Israel	15	Optional	
5	2/3	155800022	Music in Africa	30	Optional	
?	2/3	155800056	Music in the Mande cultural world	30	Optional	
5	2/3	155800079	Atlantic Africa: (P)Layers of mediation in African popular music	30	Optional	
5	2/3	155800058	The world of Cuban music	15	Optional	
General courses						
6	2/3	155800082	Composition	15	Optional	
6	2/3	155800073	Gender and Music	15	Optional	
5	2/3	155800069	Introduction to Sound Recording	15	Optional	
?	2/3	155800054	Music in Religion	15	Optional	
5	2/3	155800055	Music, Shamanism and Healing	15	Optional	
5	2/3	155800076	Presenting World Music on Radio	15	Optional	
5	2/3	155800053	The Music Business	15	Optional	
Project courses						
5	2/3	155800066	Extended essay in Music 1	15	Optional	
5	2/3	155800067	Extended essay in Music 2	15	Optional	
6	2/3	155800026	Independent Study Project in Music	30	Optional	
Performance courses						
5	2/3	155800042	Performance 2	15	Optional	
5	2/3	155800045	Performance 3	30	Optional	

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.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT
What methods will be used to achieve the learning outcomes?

Knowledge and understanding are communicated, learned and assessed by a varied mix of methods:

- Lectures and seminars.
- Musical performance and composition.
- Student presentations.
- Virtual Learning Environment, on-line resources and CAL.
- Library work – reading and listening.
- Studio work – recording, editing.
- Fieldwork – recording, interviewing, participant observation.

Assessment:
- Unseen written examinations, including Listening examinations.
- Exercises (formative assessment) and course work (summative assessment).
- Independent study projects and extended essays.
- Performance examinations, including live musical performance and a viva voce element.
- Student presentations.

Intellectual skills are cultivated and assessed through all the methods listed above.

Practical skills are acquired through lectures, private study, CAL, on-line resources and library research; **assessed** by coursework and listening examinations; group or private performance tuition; **assessed** by coursework, performance and viva voce examination. Studio and equipment training, **assessed** by coursework and independent study projects. Exercises, student presentations and coursework with written/oral feedback from tutors, and **assessed** through Independent Study Projects and other coursework.

Transferable skills are learned throughout the curriculum; in particular, through coursework, independent study projects and written examinations, and through practical training, performance examinations, student presentations, coursework, independent study projects, open option courses and written examinations.

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

1. School learning and teaching strategy
2. Staff research

3. QAA framework for higher education qualifications
4. Relevant subject benchmark

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;