

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	Senior Status LLB
Final award	LLB
Intermediate awards	N/A
Mode of attendance	Full Time
UCAS code	M102
Professional body accreditation	Joint Academic Stage Board representing the Solicitors Regulatory Authority and Bar Standard Board
Date specification created/updated	March 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?	In addition to fulfilling the requirements of a QLD, the SOAS Senior Status LLB also provides students with an overview of legal systems in Africa and Asia creating a truly global, and consequently unique, Senior Status LLB.
Who would it suit?	There is strong demand for the Senior Status LLB amongst overseas non-law graduates especially from Canada and India although it will also be attractive to home non-law graduates who would prefer a more academic alternative to the GDL.
Programme structure	Year 1: ILLP, LSAA, Obs 1, Property Year 2: Obs 2, Criminal, Public, Equity & Offshore, EU/HR
Assessment summary	A combination of unseen exams and coursework

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/>)

However entrance to the Senior Status LLB will be restricted to non-law graduates from recognised institutions with a GPA of 3.2 or its equivalent.

PROGRAMME AIMS

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

- To introduce students to the skills essential for an understanding and analysis of law in various contexts.
- To encourage the development of specialized knowledge and understanding of particular fields of law.
- To develop skills of analysis and expression, both oral and written.
- To develop additional skills and knowledge in accordance with the requirements of the legal professional bodies as issued from time to time.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

What will the student learn?

Knowledge

- Knowledge and understanding of the fundamental doctrines and principles which underpin the law of England and Wales particularly in the Foundations of Legal Knowledge as specified from time to time by the professional bodies;
- A knowledge of the sources of that law, and how it is made and developed; of the institutions within which that law is administered and the personnel who practice law;
- The ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a wide range of legal concepts, values, principles and rules of English law and to explain the relationship between them in a number of particular areas;
- Students are also expected to acquire specialist knowledge in course units outside the Foundations of Legal Knowledge. This includes, but is not necessarily confined to, knowledge and understanding of the following:
 - a) the theoretical, practical and comparative underpinnings of legal doctrine
 - b) the context in which legal initiatives take place;
 - c) the role played by law in different social, cultural and economic environments;
 - d) the role and function of legal institutions, including those in selected legal systems in Asia and Africa, and those of the international community;
 - e) the weight and significance of different sources and methodologies;

- f) knowledge of how to locate relevant materials and assess their relevance and/or importance.

Intellectual (thinking) skills

- Students should become precise and careful in their assessment of legal arguments, and understand the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to legal issues.
- Students should be able to engage in theoretical and conceptual debate concerning the role of law and legal institutions.

Autonomy

- Students can reflect on their own learning.
- Students can seek and make use of feedback
- Work in groups as a participant who contributes effectively to a group's tasks.

Subject-based practical skills

- To apply knowledge to complex situations;
- To recognise potential alternative conclusions for particular situations, and provide supporting reasons for them;
- To select key relevant issues for research and to formulate them with clarity;
- To use standard paper and electronic resources to produce up-to-date information;
- To make a personal and reasoned judgement based on an informed understanding of standard arguments in the area of law in question;
- To use the English language and legal terminology with care and accuracy;
- To conduct efficient searches of websites to locate relevant information; to exchange documents by email and manage information exchanges by email;
- To produce word-processed text and to present it in an appropriate form.
- Write good essays and dissertations.

Transferable skills

The programme will encourage students to:

- Structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing; and digest rapidly and effectively substantial amounts of reading.
- Develop critical awareness of issues in various subject areas.
- Use a wide range of written and digital materials, in libraries and research institutes, of a kind and range that they will not have used as undergraduates.
- Present material orally

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

The degree will last two years (rather than the usual three) in line with all other Full Time Senior Status LLBs and require students to take and pass all 9 courses. The degree will be classified on eight courses (like the current LLB) with ILLP not included in the matrix for classification purposes (although it must still be passed). A student who fails one subject will not switch to the BA Law either during or at the end of the degree as can occur under the normal LLB.

Programme structure diagram

Below is a structure diagram for this programme.

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
4	2	155200049	Introduction to Law & Legal Processes	30	Compulsory	
4	2	155200029	Legal Systems of Africa & Asia	30	Compulsory	
4	2	155200014	Obligations 1 (Contract)	30	Compulsory & Exemption Unit	Exemption unit must be passed for your degree to be recognised by the professional bodies in England and Wales
6	2	155200017	Law of Property	30	Compulsory & Exemption Unit	Exemption unit must be passed for your degree to be recognised by the professional bodies in England and Wales
4	3	155200034	Criminal Law	30	Compulsory & Exemption Unit	Exemption unit must be passed for your degree to be recognised by the professional

						bodies in England and Wales
5	3	155200005	Public Law	30	Compulsory & Exemption Unit	Exemption unit must be passed for your degree to be recognised by the professional bodies in England and Wales
5	3	155200019	Obligations 2 (Tort)	30	Compulsory & Exemption Unit	Exemption unit must be passed for your degree to be recognised by the professional bodies in England and Wales
6	3	155200051	European Human Rights Law & European Union Law	30	Compulsory & Exemption Unit	Exemption unit must be passed for your degree to be recognised by the professional bodies in England and Wales
6	3	155200017	Equity & Offshore	30	Compulsory & Exemption Unit	Exemption unit must be passed for your degree to be recognised by the professional bodies in England and Wales

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

- Students are required to attend all classes, study extensively on their own and together with other students, and prepare themselves to participate in an informed way in discussions. Students are also required to undertake assessed coursework and, in the ILLP course, to participate in assessed mooting (oral legal argument).
- The usual format of classes is 2 hours of lectures per week, plus 1 hour of tutorial per week

Assessment: These skills are assessed as part of the normal assessment of coursework and unseen examination.

Intellectual (thinking) skills

Critical thinking is fostered in all course units offered in the Programme, in that all units introduce information and ideas that need to be assessed critically and analysed in context. Students are encouraged not simply to summarise evidence and arguments but also develop their own assessments as to the relative value of different strategies/ arguments/ evidence.

Assessment: These skills are assessed as part of the normal assessment of coursework and unseen examination.

Subject-based practical skills

- Through tutorials and coursework, particularly in instruction concerning the answering of problem questions and the compulsory mooting component of the Introduction to Law and Legal Processes (ILLP) course unit. The production of word-processed text and its presentation is not taught as such, but coursework is required to be produced in word-processed form; Some subject based Practical skills are specifically taught in the ILLP course unit.6

Assessment: These skills are assessed as part of the normal assessment of coursework and unseen examination.

Transferable skills

- Through preparation for seminars, essays, course work, and examinations.
- Through individual and /or joint seminar presentations and class participation.
- Through preparation for seminars, through discussion in seminars, through correction of formative assessment by tutors and through preparation of answers to exam questions.
- Through the formation of study groups

Assessment: These skills are assessed as part of the normal assessment of coursework and unseen examination.

REFERENCE POINTS

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

- The accelerated two-year senior status degree would be a welcome addition to SOAS' School of Law portfolio as there is the potential to recruit good quality international students onto the course.
 - SOAS currently receives applications for the three-year LLB from students who have already completed undergraduate degrees at good universities, often overseas (e.g. in Canada). Each year we lose these applicants to other universities in the UK who offer the accelerated two-year senior status degree, as this degree saves students time and money, and therefore is an obvious choice over the three-year option.
 - Both LLBs, (two and three-year duration), are recognised overseas, again for example in Canada once they have been accredited through the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada.
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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](#) and [Postgraduate](#) Handbooks;
- Student Information Guide: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/law/guides/ug/>;
- [Quality Assurance Handbook](#);
- [UCAS website](#);
- [QAA website](#);
- Programme Information: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/law/programmes/ssllb/>