Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	South Asian Studies (Sanskrit Pathway)	
Final award *(exit awards will be made as outlined in the [Taught Degree Regulations](#))*	**UG – FHEQ level 6**	**PGT – FHEQ level 7**
	BA ☒	MA ☐
	BSc ☐	MSc ☐
	LLB ☐	MRes ☐
		LLM ☐
	Other … ☐	
	If other, please specify FHEQ level: …	
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning ☐	
	On-campus ☒	
Professional body accreditation *(if applicable)*		
Academic year this specification was created	2017/18 for 2018/19 onwards	
Dates of any subsequent amendments		

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

1. To achieve an excellent and broad-ranging foundational knowledge of the culture of South Asia, given by scholars at the forefront of their disciplines.
2. To grasp how each discipline approaches its object of study and organizes knowledge differently, by studying the same area from the standpoint of different intellectual traditions.
3. To prepare the student for either working in South Asian societies or in a context with South Asian connections, such as with South Asian diaspora in the UK.
4. The Sanskrit pathway is designed to give students a high level of competence in reading and understanding a wide range of Sanskrit texts, and a good knowledge of their cultural context. The pathway assumes no previous knowledge of Sanskrit or its script.

III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge	
1. a broad knowledge and understanding of South Asian culture, in its historical and contemporary developments;	
2. a coherent and detailed knowledge of selected aspects of South Asian society (including politics, law, economy) and/or culture (cinema, music, literature, art, religion), taught by specialists at the forefront of their disciplines;	
3. a detailed knowledge of a selected area of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh);	
4. competence in Sanskrit that will enable students to work in South Asia or with South Asians.	
Typical Teaching Methods	**Typical Assessment Methods**
• a broad knowledge and understanding of South Asian culture, in its historical and contemporary developments is taught through a survey lecture module and	

tutorials, assessed through coursework essays and unseen exam;	
• coherent and detailed knowledge of selected aspects of South Asian society (including politics, law, economy) and/or culture (cinema, music, literature, art, religion) will be developed through lecture modules delivered by specialists at the forefront of their disciplines; large lecture modules will also involve tutorials for small groups. Assessment will be through a combination of classroom presentations, coursework essays, written exams and the writing of an extended essay or Independent Study Project on a topic of the student's choice, which will involve the selection and analysis of primary texts and the critical discussion and assessment of secondary materials.	
• detailed knowledge of a selected area of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh) will be developed through disciplinary modules related to that area, the ISP, and language learning (optional after year 1).	
• If students decide to pursue language study, competence in speaking, reading and writing a South Asian language will be achieved through a progression of language modules taught in small groups that will develop and test all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing); assessment will consist of classroom tests, written coursework, oral presentations and written and oral exams. Intermediate and advanced language modules and text modules will use a wide range of "real world" cultural texts.	

Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills
1. the ability to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques at the forefront of knowledge related to South Asia.
2. the ability to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research in the various disciplines relating to South Asia;
3. an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge related to South Asia, and in particular of conflicting ideas and debates relating to history, language, culture, and politics.
4. the ability to manage one's own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources such as research articles and/or original materials related to South Asia.

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
• the ability to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques at the forefront of knowledge related to South Asia, will be developed through lectures, tutorials, oral presentations, classroom discussions, and essay-writing; • the ability to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research in the various disciplines relating to South Asia will be developed through readings for lectures, tutorials, and oral presentations, and through classroom discussions and essay-writing; • the appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge related to South Asia will be developed through the discussion of the conflicting ideas and debates relating to history, language, culture, and politics in lectures, tutorials, classroom discussions and questions set for coursework and exam essays. • the ability to manage one's own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources such as research articles and/or original materials related to South Asia will be developed by encouraging students to choose their own topics for coursework essays in years 2 and 4 and for the Independent Study Project.	

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills
1. Analyse cultural data and make judgements on the basis of conflicting evidence.   2. Assess the validity of different approaches to the same data or ideas.   3. Research cultural phenomena through both primary and secondary sources, making appropriate use of library and online resources.   4. If students choose to purse language study, the ability to comprehend, and communicate in, a South Asian language — through both speech and writing.

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
• The ability to analyse cultural data and make judgements on the basis of conflicting evidence will be fostered through module readings from year 1 onwards; • The ability to assess the validity of different approaches to the same data or ideas will be fostered through essay questions and classroom discussions; • The ability to research cultural phenomena through both primary and secondary	

sources, making appropriate use of library and online resources, will be fostered in particular in the written essays, oral presentations and Independent Study Project. • If students decide to pursue language study, the ability to comprehend, and communicate in, a South Asian language through both speech and writing will be fostered in the language modules.	

Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills	

The programme will encourage students to:
1. Write and speak with clarity and concision.
2. Use a variety of sources as research materials.
3. Work to deadlines.
4. Develop self-reflexiveness.
5. Develop an understanding of the relativity of cultures and "cultural" (or encultured) attitudes.
6. Assess the validity of arguments and make judgements on complex situations.

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
The programme will encourage students to: • Write and speak with clarity and concision by giving setting clear guidelines and giving detailed feedback to essays and presentations from year 1 onward; • Use a variety of sources as research materials in their essays, oral presentations and Independent Study Project. This is particular exhilarating for students in their final year, who find they can write on quite original topics using materials that no one has used before; • Work to deadlines, with clear deadlines for essays and penalty for late submission. • Develop self-reflexiveness through classroom discussion, feedback on essays and presentations, and module assessment. • Develop an understanding of the relativity of cultures and "cultural" (or encultured) attitudes, particularly through classroom discussion. • Assess the validity of arguments and make judgements on complex situations, in particular in essays and presentations.	

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 School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, undergraduate modules take various forms. Modules may be taught through 1 or 2 hours of lectures a week, and some may have an additional 1-2 hours of weekly seminars. Languages classes may be 4-5 hours per week in the first and second year, typically less at higher levels.

Year 1

credits	15	15	15	15	30	15	15
module code	155906005	155906064	155906065	158000110	154800231	158000118	
module title	Introduction to South Asia	Sanskrit Language 1 A	Sanskrit Language 1 B	R110 Introduction to Buddhism	Introduction to the History of South Asia	R120 Introduction to Hinduism	open option
FHEQ	level 4	level 5	level 5	level 4	level 4	level 4	
status	core module	core module	core module	compulsory module	compulsory module	compulsory module	open option

(modules joined by +)

Year 2

credits	30	30	30	30
module code	155901304	155900787	a language module or modules from List A or a module or modules from List B; or another module approved by the convenor	from List C
module title	Sanskrit Language 2	Selected Texts from the Sanskrit Epic		guided option **OR** 30 open option
FHEQ	level 5	level 5		
status	core module	compulsory module	compulsory module	open option

(modules joined by +)

Year 3

credits	120
	Study Abroad
status	compulsory module

Year 4

credits	30	30	30	30
module code	155900955	155900860		from List C
module title	Independent Study Project in South Asian Studies	Sanskrit Poetry and Aesthetics	from List C	guided option **OR** 30 open option
FHEQ	level 6	level 6		
status	compulsory module	compulsory module	guided option	open option

(modules joined by +)

List of modules (subject to availability)
Module availability in any given academic year will be communicated via the website.

List A

FHEQ leve	Code	Title	Credits
Elementary level			
5	155906054	Bengali Language 1 A	15
5	155906055	Bengali Language 1 B	15
5	155906056	Hindi Language 1 A	15
5	155906057	Hindi Language 1 B	15
5	155906060	Nepali Language I A	15
5	155906061	Nepali Language I B	15
5	155906062	Punjabi Language 1 A	15
5	155906063	Punjabi Language 1 B	15
5	155906058	Urdu Language 1 A	15
5	155906059	Urdu Language 1 B	15
5	155906048	Elementary Written Persian A	15
5	155906049	Elementary Written Persian B	15
4	158000200	Basic Pali	30
Intermediate level			
5	155900492	Bengali Language 2	30
5	155901183	Hindi Language 2	30
5	155901185	Readings in Contemporary Hindi	30
5	155900609	Nepali Language 2	30
5	155900513	Urdu Language 2	30
5	155901247	Urdu Literacy	30
5	158000124	Intermediate Pali	30
Advanced level			
6	155901302	Directed Readings in a South Asian Topic	30
6	155901269	Hindi Language 3	30
6	155901384	Hindi Language 4	30
6	155901295	Literature and Colonialism in North India	15
6	155901296	Narratives of Mobility in Hindi Literature	15
6	155901283	Nepali Language 3	30
??	155901408	Sanskrit Texts on Yoga	30
5	158000128	Vedic Sanskrit	30

List B Introductory modules on aspects of South Asian history and culture

FHEQ leve	Code	Title	Credits
4	158000053	Introduction to Jainism	15
4	154900156	Themes in the Art and Archaeology of South and Southeast Asia	15

List C Non-language-based South Asian and South Asian-related modules
Some modules require successful attendance of a relevant introductory module; students are advised to check the relevant module descriptions for prerequisites and consult the relevant module tutor before selecting modules.

Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia

FHEQ leve	Code	Title	Credits
5	155906001	Cinema and Society in South Asia: Key issues	15
5	155906003	Imagining Pakistan: Culture, Politics, Gender	15
5	155906007	Public Culture in Conteporary Nepal	15
6	155906006	South Asian Lives	15
Final year only:			
6	155900955	Independent Study Project in South Asian Studies	30
5	155901101	Extended Essay in South Asian Studies	15
School of Law			
6	155200032	Law and society in South Asia	30
6	155200073	Legal Systems of Asia and Africa	30
Department of Politics and International Studies			
5	153400020	Government and politics of South Asia	30
Department of English			
5	155900927	South Asian Literature in English	15
Department of History			
6	154800264	H234 Culture and Identity in Modern South Asia 1800-2000	30
5	154800103	H335 Gandhi and Gandhism	30
6	154800282	H337 Histories of Partition: India and Pakistan 1947 (I)	30
Department of History of Art and Archaeology			
6	154900184	Early Indian Art	30
5	154900161	Traditional art and modern South Asia	15
6	154900182	Imag(in)ing Buddhas in South Asia (1)	15
6	158000191	Imag(in)ing Buddhas in South Asia (2)	15
5	154900193	Art and empire in India 1300-1800	30
6	154900183	Gandharan Art and its Heritage	15
5	154900162	Hindu art in mediaeval India	15
Department of Music			
5	155800086	Music, Religion and Society in South Asia	15
6	155800093	Classical singing in India: continuity and change	15
??	155800087	Raga: concept and practice	15
Department of Religions & Philosophies			
5	158000023	Textual Sources of Classical Hinduism	30
5	158000018	Theravada Buddhism	30
5	158000097	Buddhist Monasticism	15
5	158000037	Mahayana Buddhism	15
5	158000054	Non-Violence in Jain Literature, Philosophy and Law	30
Department of Anthropology and Sociology			
5	151802083	Ethnography of South Asia	15
Department of Economics			
6	153400011	Economic development of South Asia	30