

## Programme Specification

### I. Programme Details

<b>Programme title</b>	MA South Asian Area Studies	
<b>Final award</b> ( <i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the <a href="#">Taught Degree Regulations</a></i> )	<b>UG – FHEQ level 6</b>	<b>PGT – FHEQ level 7</b>
	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: ...	
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	Distance-learning <input type="checkbox"/>	On-campus <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Professional body accreditation</b> ( <i>if applicable</i> )		
<b>Academic year this specification was created</b>	2021/22	
<b>Dates of any subsequent amendments</b>		

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

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completing intensive introduction to several academic disciplines relating the study of South Asia</li> <li>2. An opportunity to learn a South Asian language</li> <li>3. The ability to participate in the ongoing research and cultural activities concerning South Asia offered through the SOAS South Asia Institute</li> <li>4. Undertaking an extended piece of independent research and writing</li> </ol>
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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"> <li>1. How to assess data and evidence critically from printed, digital and visual sources, and solve problems of conflicting sources and interpretations.</li> <li>2. How to locate materials, use research sources (particularly research library catalogues) and other relevant traditional and non-traditional sources.</li> <li>3. Subject specific skills, for instance familiarity with a South Asian language and the ability to read texts in that language.</li> <li>4. Aspects of South Asian history, economics, politics, legal systems, art and archaeology, literature, visual and popular culture, anthropology and music.</li> </ol>	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures (1- or 2-hour)</li> <li>• Seminars/student-centred tutorials</li> <li>• Language classes</li> <li>• Directed reading and preparation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unseen or open-book examinations</li> <li>• Reaction papers</li> <li>• Long essays</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Dissertation</li> <li>• Class tests</li> <li>• Oral examinations</li> </ul>

<b>Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students should become precise and cautious in their assessment of evidence.</li> <li>2. Students should question interpretations, however authoritative, and reassess evidence for themselves</li> <li>3. Apply language learning skills to new linguistic challenges, or to new oral or written texts.</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition of points 1 and 2 is 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 can arise from the same information.</li> <li>• Acquisition of point 3 through language tuition and practice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unseen or open-book examinations</li> <li>• Reaction papers</li> <li>• Long essays</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Dissertation</li> <li>• Class tests</li> <li>• Oral examinations</li> </ul>
<b>Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Communicate effectively in writing.</li> <li>2. Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources.</li> <li>3. Present seminar papers.</li> <li>4. Participate constructively in the discussion of ideas introduced during seminars</li> <li>5. Work to strict deadlines</li> <li>6. Use and apply foreign language skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition of point 1 through the writing of long essays, coursework and dissertations.</li> <li>• Acquisition of point 2 through guided and independent reading, web-based research.</li> <li>• Acquisition of point 3 through regular seminar presentations.</li> <li>• Acquisition of point 4 through seminar discussion.</li> <li>• Acquisition of point 5 through the setting of clear deadlines for the submission of written work.</li> <li>• Acquisition of point 6 through class tuition and practice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unseen or open-book examinations</li> <li>• Reaction papers</li> <li>• Long essays</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Dissertation</li> <li>• Class tests</li> <li>• Oral examinations</li> </ul>

<b>Learning Outcomes: Transferable skills</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Write good essays and dissertations</li> <li>2. Structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing</li> <li>3. Understand unconventional ideas</li> <li>4. Study a variety of written and digital materials, in libraries and research institutes of a kind they will not have used as undergraduates</li> <li>5. Present material orally</li> <li>6. Communicate in a foreign language</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition of point 1 through long essays, coursework and dissertation.</li> <li>• Acquisition of point 2 through seminar presentations, discussions and essays.</li> <li>• Acquisition of points 3 and 4 through reading, long essays and class discussion.</li> <li>• Acquisition of point 5 through oral presentations in class with feedback from tutor and peers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unseen or open-book examinations</li> <li>• Reaction papers</li> <li>• Long essays</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Dissertation</li> <li>• Class tests</li> <li>• Oral examinations</li> </ul>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acquisition of point 6 through class tuition and practice.</li></ul> |  |
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### **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 Area Studies**

	<b>Dissertation</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>		<b>Taught Component</b>
<b>credits</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>30/15</b>		<b>75/90</b>
<b>module code</b>	15PSAC997		15PNMH053		Major to the value of 30 or 15 credits: see list		Minors to the value of 75 or 90 credits: see list
<b>module title</b>	Dissertation in South Asian Area Studies	+	Remapping Area Studies in Asia, Africa and the Middle East	+	Major to the value of 30 or 15 credits: see list	+	Minors to the value of 75 or 90 credits: see list
	compulsory module		compulsory module		major module		minor modules
	<b>Open Option</b>						
	<b>0/15</b>						
	Up to 15 credits of Open Options may be taken						
	open option						

**NB: In Area Studies degrees:**

1) a maximum of **60 credits** can be taken in any one discipline.

2) a minimum of **three disciplines** must be covered.

3) for students opting to take more than 30 credits of language acquisition modules, only **30 credits** can be at introductory level.

Code	Title	Credits	Status
<b>Anthropology</b>			
15PANH064	Culture and Society of South Asia	15	minor only
15PANH085	African and Asian Diasporas in the Contemporary World: Cultures of Resistance and the Dissolution of Boundaries	15	minor only
<b>Art and Archaeology</b>			
15PARH101	Arts of the Tamil Temple	15	major or minor
15PARH099	Buddhist Art in a Cosmopolitan Environment: Gandharan Art and its Heritage	15	major or minor
15PARH075	Tibetan Buddhist Monuments in Context	15	major or minor
<b>Cinema</b>			
15PSAH001	Indian Cinema: Its History and Social Context	15	major or minor
15PSAH002	Indian Cinema: Key Issues	15	major or minor
<b>Culture</b>			
15PSAH034	Politics of Culture in Contemporary South Asia – A	15	major or minor
15PSAH035	Politics of Culture in Contemporary South Asia – B	15	major or minor
15PSAH017	Culture and Conflict in Nepal	15	major or minor
15PSAH013	Imagining Pakistan (PG)	15	major or minor
<b>Development Studies</b>			
15PAIC003	Contemporary India: Issues, Methods and Approaches	15	major or minor
<b>Economics (some background in economics is a prerequisite for these modules; please contact the convenor for details)</b>			
15PECC026	Political Economy of Development and Change in South Asia	15	major or minor
15PECC027	Topics in the Political Economy of Contemporary South Asia	15	major or minor
<b>History</b>			
15PHIH041	Community, Religion and Conflict in South Asian History	15	major or minor
15PHIH029	Historical Perspectives on Gender in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East	15	major or minor
15PHIH054	Colonial Curricula: Empire and Education at SOAS and Beyond	15	major or minor
15PHIH056	The Afghanistan Wars, 1979 to the Present	15	major or minor
<b>Interdisciplinary studies</b>			
15PSC003	Postcolonial Theory and Practice	30	major or minor
<b>Language (up to 30 credits as a minor only; additional language may exceptionally be taken, but only one at beginner's level)</b>			
15PSAH028	Bengali Language 1 A (PG)	15	minor only
15PSAH029	Bengali Language 1 B (PG)	15	minor only
15PSAC304	Bengali Language 2 (PG)	30	minor only
15PSAH022	Hindi Language 1 A (PG)	15	minor only
15PSAH023	Hindi Language 1 B (PG)	15	minor only
15PSAC296	Hindi Language 2 (PG)	30	minor only
15PSAC297	Hindi Language 3 (PG)	30	minor only
15PSAC308	Hindi Language 4 (PG)	30	minor only
15PSAC305	Readings in Contemporary Hindi (PG)	30	minor only
15PSAH024	Nepali Language 1 A (PG)	15	minor only
15PSAH025	Nepali Language 1 B (PG)	15	minor only
15PSAC299	Nepali Language 2 (PG)	30	minor only
15PSAC309	Prakrit Language 1 (PG)	30	minor only
15PSAH020	Sanskrit Language 1 A (PG)	15	minor only
15PSAH021	Sanskrit Language 1 B (PG)	15	minor only
15PSAC306	Sanskrit Language 2 (PG)	30	minor only
15PSAH030	Punjabi Language 1 A (PG)	15	minor only
15PSAH031	Punjabi Language 1 B (PG)	15	minor only
15PSAH026	Urdu Language 1 A (PG)	15	minor only
15PSAH027	Urdu Language 1 B (PG)	15	minor only
15PSAC301	Urdu Language 2 (PG)	30	minor only

15PSAH032	Urdu Literacy A (PG)	15	minor only
15PSAH033	Urdu Literacy B (PG)	15	minor only
15PNMH016	Persian 1 A (PG)	15	minor only
15PNMH017	Persian 1 B (PG)	15	minor only
15PNMH026	Persian 2 A (PG)	15	minor only
15PNMH027	Persian 2 B (PG)	15	minor only
15PNMC408	Persian 3 (PG)	30	minor only
15PCHH039	Tibetan (Classical) 1 A	15	minor only
15PCHH039	Tibetan (Classical) 1 B	15	minor only
15PSRC034	Middle Persian	30	minor only
<b>Law</b>			
15PLAH025	Colonialism, Empire and International Law	15	major or minor
15PLAC129	Law and Society in South Asia	30	major or minor
<b>Literature</b>			
15PSAH038	Literatures of Resistance in South Asia (PG)	15	major or minor
15PCSH004	Comparative Literature: Methodology and Critique	15	major or minor
15PCSH005	Comparative Literature: A New Era	15	major or minor
15PNMC401	Classical Persian Poetry: Texts and Traditions (PG)	15	major or minor
15PSAC319	Sanskrit Texts on Yoga	30	major or minor
<b>Music</b>			
15PMUH025	Indian Vocal Music: Styles and Histories	15	major or minor
15PMUH021	Sacred Sound in South Asia	15	major or minor
<b>Politics &amp; International Studies</b>			
15PPOH052	Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia	15	major or minor
15PPOH058	International Relations of South Asia	15	major or minor
15PPOH064	Politics of Development in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia	15	major or minor
15PPOH065	Politics of Imagining South Asia	15	minor only
15PPOH068	Politics of South Asia: Beyond India	15	major or minor
15PPOH070	Race and Caste	15	major or minor
<b>Religions &amp; Philosophies</b>			
15PSRH049	Religions and Development	15	major or minor
15PSRC172	Buddhist Meditation in India and Tibet	30	major or minor
15PSRC173	The Origins and Development of Yoga in Ancient India	30	major or minor
15PSRH046	Yoga and Meditation: Perspectives, Context and Methodologies	15	major or minor
15PSRH054	The Religions of Ancient India	15	major or minor
15PSRH060	Yoga and Meditation in the Jaina Tradition	15	major or minor
15PNMC228	Modern Trends in Islam	30	major or minor
15PSRH050	Critical Concepts in Buddhist Studies	15	minor only
15PSRC052	Zoroastrianism: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives	30	major or minor