SADRC
Three-Year Strategy 2026–2029

Our Direction

Three years after its launch, the SOAS Arbitration & Dispute Resolution Centre (SADRC) has established a strong reputation for high-quality work at the intersection of academia and practice. Through partnered events, regional collaborations, and an active community of practitioners, academics, and students, the Centre has developed a distinctive platform connecting dispute resolution expertise across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

The 2026–2029 strategy focuses on turning that foundation into greater reach, engagement and long-term resilience. Rather than pursuing activity for its own sake, SADRC will concentrate on fewer, higher-quality initiatives that strengthen its regional identity, deepen partnerships and make the Centre's academic and professional contribution more valued and visible.

Vision for 2029

By 2029, SADRC will be the leading institution operating at the interface of academia and practice in dispute resolution across Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Strategic Priorities

1. A stronger and more engaged membership

SADRC will develop its membership community beyond a communications network into an active professional and academic community. A two-tier model will provide a free basic membership alongside a premium offering with tangible benefits, including partner discounts, member profiles, featured-member opportunities and cross-regional mentoring. Membership will be actively promoted through Centre activities and partner networks.

2. High-quality, thematic events

The Centre will prioritise high-profile, in-person and partnered events, supported by a structured annual programme. From 2027, programming will be organised around annual themes, with a disciplined webinar schedule complemented by more hybrid and in-person activity. Partnerships with law firms and other institutions will also support career-focused opportunities for students and early-career practitioners.

3. Strategic partnerships and regional reach

Partnerships will be developed where they strengthen SADRC's standing, open access to new audiences or regions, enable meaningful co-delivery, or contribute resources to the Centre's activities and scholarship objectives. Particular attention will be given to strengthening SADRC's presence in China while deepening established relationships across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

4. Publications with purpose

SADRC will create a graduated publications pipeline that extends the life of its events and research. Beginning with an occasional paper series and short articles derived from Centre events, the publications pipeline will develop a themed edited collection linked to the annual programme, and, by Year 3, produce practitioner-focused jurisdictional guides. The aim is to convert the Centre's intellectual activity into durable and accessible outputs.

5. Students at the centre

Students will remain central to SADRC's mission. The Centre will expand career-focused events, mentoring opportunities and student engagement, and will develop a moot or mock arbitration competition open to students from other London institutions. Student representatives will continue to act as ambassadors at Centre activities.

6. A stronger digital platform

SADRC will strengthen its digital presence so that its website and communications reflect the quality and reach of its work. Subject to feasibility, the Centre will develop a dedicated standalone website, while continuing to use LinkedIn and YouTube as key channels. Podcast-style interviews and other digital content will help extend the reach and longevity of Centre events.

Three-Year Roadmap

2026/27 · Foundations	2027/28 · Build	2028/29 · Consolidate
Design and promote the membership offer; establish the annual thematic programme; begin China and wider regional partnership outreach; launch the publications pipeline; expand student and career engagement; explore a dedicated website.	Launch the premium membership tier; deepen cross-regional mentoring; expand hybrid and in-person programming; develop priority partnerships; commission a themed edited collection; stage the first moot/mock arbitration competition; build the digital platform.	Grow and review membership; consolidate the thematic programme and partnership portfolio; publish the first edited collection; develop the moot into an annual fixture; establish the website as the Centre's primary platform; undertake a full strategy review.

What Success Will Look Like

By the end of 2028/29, SADRC aims to demonstrate stronger engagement across its community, a functioning premium membership offering, a broader and more strategic institutional partnership portfolio, and a stronger presence in underrepresented regions. Success will also be reflected in a sustained programme of publications, expanded student opportunities, a recurring moot or mock arbitration competition, a dedicated digital platform, and continued growth of the Centre's scholarship resources.

Progress will be reviewed at the end of each academic year, allowing the Centre to adapt implementation while maintaining the strategic direction for 2026–2029.