

Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	MA South Asian Studies and Intensive Language	
Final award (<i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the Taught Degree Regulations</i>)	UG – FHEQ level 6	PGT – FHEQ level 7
	BA <input type="checkbox"/>	MA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	BSc <input type="checkbox"/>	MSc <input type="checkbox"/>
	LLB <input type="checkbox"/>	MRes <input type="checkbox"/>
		LLM <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other ... <input type="checkbox"/>	
	If other, please specify FHEQ level: ...	
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning <input type="checkbox"/>	
	On-campus <input type="checkbox"/>	
Professional body accreditation (<i>if applicable</i>)		
Academic year this specification was created	2021/22	
Dates of any subsequent amendments		

II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability to read, write, speak and understand a modern South Asian language to a level suitable for field research in the region where it is spoken. 2. Comprehensive critical understanding of the society, history, and culture of South Asia, or of a particular country or region of South Asia, from an interdisciplinary perspective. 3. Expertise in the theory and practice of a chosen discipline that will provide a basis for research in a South Asian context. 4. Critical and analytical skills, research and writing skills.
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III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to assess data and evidence critically from printed, digital and visual sources, and solve problems of conflicting sources and interpretations. 2. How to locate materials, use research sources (particularly research library catalogues) and other relevant traditional and non-traditional sources. 3. Subject specific skills, particularly intensive familiarity with a South Asian language and the ability to read texts and interact in that language. 4. Aspects of South Asian history, economics, politics, legal systems, art and archaeology, literature, visual and popular culture, anthropology and music. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seminars and classes. Students are required to attend all classes, study extensively on their own and prepare non-assessed work regularly. • language courses in both years and immersion in a South Asian language environment over the summer between year 1 and 2. • dissertation research supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unseen or open-book examinations • Reaction papers • Long essays • Presentations • Dissertation • Class tests • Oral examinations

Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of precision and caution in assessing evidence. 2. Development of critical awareness and independence of thought. 3. Sensitivity to the existence of non-Eurocentric views and an awareness of the limitations of purely Eurocentric interpretations. 4. Awareness of the value of a South Asian language in understanding the culture of a specific country/region within the region. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fostered in all courses offered in the programme, in that all courses will introduce information that will need to be assessed critically and will demonstrate how conflicting interpretations arise from the same information • acquisition of 3 through practice at presenting seminars, discussing each other's work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unseen or open-book examinations • Reaction papers • Long essays • Presentations • Dissertation • Class tests • Oral examinations
Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of written communication skills 2. Development of oral communication skills 3. Development of research skills 4. Development of language skills 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of 1 through the writing of long essays and dissertations in English and translations from and simple compositions in a South Asian language • Acquisition of 2 through sessions with the SOAS library and each other's work. • Acquisition of 3 through regular seminar presentations and discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unseen or open-book examinations • Reaction papers • Long essays • Presentations • Dissertation • Class tests • Oral examinations

Learning Outcomes: Transferable skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective oral and written communication skills 2. Ability to access and assess information from both traditional and electronic sources 3. Ability to work to deadlines 4. Ability to interact with mother tongue speakers of the language at an appropriate level. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of 1 to 4 through long essays, coursework and dissertation writing, seminar presentations and discussions and through the study of a variety of written and digital materials, in libraries and research institutes of a kind they will not have used as undergraduates • Acquisition of 5 through an attachment to a teaching institution in South Asia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unseen or open-book examinations • Reaction papers • Long essays • Presentations • Dissertation • Class tests • Oral examinations

General statement on contact hours – undergraduate programmes

All full-time undergraduate programmes consist of 120 credits per year, in modules of 30 or 15 credits. They are taught over 10 or 20 weeks. The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which optional.

As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see <https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/>). Also included are class time, which may include lectures, seminars and other classes. Some subjects may have more class time than others – a typical example of this are language acquisition modules.

In the Department of [...], most undergraduate modules have a [...] -hour lecture every week. Some, but not all, also have a [...] -hour seminar every week/every [...] weeks.

More information can be found on individual module pages.

General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes

Masters programmes (with the exception of two-year full-time MAs) consist of 180 credits, made up of taught modules of 30 or 15 credits, taught over 10 or 20 weeks, and a dissertation of 60 credits. The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which optional.

As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see <https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/>) such as reading and research, preparing coursework, revising for examinations and so on. Also included is class time, for example lectures, seminars and other classes. Some subjects may have more class time than others – a typical example of this are language acquisition modules.

At SOAS, most postgraduate modules have a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary.

More information can be found on individual module pages.

MA South Asian Studies & Intensive Language (two years full-time)

Intensive language pathways available: Hindi, Sanskrit or Urdu

Year 1	credits	Language Component SOAS 30	Taught Component SOAS 15	Taught Component SOAS 15
	module code		15PLIH004/15PLIH054	15PNMH053
	module title	Hindi, Sanskrit or Urdu Language at appropriate level	Language, Society & Communication OR Intercultural Communication & Interaction	Remapping Area Studies in Asia, Africa and the Middle East
		language acquisition	compulsory module	compulsory module
		Taught Component SOAS 45	Taught Component SOAS 15	Study Abroad 45
		From a selection of relevant Area Studies modules (see below)	Open option	15PSAC021/15PSAC022/ 15PSAC023
		guided options	open option	Intensive Hindi, Urdu or Sanskrit Summer Abroad
				study abroad
Year 2	credits	Language Component SOAS 30	Taught Component SOAS 60	Dissertation 60
	module code			15PSAC997
	module title	Hindi, Sanskrit or Urdu Language at appropriate level	From a selection of relevant Area Studies modules (see below)	Dissertation in South Asian Area Studies
		language acquisition	guided options	compulsory module

Code	Title	Credits	Status
Anthropology			
15PANH064	Culture and Society of South Asia	15	
15PANH085	African and Asian Diasporas in the Contemporary World: Cultures of Resistance and the Dissolution of Boundaries	15	
Art and Archaeology			
15PARH101	Arts of the Tamil Temple	15	
15PARH099	Buddhist Art in a Cosmopolitan Environment: Gandharan Art and its Heritage	15	
15PARH075	Tibetan Buddhist Monuments in Context	15	
Cinema			
15PSAH001	Indian Cinema: Its History and Social Context	15	
15PSAH002	Indian Cinema: Key Issues	15	
Culture			
15PSAH034	Politics of Culture in Contemporary South Asia – A	15	
15PSAH035	Politics of Culture in Contemporary South Asia – B	15	
15PSAH017	Culture and Conflict in Nepal	15	
15PSAH013	Imagining Pakistan (PG)	15	
Development Studies			
15PAIC003	Contemporary India: Issues, Methods and Approaches	15	
Economics (some background in economics is a prerequisite for these modules; please contact the convenor for details)			
15PECC026	Political Economy of Development and Change in South Asia	15	
15PECC027	Topics in the Political Economy of Contemporary South Asia	15	
History			
15PHIH041	Community, Religion and Conflict in South Asian History	15	
15PHIH029	Historical Perspectives on Gender in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East	15	
15PHIH054	Colonial Curricula: Empire and Education at SOAS and Beyond	15	
15PHIH056	The Afghanistan Wars, 1979 to the Present	15	
Interdisciplinary studies			
15PCSC003	Postcolonial Theory and Practice	30	
Language (up to 30 credits as a minor only; additional language may exceptionally be taken, but only one at beginner's level)			
15PSAH028	Bengali Language 1 A (PG)	15	
15PSAH029	Bengali Language 1 B (PG)	15	
15PSAC304	Bengali Language 2 (PG)	30	
15PSAH022	Hindi Language 1 A (PG)	15	Hindi pathway
15PSAH023	Hindi Language 1 B (PG)	15	Hindi pathway
15PSAC296	Hindi Language 2 (PG)	30	Hindi pathway
15PSAC297	Hindi Language 3 (PG)	30	Hindi pathway
15PSAC308	Hindi Language 4 (PG)	30	Hindi pathway
15PSAC305	Readings in Contemporary Hindi (PG)	30	
15PSAH024	Nepali Language 1 A (PG)	15	
15PSAH025	Nepali Language 1 B (PG)	15	
15PSAC299	Nepali Language 2 (PG)	30	
15PSAC309	Prakrit Language 1 (PG)	30	
15PSAH020	Sanskrit Language 1 A (PG)	15	Sanskrit pathway
15PSAH021	Sanskrit Language 1 B (PG)	15	Sanskrit pathway
15PSAC306	Sanskrit Language 2 (PG)	30	Sanskrit pathway
15PSAH030	Punjabi Language 1 A (PG)	15	

15PSAH031	Punjabi Language 1 B (PG)	15	
15PSAH026	Urdu Language 1 A (PG)	15	Urdu pathway
15PSAH027	Urdu Language 1 B (PG)	15	Urdu pathway
15PSAC301	Urdu Language 2 (PG)	30	Urdu pathway
15PSAH032	Urdu Literacy A (PG)	15	
15PSAH033	Urdu Literacy B (PG)	15	
15PNMH016	Persian 1 A (PG)	15	
15PNMH017	Persian 1 B (PG)	15	
15PNMH026	Persian 2 A (PG)	15	
15PNMH027	Persian 2 B (PG)	15	
15PNMC408	Persian 3 (PG)	30	
15PCHH039	Tibetan (Classical) 1 A	15	
15PCHH039	Tibetan (Classical) 1 B	15	
15PSRC034	Middle Persian	30	
Law			
15PLAH025	Colonialism, Empire and International Law	15	
15PLAC129	Law and Society in South Asia	30	
Literature			
15PSAH038	Literatures of Resistance in South Asia	15	
15PCH004	Comparative Literature: Methodology and Critique	15	
15PCH005	Comparative Literature: A New Era	15	
15PNMC401	Classical Persian Poetry: Texts and Traditions (PG)	15	
15PSAC319	Sanskrit Texts on Yoga	30	
Music			
15PMUH025	Indian Vocal Music: Styles and Histories	15	
15PMUH021	Sacred Sound in South Asia	15	
Politics & International Studies			
15PPOH052	Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia	15	
15PPOH058	International Relations of South Asia	15	
15PPOH064	Politics of Development in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia	15	
15PPOH065	Politics of Imagining South Asia	15	
15PPOH068	Politics of South Asia: Beyond India	15	
15PPOH070	Race and Caste	15	
Religions & Philosophies			
15PSRH049	Religions and Development	15	
15PSRC172	Buddhist Meditation in India and Tibet	30	
15PSRC173	The Origins and Development of Yoga in Ancient India	30	
15PSRH046	Yoga and Meditation: Perspectives, Context and Methodologies	15	
15PSRH054	The Religions of Ancient India	15	
15PSRH060	Yoga and Meditation in the Jaina Tradition	15	
15PNMC228	Modern Trends in Islam	30	
15PSRH050	Critical Concepts in Buddhist Studies	15	
15PSRC052	Zoroastrianism: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives	30	

MA South Asian Studies & Intensive Language (four years part-time)

Intensive language pathways available: Hindi, Sanskrit or Urdu

Year 1	credits	Language Component SOAS 30	+	Taught Component SOAS 15	+	Taught Component SOAS 15
	module code	Hindi, Sanskrit or Urdu Language at appropriate level		15PLIH004/15PLIH054 Language, Society & Communication OR Intercultural Communication & Interaction		15PNMH053 Remapping Area Studies in Asia, Africa and the Middle East
	module title	language acquisition		compulsory module		compulsory module
		Study Abroad 45				
		15PSAC021/15PSAC022/ 15PSAC023				
		Intensive Hindi, Urdu or Sanskrit Summer Abroad				
		study abroad				
Year 2	credits	Language Component SOAS 30	+	Taught Component SOAS 30		
	module code	Hindi, Sanskrit or Urdu Language at appropriate level		From a selection of relevant Area Studies modules (see below)		
	module title	language acquisition		guided options		
Year 3	credits	Taught Component SOAS 45	+	Taught Component SOAS 15		
	module code	From a selection of relevant Area Studies modules (see below)		Open option		
	module title	guided options		open option		
Year 4		Taught Component SOAS 30	+	Dissertation 60		
		From a selection of relevant Area Studies modules (see below)		15PSAC997 Dissertation in South Asian Area Studies		
		guided options		compulsory module		

Code	Title	Credits
Anthropology		
15PANH064	Culture and Society of South Asia	15
15PANH085	African and Asian Diasporas in the Contemporary World: Cultures of Resistance and the Dissolution of	15
Art and Archaeology		
15PARH101	Arts of the Tamil Temple	15
15PARH099	Buddhist Art in a Cosmopolitan Environment: Gandharan Art and its Heritage	15
15PARH075	Tibetan Buddhist Monuments in Context	15
Cinema		
15PSAH001	Indian Cinema: Its History and Social Context	15
15PSAH002	Indian Cinema: Key Issues	15
Culture		
15PSAH034	Politics of Culture in Contemporary South Asia – A	15
15PSAH035	Politics of Culture in Contemporary South Asia – B	15
15PSAH017	Culture and Conflict in Nepal	15
15PSAH013	Imagining Pakistan (PG)	15
Development Studies		
15PAIC003	Contemporary India: Issues, Methods and Approaches	15
Economics (some background in economics is a prerequisite for these modules; please contact the convenor for details)		
15PECC026	Political Economy of Development and Change in South Asia	15
15PECC027	Topics in the Political Economy of Contemporary South Asia	15
History		
15PHIH041	Community, Religion and Conflict in South Asian History	15
15PHIH029	Historical Perspectives on Gender in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East	15
15PHIH054	Colonial Curricula: Empire and Education at SOAS and Beyond	15
15PHIH056	The Afghanistan Wars, 1979 to the Present	15
Interdisciplinary studies		
15PCSC003	Postcolonial Theory and Practice	30
Language (up to 30 credits as a minor only; additional language may exceptionally be taken, but only one at beginner's level)		
15PSAH028	Bengali Language 1 A (PG)	15
15PSAH029	Bengali Language 1 B (PG)	15

15PSAC304	Bengali Language 2 (PG)	30	
15PSAH022	Hindi Language 1 A (PG)	15	Hindi pathway
15PSAH023	Hindi Language 1 B (PG)	15	Hindi pathway
15PSAC296	Hindi Language 2 (PG)	30	Hindi pathway
15PSAC297	Hindi Language 3 (PG)	30	Hindi pathway
15PSAC308	Hindi Language 4 (PG)	30	Hindi pathway
15PSAC305	Readings in Contemporary Hindi (PG)	30	
15PSAH024	Nepali Language 1 A (PG)	15	
15PSAH025	Nepali Language 1 B (PG)	15	
15PSAC299	Nepali Language 2 (PG)	30	
15PSAC309	Prakrit Language 1 (PG)	30	
15PSAH020	Sanskrit Language 1 A (PG)	15	Sanskrit pathway
15PSAH021	Sanskrit Language 1 B (PG)	15	Sanskrit pathway
15PSAC306	Sanskrit Language 2 (PG)	30	Sanskrit pathway
15PSAH030	Punjabi Language 1 A (PG)	15	
15PSAH031	Punjabi Language 1 B (PG)	15	
15PSAH026	Urdu Language 1 A (PG)	15	Urdu pathway
15PSAH027	Urdu Language 1 B (PG)	15	Urdu pathway
15PSAC301	Urdu Language 2 (PG)	30	Urdu pathway
15PSAH032	Urdu Literacy A (PG)	15	
15PSAH033	Urdu Literacy B (PG)	15	
15PNMH016	Persian 1 A (PG)	15	
15PNMH017	Persian 1 B (PG)	15	
15PNMH026	Persian 2 A (PG)	15	
15PNMH027	Persian 2 B (PG)	15	
15PNMC408	Persian 3 (PG)	30	
15PCHH039	Tibetan (Classical) 1 A	15	
15PCHH039	Tibetan (Classical) 1 B	15	
15PSRC034	Middle Persian	30	
Law			
15PLAH025	Colonialism, Empire and International Law	15	
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15PPOH052	Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia	15	
15PPOH058	International Relations of South Asia	15	
15PPOH064	Politics of Development in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia	15	
15PPOH065	Politics of Imagining South Asia	15	
15PPOH068	Politics of South Asia: Beyond India	15	
15PPOH070	Race and Caste	15	
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15PSRH049	Religions and Development	15	
15PSRC172	Buddhist Meditation in India and Tibet	30	
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15PSRH046	Yoga and Meditation: Perspectives, Context and Methodologies	15	
15PSRH054	The Religions of Ancient India	15	
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