Introducing SOAS, University of London

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• SOAS is the School of Oriental and African Studies.

• SOAS is the largest centre in Europe for the study of Asia and Africa. It teaches more than 50 Asian and African languages as well as Economics, Law, Politics and other subjects.

• SOAS is one of 18 Colleges, Schools and Institutes, like LSE, UCL and King’s, which make up The University of London.
SOAS in Numbers:

- 5,500 students on campus
- 3,000 distance learning students
- 130+ different countries
- 47% UK students
- 53% International/EU students
- 46% Postgraduate
- 54% Undergraduate
Japanese Students at SOAS

About 100 Japanese Students at SOAS

Popular Subjects:
- Development Studies
- History of Art
- Politics and International Relations
- Anthropology

Also IFCELS Programmes:
- FDPS Premasters
- ELAS – English Language and Academic Studies
- ICC Foundation
- Summer Programme
Links with Japan

- SOAS has about 80 students each year studying for degrees in Japanese or Japanese with another subject.
- SOAS has about 20 partner universities in Japan and the students spend a year at one of these universities as part of their degree.
- As well as Japanese language, students can study all aspects of Japan at SOAS – history, literature, art, music, politics, economics, religion etc.
- The Japan Research Centre (JRC) coordinates research into Japan.
- SOAS has an active alumni group in Japan.
Why SOAS?

• Unique; distinctive, quirky, passionate and critical.
• Diverse – 53% of students from outside UK
• An international reputation for academic excellence; largest collection of regional experts in the world
• Unmatched variety of specialist courses
• Only European institution to exclusively focus on the study of Asia, Africa and the Middle East
• Alumni include Heads of State, government ministers, ambassadors, Nobel laureates
• Producing the next generation of leaders in emerging nations
• Small and friendly – a real community
Rankings

✓ **No. 1 for study of Asia in the UK (RAE 2008)**

✓ Sixty percent or more of research ranked at either the highest grade of 4* (world-leading quality) or 3* (internationally excellent).

✓ Queen’s Anniversary Award for teaching of Languages and Cultures

✓ 51st in world for modern languages, 52nd for Arts & Humanities (QS 2013)

✓ 26th in the world and 6th in the UK for Humanities (*Times Higher Education* 2013-4)

✓ 22nd overall in the UK (*Guardian* 2014)

✓ Ranked 6th **in the UK for Law** in the Guardian newspaper 2012
Located right next to the British Museum and British Library. Walking distance to Covent Garden, Oxford Street, Regents Park and many other famous attractions...
The National Library for the Study of Africa and Asia

- Over 1.5 million volumes in over 400 languages
- One of the UK’s five National Research Libraries – others located at Oxford, Cambridge, LSE & Manchester
- Used by students across the UK & academics across the world
- SOAS students have free membership to other University of London libraries
Brunei Gallery

- SOAS’s own gallery, attached to the University
- Holds the ‘Treasures of SOAS’
- Special exhibitions hosted throughout the year
- Japanese Roof garden open to students
- Part of ‘Museum Mile’
SOAS has three Faculties:

- Languages & Cultures
- Arts & Humanities
- Law & Social Sciences

• We offer over 350 single or joint honours degree programme combinations.

• Common to take ‘elective’ units from any other department (often languages)
Languages and Cultures

- Africa
- China and Inner Asia
- Japan and Korea
- Linguistics
- Near and Middle East
- South Asia
- South East Asia

There are about **50 non European languages available** at SOAS, including Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Turkish, Hebrew, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, Malay, Thai, Vietnamese, Burmese, Hausa, Zulu...
Arts & Humanities

All staff are specialists in regions, as well as disciplines.

- Anthropology & Sociology
- Archaeology
- History
- History of Art
- Media and Film Studies
- Music
- Study of Religions

In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise the Department of Anthropology and Sociology came equal second place, just behind Cambridge, and sharing a GPA of 2.95 with the LSE.
Law and Social Sciences

- Development Studies
- Economics
- Financial and Management Studies
- Law
- Politics and International Studies

- In the Department of Financial and Management Studies, 90% of the work of the department was rated as world-leading, internationally excellent, or internationally recognised.
- In the Department of Law in 2009, 85% of its RAE submissions were rated either as ‘world leading’, 'internationally excellent' or 'internationally recognised'.
Students’ Union

SOAS students are passionate and active – the highest rate of student involvement in the UK!!

100+ societies, from sports, politics and music clubs to good beer appreciation! [www.soasunion.org](http://www.soasunion.org)

Common room, shops, cafe

Bar - Live music, Film screenings, Cultural events, SOAS open-air radio [www.openair.org.uk](http://www.openair.org.uk)

University of London union - Gym and Pool next door to SOAS campus [www.ulu.co.uk](http://www.ulu.co.uk)
Notable SOAS Alumni

Luisa Diogo (former Prime Minister of Mozambique)

Aung San Suu Kyi (Nobel Peace Prize winner and leader of the opposition Burma)

Sir Reginald Fleming Johnston
(Tutor to Pu Yi, the last Emperor of China)

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand
(Honorary Fellow)

Jung Chang
(author “Wild Swans”, “Mao: the untold story”)

Paul Robeson (US civil rights activist)

Zeinab Badawi (BBC and Channel 4 news presenter and journalist)

Fatima Bhutto (Poet and writer, granddaughter of Zulfikar Al Bhutto)

Professor John Atta Mills (Former President of Ghana)

John Harding (Former Editor of The Times newspaper)
The IFCELS Department…..

Prepares students for degree-level academic study by:

• building academic English language skills
• delivering academic subjects in a range of arts, humanities and social science subjects
• developing critical thinking and independent research skills
• improving study skills
• introducing the learning style at UK universities
• providing a university campus experience
• offering academic and pastoral support
IFCELS Programmes

Undergraduate Foundation Programme
Intermediate Certificate Course in Comparative International Studies (ICC)

Pre-masters Programme
Foundation Diploma for Postgraduate Studies (FDPS)

English Language/Academic Studies Diploma in Academic English with Business Studies/Social Sciences/Humanities (ELAS)

Summer Programme

Presessional English Courses
IFCELS Objectives

• Reflect authentic university study
  Lectures, tutorial seminars, library-based academic research

• Provide integrated English language support
  Subject-based English support teachers

• Work with a serious, academic approach
  Emphasis on critical thinking and developing independent research skills

• Offer students individual support
  One-to-one tutorials, personal tutors, welfare and academic advice staff
IFCELS Summer Programme

Who is it for?
International students who would like to take a short academic course at a university in London.

• Pre-undergraduate
• During undergraduate
• Between UG and PG
• Professionals

2014 - 250 students, 28 different nationalities.
IFCELS Summer Programme

What can you study?

**Academic Language Courses**
- English Language and Academic Skills 3 or 6 weeks
- Intermediate Reading and Writing 3 or 6 weeks
- Advanced Reading and Writing 3 weeks

**Academic Subject Courses**
- Environment and Development + English 3 weeks
- Politics and Development + English 3 weeks
- Introduction to the Media + English 3 weeks
- World Literature + English 3 weeks
- Art of the World in London + English 3 or 6 weeks
- Global Business Studies + English 3 or 6 weeks
- International Relations + English 3, 6 or 9 weeks
Language Courses focus on academic literacy and oracy skills.

Subject courses focus mainly on the subject (lectures, seminars, case studies) with integrated language support. Students work towards giving a presentation on a topic of their own choice within the subject area.

All courses have 18 hours of teaching time per week.

All courses are taught by two teachers. Subject courses are taught by a subject specialist plus a language specialist.

Students receive reports from teachers and a certificate at the end of their courses.
IFCELS Summer Programme

When can you study?

July to September – 3 blocks of 3 weeks each

Dates for Summer 2015:

Block 1 – July 13th – 31st

Block 2 – August 3rd – 21st

Block 3 – August 24th – September 11th

How much? Tuition fees per 3 weeks for 2015 = £1220 (approx 21,000 YEN)
English Language Skills

To help students improve in the skills of academic reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Content:
• the basic structure and style of an academic essay;
• how to read English texts more critically and use the ideas in their written and oral arguments;
• what to listen out for in lectures and documentaries and how to take useful notes;
• how to participate more confidently in group discussion work;
• how to give a formal presentation.

Also focuses on:
• improving grammatical accuracy in both speaking and writing;
• extending both the general and academic English vocabulary.
Intermediate Reading & Writing

This course is slightly more challenging than English Language Skills and concentrates more on Reading and Writing

Content:
- Planning, structuring and writing an academic essay
- Academic language (grammar, vocabulary and style)
- Using different sources and referencing
- Developing critical reading skills
- Improving reading speed
- Summarising, paraphrasing and other reading skills
Art of the World in London

- Introduction to European art and its relationship with art from the rest of the world through lectures, case studies and many London gallery visits (at least two per week).
  - Tate Modern
  - National Gallery
  - British Museum
  - and others
International Relations

Combines politics, economics and history to help gain a deeper understanding of the modern world order.

Examples of visits include:

• Foreign & Commonwealth Office (ie. British Foreign Ministry)
• Greenwich Maritime Museum
• Other special museum exhibitions and theatre visits
Environment & Development

The course explores issues in environmental sustainability and the developing world.

• Includes visit to London Wetland Centre
Global Business Studies

The Global Business Studies course aims to introduce students to current issues in international business and global strategy by comparing developments in the business environments of Asia and Europe.

It includes a visit to London’s historical financial district and the Bank of England Museum.
World Literature in London

Combines readings of excerpts of texts from leading authors from around the world (e.g. Charles Dickens, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Virginia Woolf, Haruki Murakami, Walt Whitman and Salman Rushdie) with exploration of the role of the novel in modern cities.

This course includes a guided visit to Shakespeare’s Globe theatre and a literary walk around London.
Politics and Development *(new for 2015)*

This course will explore debates over Democracy, Good Governance and Corruption in the Post-Cold War Period. It will look at the role of international institutions like the World Bank and examine the relationship between economic growth, social justice and human rights.
Introduction to the Media

This course combines classroom learning and hands on experience of documentary making out and about in London. It provides insights into both the theory and practice of media planning and production. Through lectures and project planning, you will learn about the different mass media, their influence on society and how the information we all use and need is brought to us. Learn the theory in the lectures, then put what you have learned into practice by creating, editing and presenting a short documentary film in a group.
SOAS Accommodation

Dinwiddy House
• Apply early
• All self-catering
• 6/7 individual study-bedrooms clustered around kitchen/diner
• Choice of single/mixed-sex where possible
• En-suite facilities; telephone/internet cabling; wheelchair access; launderette and common room
• 20 mins walk from main campus
• 5 mins from King’s Cross station
• £700 for 3 weeks (2015).
Social Activities

There will be opportunities to meet many other international students at different free events, such as barbecues, picnics, a boat trip and walks around London with SOAS degree students.
For more information: www.soas.ac.uk
www.soas.ac.uk/ifcels/summer/ (includes short film)
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