

International Foundation Courses and English Language Studies (IFCELS)

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ICC

FOUNDATION PROGRAMME



A foundation year for international students preparing for undergraduate degrees at SOAS and other UK universities in:

- Economics and Finance
- Business and Management
- Law
- Media
- Social Sciences
- Humanities

ICC – at a glance



A WELL-ESTABLISHED PRE-UNDERGRADUATE FOUNDATION PROGRAMME...

The ICC programme has been running since 1985 and has developed a reputation for high-quality, academic study.

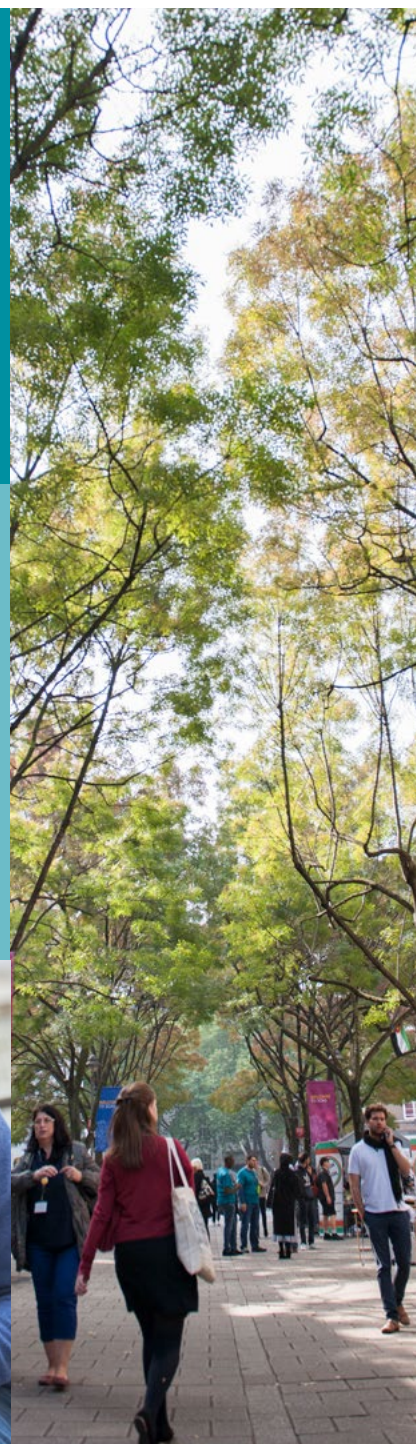
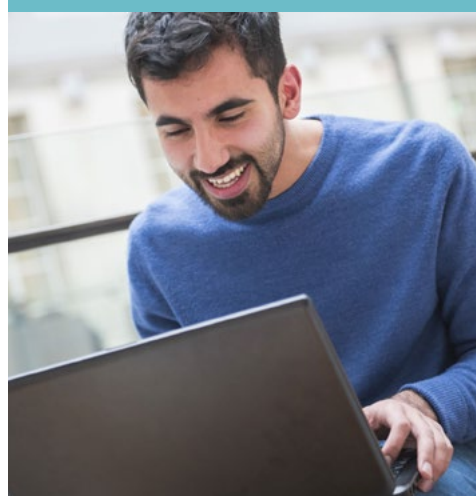
Since then over 2500 of our graduates from all over the world have gone on to degrees at British universities.

SOAS is a college of the University of London and the world's leading centre for the study of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The library is the UK's most important collection of resources about these regions. SOAS is a vibrant and friendly multicultural community in the heart of London with half its students coming from outside the UK.

The IFCELS department at SOAS is one of the UK's leading centres for foundation and pre-master's study. It runs the ICC Foundation as well as the FDPS Pre-master's and language programmes focusing on academic English, study skills and academic subjects. During the summer (July to September) there are courses in English language and pre-sessional English as well as academic subjects such as Business Studies, Media, Development Studies, International Relations, Literature, Art and Film, all with supporting English language classes.

...GUARANTEEING A CONDITIONAL OFFER FOR SOAS UG PROGRAMMES

All ICC students are guaranteed a conditional offer for any SOAS undergraduate programme and a 5% discount on the tuition fees for the full period of undergraduate study.



...RECOGNISED BY HIGH-LEVEL UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE UK

Since 2015 the majority of ICC students progressing to a degree went on to study at SOAS or a top 30 UK university*, including UCL, Warwick, Durham, York, St Andrew's and Edinburgh, and over 70% went on to a college of the University of London. The latest destinations list is at:

www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels/ugfoundation/destinations

* Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020



...OFFERING A RANGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, HUMANITIES AND BUSINESS-RELATED SUBJECT AREAS

Students can choose from modules covering 8 different study areas: Law, Politics, Economics, Business Studies, Media and Communications, Development Studies, History, World Art and Literature.

...PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A WIDE RANGE OF UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

ICC students progress to a range of undergraduate programmes, including Economics, Law, Business and Management, Politics and International Relations, Development Studies, Finance and Accounting, Anthropology, History of Art and Media Studies.

.....DELIVERED ON THE SOAS CAMPUS IN CENTRAL LONDON

All ICC teaching is delivered by SOAS staff on the college's central London campus on Russell Square, in the heart of the University of London. As full members of the SOAS student community, ICC students have access to all SOAS and University of London facilities, including the world-renowned SOAS and Senate House libraries, giving them a complete university experience.

.....THROUGH AN APPROACH WHICH INTEGRATES ACADEMIC ENGLISH DEVELOPMENT AND ACADEMIC STUDY

The programme combines in-depth academic study with subject-specific English language support to maximise the students' development. By the end of the programme they are prepared both academically and linguistically for demanding undergraduate study.

Approach to Study

PROGRAMME AIMS

- To **help** students gain access to undergraduate degrees at British universities in the humanities, social sciences and business-related studies.
- To **provide** students with the linguistic and academic skills they will need for success at university.
- To **broaden** students' knowledge by giving them access to a wide range of academic subjects.
- To **enable** students to experience life as a student at a top UK university.

STUDENT PROFILE

We are looking for motivated and serious international students with potential to study at undergraduate level.

Typically they are either:

Students who have completed (or almost completed) their high school education in their own country but do not qualify for direct admission to undergraduate degrees in Britain.

or

Students who have been educated partly in English-medium schools in Britain or elsewhere but who have not been able to complete their studies or achieve the grades they require for direct entry to a degree programme.

The ICC aims to provide students with the academic, critical thinking, language and study skills they will require to be successful on a challenging undergraduate degree programme in the UK.

The weekly learning cycle integrates academic and English language study so students develop their academic knowledge, study skills and English ability within each specific subject area.

ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

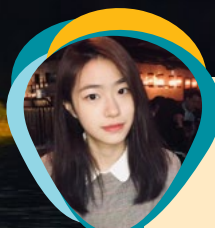
Intensive study of academic subjects in much more depth than is usual in most countries' high school systems.

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Analysing concepts, assessing and interpreting evidence, examining connections between ideas, asking questions, forming opinions, developing arguments and drawing conclusions within academic subject areas.

LANGUAGE AND STUDY SKILLS

General and academic English with a strong focus on essay writing, academic reading, seminar skills, lecture listening and note-taking. The English classes supporting the academic courses introduce students to subject-specific vocabulary, language and study skills.



Xiaohan Lin China

BSc Economics and Statistics, UCL

It has been an incredible year studying on ICC. The dedication and remarkable passion of the staff bring high quality teaching and well-structured modules, making it much more than a standard Foundation Programme. The topics I studied introduced me to new academic fields and enhanced my critical thinking ability. What ICC has taught me is more than just academic knowledge intended for universities, but also the principle that nothing is unachievable with great effort, and sometimes you can even exceed your expectations.



Daria Kushnerenko Russia

BA Development Studies and World Philosophies, SOAS

I am incredibly glad I decided to take the ICC International Foundation at SOAS. ICC provided me with a deep understanding of history, culture and the socio-economic processes of the world we live in today. In the age of widespread technology and great access to information, it is crucial to learn how to evaluate facts. ICC enabled me to develop critical reasoning and helped me to engage with academic life. The support which I received from teachers during the year played a huge part in my study success. I would like to thank the staff members of IFCELS and I am really happy to continue studying at SOAS.

Programme Structure

The programme provides students with a broad range of in-depth knowledge to prepare them for undergraduate study. In order to do this, students follow university-style academic modules with subject-specific academic English support.

Each student studies four subjects – Intensive English for Academic Study and three academic modules, one of which is compulsory and two are chosen from our list of options. The academic modules are led by subject specialists who deliver the lectures and lead the tutorial discussions.

All academic modules are supported by English teachers, who focus not only on developing students' grammatical accuracy and fluency, but also on increasing their subject-specific vocabulary and improving their reading, lecture listening and note-taking skills.

Students are assessed throughout the year by means of assignments in each academic module, and coursework in the Academic English course. The final examinations are held in June.

Students have up to 17 hours of academic and English language tuition each week and, as on an undergraduate degree programme, they are expected to study at least as many hours a week outside class reviewing and preparing for classes, reading, completing homework tasks and writing coursework assignments. Teaching consists of lectures, small group tutorial discussions and supporting English language classes.



Begoña Arechalde Spain

BSc International Relations and Chinese, LSE

ICC has not only been one of the best educational experiences I have had, it has also been a family to count on away from home. The high level and demands of the programme gave me a unique perspective on the world and opened the doors to the best universities in the United Kingdom to me, which I know will make a difference to my future career.



Kazuki Sakai Japan

BA Development Studies and International Relations, SOAS

ICC helped me to bridge the gap between high school and university, especially the study style at UK universities. Being able to choose highly specific subject modules in Development Studies and Politics on ICC provided me with a focussed preparation for my undergraduate degree. ICC showed me how to shape the ways of thinking towards the field of international cooperation and to understand the issues more deeply and critically.

Programme Content

Compulsory Modules

INTENSIVE ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC STUDY

This module focuses on developing students' general academic English essay writing and oral skills. We address aspects of academic literacy including constructing arguments, evaluating texts and using them to provide evidence and examples, delivering academic presentations and participating in academic discussion. The content is closely linked to the Understanding the Modern World module.

UNDERSTANDING THE MODERN WORLD

Degrees at UK universities are usually quite specialised but, whatever subject you plan to study, a detailed and in-depth approach still requires a broad background of knowledge about European and world society. We take a global perspective and consider a wide range of issues to explore the development of the modern world and to challenge students to re-assess their pre-existing views. The main themes are:

- social, political and economic change: industrialisation, urbanisation and the development of liberal democracy
- the forces which have influenced the global order: nationalism, revolution, war and colonialism
- current trends such as the decline of religion, multiculturalism and the changing role of the family
- the effects of globalisation on modern society



Nor Zulfaqr Mohamed Malaysia

LLB Law, SOAS

ICC shows us how to be proper university students in the UK. It taught me how to adapt to university life and massively assisted me in changing my approach to study. From only being able to answer exam questions, I can now write assignments and essays fully independently. Thanks to my success on ICC, I'm really happy to have the chance to stay at SOAS, with its diverse and international student body, to study for the competitive LLB Law degree.

Optional Academic Modules – students choose two

BUSINESS STUDIES

An opportunity for students interested in business-related degree programmes – for example Management, Marketing, Finance and Accounting – to gain an understanding of different aspects of the business world including:

- Marketing
- Human resource management
- Organisational structure

ECONOMICS

We provide you with an introduction to the principles of economics through an exploration of key current global issues:

- Pricing, markets and regulation
- Government and national economies
- International trade
- Environment and climate change
- Globalisation and the world economy



Xiaoguo Wang China

BSc Mathematics with Finance, Manchester

SOAS has the most diverse and warm atmosphere and I believe everyone will find their best teachers and best friends here just like I did. I am extraordinarily grateful to have experienced this fulfilling and growing year at SOAS, and this period will always be one of the most precious memories in my life.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Grasp the massive impact of the media on the world today by studying the key theories and concepts behind the subject. Some of the main topics are:

- News and public opinion
- Advertising and the consumer society
- The audience and its response
- Cinema, TV and the new media

INTERNATIONAL LAW

With globalisation, an understanding of legal issues is now essential in international relations and trade. Explore how international law is made, why states (usually!) obey it, and its relationship with society. Some key topics are:

- Treaties and the use of force
- International Criminal Law and terrorism
- The UN, human rights and peace settlements
- International Economic, Environmental and Maritime Law

POLITICS

Political ideas are a dynamic force in shaping the world today. You will meet key concepts and explore their application in Britain and internationally, including:

- Politics, power and democracy
- Liberalism, Marxism and feminism
- Parliament, parties and democracy
- International Politics: approaches, theories and systems

DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

This is an exciting interdisciplinary field drawing on economics, politics, law and other subjects. We survey current hot topics in development and explore their historical background. Key issues introduced are:

- Poverty, education, population and gender
- The environment and sustainable development
- NGOs, the World Bank, the IMF and the WTO
- Development Economics

WORLD HISTORY

The module provides insights into the events, people and cultures that have shaped the modern world. You will also gain insights into the discipline of history and explore different approaches, themes and schools of history. Topics include:

- The Ottoman, Persian and Mughal Empires
- New Imperialism: Europe, Africa, Asia
- World Wars I and II
- Decolonisation and the Cold War

WORLD ART AND LITERATURE

The World Art and Literature module provides an international perspective for the exploration of comparative literary and visual themes, as students develop an understanding of the dynamic relationship between art, literature and society, and assess the contribution that they make to global and cultural processes. Both aspects of the module highlight the importance of historical and geographical context in the creation and interpretation of artistic and literary works but also focus on issues and debates that have shaped the modern world. The module also capitalises on SOAS' campus in the heart of London, and spends regular lesson time in major museums, galleries and historic literary locations.

- Key movements in the arts
- Postcolonialism and migration
- Representations of gender and race
- Arts and their environment

Student Support

Academic Advice

ICC students apply through UCAS for degree programmes before the mid-January deadline and the IFCELS Academic Advice team provides them with guidance throughout each stage of the application procedure.

Students are advised on choices of subject, selection of appropriate programmes and universities, completion of the application form including the personal statement and dealing with the application as it progresses.

Accommodation, Welfare Support and Visas

Accommodation is available in SOAS or other University of London halls of residence, private student halls and hostels, flats or homestays. The School's Student Advice and Wellbeing team can help students with their accommodation needs. Up to date details of types of accommodation available including costs can be found on the IFCELS Accommodation page at: www.soas.ac.uk/accommodation.

If you are intending to apply for SOAS or University of London accommodation, you are advised to apply for ICC as early as possible. This is because bookings for SOAS and University of London halls open in March and you need to accept your ICC offer before you can apply for accommodation.

All ICC students have a Personal Tutor. He or she is one of their teachers or lecturers who takes a special interest in their studies and is available to meet to discuss any problems or difficulties confidentially. IFCELS staff work closely with the SOAS student support team. ICC students have full access to the services provided by the student counsellors, learning advisers, Students' Union and disability officers.

The Student Advice and Wellbeing team also deals with any issues concerning student visas, including giving general advice to prospective students and assisting existing students with visa applications. More information about this can be found on the Immigration and Visa Advice webpage - www.soas.ac.uk/studentadviceandwellbeing/students/immigration



Zhanhui Jiang China
BA Social Anthropology, SOAS

The time studying on ICC was a memorable and remarkable year of my academic life. It gave me a comprehensive preparation for my future academic study. The excellent support and teaching methods equipped me with confidence and massive enthusiasm for academic study.



Entrance Requirements and Application

Applications can be made by following by following this link to instructions on the ICC Foundation webpages – www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels/ugfoundation

The English language requirement to join ICC is IELTS for UKVI 5.5 overall with 5.0 in each subscore or Pearson UKVI 50 with 46 in each subscore. Other English test evidence is considered but in order to successfully apply for a Student Visa, UKVI-approved test evidence will need to be obtained at some point before the submission of the visa application.

We normally prefer applicants to have graduated, or to be in the process of graduating, from high school, and to meet a minimum level of academic performance. If an applicant's academic qualifications do not meet our minimum requirements, we can still consider them on a case-by-case basis and may also ask them to join us for an online consultation via platforms like Zoom, Skype, WeChat or Google Meet, so that we can find out more about their educational experience, study goals and motivation for further degree-level study. Minimum academic entry requirements for the programme can be found on the ICC Foundation webpages - www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels/ugfoundation

Please note that any student who is made an offer and requires a Student Visa in order to study in the UK will be required to provide a Secure English Language Test (SELT) certificate from an IELTS for UKVI test or Pearson PTE IELTS, in order to apply for a visa.

Students who need to improve their English may be made an offer conditional on attending our online Summer Pathway Preparation Course for six weeks in August and September. Students who need a longer period of English Language preparation can join the pre-foundation pathway on our English Language and Academic Studies (ELAS) programme from January or April (www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels/elas).

