

Programme specification

SOAS, University of London

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	BSc Management
Final award	BSc Honours
Intermediate awards	N/A
Mode of attendance	Full Time
UCAS code	
Professional body accreditation	N/A
Date specification created/updated	April 2013

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?	This programme provides students with a strong scientific grounding in management science alongside optional specialist knowledge of business and management in Asian and Middle East and North African (MENA) regions. Students take courses in management and organisational theory, accounting, finance, managerial economics, marketing, corporate governance, research methods and international business strategy, together with specialist courses that draw on SOAS's knowledge of management and finance in the Asian and MENA regions. During their time at SOAS students have the opportunity to

	<p>take approved courses from other SOAS departments, such as Law, Politics, Economics and Languages and Cultures, providing a rich inter-disciplinary learning environment.</p> <p>The programme aims to provide students with a conceptual understanding of the core principles of management theory, its application to organisations and the ability to apply this knowledge to real issues facing businesses and other organisations.</p>
Who would it suit?	<p>Graduates will have a firm grasp of management disciplines that should place them in a good position to pursue a career in business, banking, consulting, media and other industries. Students who attain a first or upper second will be well-placed to embark on postgraduate study. The Department of Financial and Management Studies (DeFiMS) maintains close links with employers in the United Kingdom, and its focus regions. We expect that many of our graduates will move into manufacturing, banking, consulting, media, and other industries.</p>
Programme structure	<p>Students take modules to the value of 4 units in each year. The programme has been designed so that second and third year courses build on courses taken in previous years. In their final year at SOAS students undertake an independent study project or dissertation equivalent to 1 course unit.</p>
Assessment summary	<p>The assessment procedures involve coursework assignments, unseen written examinations and a dissertation. They provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter and course content taught in lectures, tutorials and computer lab sessions.</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/>)

PROGRAMME AIMS

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

- The programme aims to teach a combination of courses on management and organisational theory, business strategy and financial management with specialist regional courses. It is aimed at students wanting to pursue a rigorous scientific based course of study in the theories underpinning how organisations function; how they deal with uncertainty; how they grow and expand; and how they make decisions and strategy.
- The planned syllabus includes specific courses on management theory distinguishing it from other first-degree management programmes; alongside more general courses in finance and management (e.g. finance and accounting, marketing, international management, research methods, managerial economics, strategy).

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

What will the student learn?

Knowledge

This programme aims to provide students with an understanding of management theory and its sub-disciplines (accountancy, strategy, managerial economics, marketing and finance) and specialist knowledge of management and finance in the Asian and MENA regions. For example, having successfully completed the programme students should:

- have detailed knowledge of the various management and organisational theories, principles and practice
- understand the strengths and limitations of different statistical and accounting techniques and critical methods
- understand how the findings achieved by use of different managerial strategies organisational structures, incentive frameworks, financial techniques and critical methods may be used to inform managerial decisions in different countries and organisational contexts.
- understand the limits and effectiveness of different managerial, organisational, financial and other regulatory systems
- understand the different roles played by managers in different functions and cultures
- understand how far factors associated with the global and local cultural context influence decision-making within organisations

Intellectual (thinking) skills

Having successfully completed the programme, students should be able to handle concepts and principles in the subject areas taught. Students should be able to:

- explain and interpret concepts in these subject areas
- understand theoretical models and their relevance in different organisational structures and cultural contexts

- identify how far techniques, conventions and practice differ across cultures, and to show why
- appraise and assess empirical analyses and evidence
- interpret and critically assess the applications made of standard models in different cultural contexts

Subject-based practical skills

Having successfully completed the programme, students should be able to apply knowledge and principles in the following areas, and to apply basic models. Specifically, he/she should be able to:

- construct and apply models, systems, and techniques
- interpret financial statements and accounts of businesses and other organisations
- apply different conventions and techniques to construct financial statements, accounts and reports
- explain how models learned in the programme may be used to inform managerial decisions in different countries and organisational contexts
- assess and appraise models, systems and techniques taught in the programme
- use statistical techniques and appropriate computer software
- understand and critically appraise case studies and qualitative research

Transferable skills

Having successfully completed the programme, students should be able to transfer intellectual and practical skills to:

- participate in the labour market at degree level
- think from first principles to conceptualise and analyse management problems
- solving actual problems in the workplace
- have an understanding of how organisations function, and of the managerial, organisational and financial constraints they face
- estimate the extent to which the skills learned can be transferred between different organisations, and to make any modifications necessary
- estimate the extent to which the skills learned can be transferred between economic and cultural contexts, and to make any modifications necessary
- build on their knowledge to acquire experience and additional skills via specialised professional training
- (in the case of those attaining a good 2.1 or first class honours degree) have a good grounding that will prepare them for postgraduate study

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/>

Programme structure diagram

Below is a structure diagram for this programme.

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
4	1	151030001	Introduction to Accounting	0.5	core and compulsory	
4	1	151030002	Understanding Company Accounts and Reports	0.5	core and compulsory	
4	1	TBC (new)	Organisational Behaviour	0.5	compulsory	
4	1	151030005	Quantitative and Analytical Techniques for Managers	0.5	compulsory	
4	1	TBC (new)	Principles of Management	1	core and compulsory	
4	1	Existing in different department	History and Culture of a preferred region/country	1	compulsory	
5	2	151030006	Corporate Finance and Financial Accounting	0.5	core and compulsory	
5	2	151030007	Managerial Accounting	0.5	core and compulsory	
5	2	151030008	International Business Strategy	0.5	core and compulsory	
5	2	151030009	Managerial Economics	0.5	core and compulsory	
5	2	151030010	International Marketing 1: the Environment	0.5	compulsory	
5	2	151030011	Qualitative and Case Study Research	0.5	compulsory	
5	2	TBC (new)	Business Ethics	1	compulsory	

			and Corporate Social Responsibility			
6	3	151030012	Financial Strategy	0.5	compulsory	
6	3	151030018	International Human Resource Management	0.5	compulsory	
6	3	151030016	Independent Study Project	1	compulsory	
6	3	1 or 2 new courses are needed to extend the existing portfolio.	Finance in a specific region/country	0.5	compulsory	
6	3	1 or 2 new courses are needed to extend the existing portfolio.	Contemporary Issues in the economy of a specific region/country	0.5	compulsory	
6	3	151030017	Corporate Governance	0.5	Compulsory	
6	3	151030015	International Marketing 2: Global Markets	0.5	option	

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

Knowledge of theoretical and empirical analysis in management is developed via weekly lectures and tutorials in which a particular topic is introduced and discussed. Students are guided in their reading and independent study on particular topics. In the accounting course units students also carry out exercises, while in the quantitative techniques course they learn how to use a statistical package and how to generate and interpret results. Lectures are led by an academic while tutorials offer students an opportunity to debate ideas, present their work and communicate. The assessment procedures involve coursework assignments, tests and unseen examinations. They provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the content and systems taught in lectures, tutorials and the literature.

Intellectual (thinking) skills

Lectures are led by an academic and their purpose is to provide a synthesis of the theoretical and empirical analysis on particular topics and to encourage students to think about key intellectual questions and issues in international management. Tutorials offer students an opportunity to debate ideas discussed in the lectures, to present their work, to problem solve and to learn via open discussion in small groups. Students are encouraged to develop their own thinking on topics based on readings, lectures and class discussions. The theoretical material in the course encourages the development of analytical and conceptual skills, while the more applied and empirical subjects develop students' ability to apply techniques and assess empirical data and evidence. The assessment procedures involve assignments and examinations. They provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their intellectual skills. Coursework and written examinations test students' ability to use data and analytical models to inform managerial decisions/strategies.

Subject-based practical skills

The programme offers students the opportunity to develop practical skills including: the ability to use library-based databases to carry out literature searches; reading and synthesis skills; essay writing skills; accounting methods and techniques; use of a statistical package and quantitative and qualitative techniques. The tutorials, coursework and examinations encourage students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the theoretical and empirical content and to appreciate the contours of debate in management science. In the Quantitative and Analytical Techniques module almost half the tutorial hours are held as computer lab sessions. In the accounting modules unseen written examinations test the students' ability to inform decision-making on the basis of data and analytical models taught in the classroom and the literature. Each course requires a weekly commitment of three hours to attend lectures and tutorials, for the remainder of the time students are encouraged and expected to undertake substantial preparation by reading about the topic, carrying out exercises and preparing for tutorial discussions. The dissertation requirement aims to develop an awareness of how the basic content and principles can be transferred in different industries and global applications. Practical skills are assessed via coursework assignments, tests and written examinations.

Transferable skills

- Students are taught to develop their ability to think from first principles, to analyse different management contexts and to problem solve. Small group teaching via tutorials encourages communication skills and teamwork. The accounting courses develop numeracy skills and the ability to apply financial techniques, while the quantitative techniques module shows students how to use statistical software and how to generate and interpret empirical results. Written communication skills are enhanced via essay writing and the independent study project (dissertation). The programme provides students with opportunities to apply their understanding of management and finance to various organisational and cultural contexts. Transferable skills are assessed via formative assessment in tutorials and computer lab sessions and via coursework assignments, tests and written and oral examinations.

REFERENCE POINTS

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

- School Learning and Teaching Strategy
 - Faculty Learning and Teaching Strategy
 - Staff research
 - QAA framework for higher education qualifications
 - Comparison with similar programmes in the UK, Europe and North America.
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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.
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FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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