

Africa

We have unrivalled expertise in the languages of Africa, covering Amharic, Hausa, Somali, Swahili, Zulu, and Yorùbá. You can study literature in English and in African languages, African film and philosophy. Our students gain a wide understanding and new perspectives on the diverse cultures of Africa, and can choose options from an unparalleled range in other disciplines, including religious studies, anthropology, art and archaeology, and history. Welcome! Karibuni sana! Soo dhowaada!

Structure and assessment

Students take taught modules to the value of 120 credits per year – unless stated otherwise.

Minimum entry requirements

A-Levels: AAB-ABB (from three A-levels excluding General Studies)

IB: 35 points with 6/6/5 at Higher level

No preliminary knowledge of the subject or the language is required, although we do look for ability to learn a language (e.g. language at A-level or equivalent).

See p160 for more on entry requirements, application assessment, Widening Participation and joint degrees.

Duration

Three or four years: language degrees are four-year degrees, but students pay reduced fees for the language year abroad.

Skills gained

A degree in African Studies prepares you for a wide range of careers in a variety of sectors including marketing and publishing, non-governmental agencies, international political organisations, diplomacy, business, public service and teaching. Employers will be looking for highly skilled recruits. A language and culture study programme does not just teach you a body of

facts, but also a range of skills, for example:

- the practical skills of careful listening and acquiring languages
- the intellectual skills of examining and evaluating cultures and theories
- various transferable skills such as research, analytical, communication, teamwork, problem solving, time management and organisation skills

What do African Studies graduates do?

Analyst in Environmental Finance
Company Director
Editor
Expedition Planning Manager
Head of Corporate Governance
Journalist
Media and Communications Lecturer
Programme Officer
Publisher

Employers include

Amnesty International
Barclays Global Investors
BBC World Service
Christian Aid
Financial Times
Kensington and Chelsea College
Loughborough University
National Cohesion and Integration Commission
Oxfam
The Africa Report



Taught Programmes

- BA African Studies
- BA African Studies and...
- BA African Studies (With a Year Abroad)
- BA African Studies and... (With a Year Abroad)



More Information

www.soas.ac.uk/africa

I knew as soon as I visited SOAS that it was the place for me, and I applied for three different courses here. The opportunity to study languages was a big pull, and I'm delighted that I chose Swahili, particularly as it has given me the chance to study in East Africa on my year abroad, where I am having a great time learning about the local history and literature. Learning about some of the philosophical themes within Swahili literature has fascinated me, and I will definitely look to pursue this interest at postgraduate level. When I started my course I never imagined that I would become so invested in academia, but thanks to the great teaching I've had in Swahili studies, I have now presented at two academic conferences to some of the top names in the field of African Philosophy and Swahili Studies.

Tom Jelpke
BA African Languages and Cultures, 2014





BA African Studies

UCAS code: T500

This 3-year degree focuses on the languages and cultures of sub-Saharan Africa. It includes the study of an African language and a wide choice of optional modules in the related cultural fields of literature, art, performance, religion, and philosophy.

Structure (Typical course content)

Core modules

Year 1

- An African language (30 credits)
- Culture in Africa (15 credits)
- Introduction to the History of Africa (30 credits)
- Decolonising Otherness (15 credits)
- Understanding Texts (15 credits)
- Languages of the World (15 credits)

Year 2

- An African language OR a module on African literatures (30 credits)
- Language in Africa (30 credits)
- Introduction to Research (15 credits)

Year 3

- Independent Study Project in African Studies (30 credits)
- Language 3 or another module (totalling 30 credits)

Optional modules

Year 2

- Students choose 45 credits from the list at the end of this section

Year 3

- Students choose two modules from the list at the end of this section or one module and an open option

BA African Studies (With a Year Abroad)

UCAS code: (Please look online for UCAS application codes)

This 4-year degree focuses on the languages and cultures of sub-Saharan Africa. It includes the intensive study of Swahili and a wide choice of optional modules in the related cultural fields of literature, art, performance, religion, and philosophy. Students spend their third year in Zanzibar and Kenya where they immerse themselves in the cultures of the region and develop their fluency in Swahili.

Structure (Typical course content)

Core modules

Year 1

- Swahili 1a and 1b (30 credits)
- Introduction to the History of Africa (30 credits)
- Culture in Africa (15 credits)
- Decolonising Otherness (15 credits)
- Understanding Texts (15 credits)
- Languages of the World (15 credits)

Year 2

- Swahili 2 (30 credits)
- Introduction to Research (15 credits)
- Language in Africa (30 credits)

Year 3

- Study abroad in Zanzibar and Kenya

Year 4

- Theory and Practice of Swahili Translation (30 credits)
- Independent Study Project in African Studies (30 credits)

Optional modules

Year 2

- Students choose 45 credits from the list at the end of this section

Year 4

- Students choose 60 credits from the list at the end of this section

BA African Studies and ...

May be combined with

Development Studies (year abroad)	TL95
History (year abroad)	VT51
History of Art/Archaeology (year abroad) –	TV35
International Relations (year abroad)	LT52
Linguistics (year abroad)	TQ15
Middle Eastern Studies	
Music (year abroad)	WT53
Politics (year abroad)	TL25
Social Anthropology (year abroad)	TL65
South Asian Studies (year abroad)	TT53
South East Asian Studies	
Religions (year abroad)	VT56
World Philosophies (year abroad)	T502

Students taking the two-subject degree take a combination of credits from African Studies and from their other subject. This 3-year degree focuses on the languages and cultures of sub-Saharan Africa. It includes the study of an

African language and a wide choice of module credits in the related cultural fields of literature, art, performance, religion, and philosophy.

Structure (Typical course content)

Students take 120 credits each year. Over the three years they must take at least 150 credits from one subject and at least 120 credits from the other subject. The subject with the larger number of credits will be named first in the degree.

Core modules

Year 1

- An African language module (30 credits)
- Culture in Africa (15 credits)
- Decolonising Otherness (15 credits)

Year 2

- An African language module OR a module in Culture or Literature (30 credits)
- Language in Africa (30 credits)

Year 3

- An African language module OR a module in Culture or Literature (30 credits)
- 30 credits from the list of options at the end of the section)

Optional modules

Year 1

- Students choose two modules in the second subject

Year 2

- Students choose two modules in the second subject

Year 3

- Students choose two modules in the second subject

BA African Studies and ... (With a Year Abroad)

UCAS code: (Please look online for UCAS application codes)

Students taking the two-subject degree take a combination of credits from African Studies and from their other subject. This 4-year degree focuses on the languages and cultures of sub-Saharan Africa. It includes the intensive study of Swahili and a wide choice of optional modules in the related cultural fields of literature, art, performance, religion, and philosophy. Students spend their third year in Zanzibar and Kenya where they immerse themselves in the cultures of the region and develop their fluency in Swahili.

Structure (Typical course content)

Year 1

- Swahili 1a and 1b (30 credits)
- Culture in Africa (15 credits)
- Decolonising Otherness (15 credits)
- Students choose 60 credits in the second subject

Year 2

- Swahili 2 (30 credits)
- Language in Africa (30 credits)
- Students choose 60 credits in the second subject

Year 3

- Study abroad in Zanzibar and Kenya

Year 4

- Theory and Practice of Swahili Translation (30 credits)
- Students choose 30 credits from the list at the end of this section
- Students choose 60 credits in the second subject

List of optional modules for all four degree programmes

Term 1

- Africans in the Americas: Identities and Representation (15 credits)
- African Philosophy (15 credits)
- Black British Urban Studies: Culture and Representation (15 credits)
- Britain and Slavery (15 credits)
- Extended Essay in African Studies (a) (15 credits)
- Islamic Reform Movements in Modern Africa (15 credits)
- Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity in Africa: Past and Present (15 credits)
- South African Film and Visual Culture: Before and During Apartheid (15 credits)
- The World of Cuban Music (15 credits)

Term 2

- Afrophone Philosophies (15 credits)
- Extended Essay in African Studies (B) (15 credits)
- Filmmaking and Curatorial Practices in the Age of Festivalization (15 credits)
- South African Film and Visual Culture 1994-2014 (15 credits)
- Southern Spaces (15 credits)
- The Structure of Bantu Languages (15 credits)

Full year

- African Art I: Context and Representation (30 credits)
- African Art II: West Africa & the Atlantic World - History, Historiography and the Visual Arts (30 credits)
- African Art III: the Art and Architecture of North Eastern Africa (30 credits)
- Amharic 1 (30 credits)
- Amharic 2 (30 credits)



- Directed Study of an African Language (30 credits)
- Fictions of History (30 credits)
- Hausa 1 (30 credits)
- Hausa 2 (a) Intermediate (30 credits)
- Hausa 2 (b) Survey of Hausa Literature (30 credits)
- Hausa 3 (a) Advanced (30 credits)
- Hausa 3 (b) Selected Texts (30 credits)
- Independent Study Project in African Studies (30 credits)
- Music in Africa (30 credits)
- Realism and Magical Realism in the Afrophone Novel (30 credits)
- Religion in Africa (30 credits)
- Religion, Power and Society in Modern Africa (30 credits)
- Somali 1 (30 credits)
- Somali 2 (30 credits)
- Somali (Advanced): Formal Usage (30 credits)
- Somali (Advanced): Literature and Culture (30 credits)
- Swahili: Theory and Practice of Swahili Translation (30 credits)
- Yoruba 1 (30 credits)
- Yoruba 2 (30 credits)
- Zulu 1 (30 credits)
- Zulu 2 (30 credits)

Please note:

Not all modules listed are available every year and new modules may become available. For an up-to-date list of modules on offer, please visit the departmental website: www.soas.ac.uk/africa/programmes



