



# Anthropology and Sociology

**Anthropology is at the very heart of SOAS, being central to our shared objective of widening horizons, fostering cross-cultural perspectives, challenging taken-for-granted assumptions and critical engagement with urgent issues.**

At SOAS, you will find a community of teachers, researchers and postgraduate students who are motivated by an irrepressible curiosity about the world and a firm commitment to the highest standards of academic rigour.

Our academics are amongst the world's most respected in both social and cultural anthropology. They have contributed their considerable expertise to international development agencies, national governments, UK asylum policy makers, craft industries, museums and galleries. By choosing to study at SOAS, you will be joining the largest concentration of Africa, Asia and the Middle East specialists in the United Kingdom.

## Structure and assessment

Students take taught modules to the value of 120 credits and complete a dissertation (60 credits) – unless stated otherwise.

## Entry requirements

Minimum upper second-class honours degree (or equivalent) – unless stated otherwise.

## English language requirement

Overall IELTS grade of 6.5 with 6.5 in writing and speaking and 6.0 in reading and listening. Visit [www.soas.ac.uk/english-requirements](http://www.soas.ac.uk/english-requirements) for alternative acceptable qualifications

## Duration

One calendar year (full-time); two, three years (part-time, daytime only)



### Taught Masters Programmes

- MA Anthropology of Food
- MA Anthropological Research Methods
- MA Medical Anthropology
- MA Migration and Diaspora Studies
- MA Museums, Heritage and Material Culture Studies

- MA Social Anthropology

- MA Social Anthropology of Development



### More Information

[www.soas.ac.uk/anthropology](http://www.soas.ac.uk/anthropology)



## Intensive Language Option

**SOAS offers a range of two-year Masters programmes (four years, part-time) that combine disciplinary knowledge with rigorous language scholarship.**

Intensive language options are available on most MA Anthropology degrees, except MA Museums, Heritage and Material Culture Studies.

The language pathway is directed at students who want to engage with Asia, Africa and the Near and Middle East on both a professional and academic level. The structure of the programme will enable you to reach a near proficient command of the language you are studying.

### Structure (315 credits total):

- Language Modules (90 credits)
- Taught Modules (120 credits)
- Study Abroad (45 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)

\*Students opting for the intensive language track will take a placement exam in the week before classes in order to determine if their language level is suitable.

### Duration:

Two calendar year (full-time), four years (part-time, daytime only)

**Start of programme:** September intake only

**Entry requirements:** Minimum upper second-class honours (or equivalent)

[www.soas.ac.uk/2-year-masters](http://www.soas.ac.uk/2-year-masters)



## Collaborating with Save the Children on reproductive health education

Research by Dr Catherine Dolan, Reader in Anthropology at SOAS University of London has found that better sanitary care and reproductive health education for poor schoolgirls, delivered over two years, improved attendance at school. Looking at eight schools in Uganda's Kamuli District, the research recommended that even in the absence of resources to provide sanitary pads, the inclusion of adequate and gender-sensitive puberty education in the school curriculum can improve attendance. Importantly, the study also showed that psychosocial wellbeing, dignity, comfort, and ability to manage menstruation without shame are all essential for girls responding to the challenges presented by menstruation in low-income contexts. The ESRC-DFID funded project 'Menstruation and the Cycle of Poverty: Does the Provision of Sanitary Pads Improve the Attendance and Educational Outcomes of Girls in School?' has collaborated with Save the Children, UNESCO, WaterAid, and AFRIpads to lobby for menstrual hygiene management to be included as an indicator in post-2015 sustainability goals.

**Dr Catherine Dolan**

Project title: 'Menstruation and the Cycle of Poverty: Does the Provision of Sanitary Pads Improve the Attendance and Educational Outcomes of Girls in Schools?'



The SOAS course in MA Social Anthropology of Development has given me the chance to do more practical course work, and to build on my undergraduate studies in Anthropology and Religious Studies. The convenors on my course have all been engaged in real-world fieldwork, and they have taught me how to think critically about my subject, and to take a cautious approach to the subject of development by being sensitive to local needs. My dissertation is on the subject of social movements in development and, by examining the Women's March in Washington DC in 2017, I explored how it is necessary to have a new social framework to analyse change, particularly in relation to this new breed of social movement.

**Emma Falley**

**Degree:** MA Social Anthropology of Development, 2017

**Job title:** Development and Community Relations Associate at Center for Domestic Peace



## MA Anthropology of Food

**Convenor: Dr Jakob Klein**

Food is a fundamental human necessity, essential to the sustenance of the human body. At the same time, food may be associated with pleasure, passion, even luxury. Food is also essential to the social body. Who eats what, who eats with whom, and whose appetites are satisfied and whose denied, are all profoundly social dynamics through which identities, relationships and hierarchies are created and reproduced. This programme offers students the opportunity to explore historically and culturally variable foodways, from foraging to the industrialisation of agriculture food making, to the emergence of a global food system. We will challenge you to trace the passage of food from plant to palate, and to examine who benefits, and who suffers, from contemporary modes of food production, exchange, preparation, and consumption.

You will examine food policy at national and international levels, as well as the role played in its formation by the food industry. Debates over the impact of agricultural biotechnology on agrarian livelihoods and knowledge systems, as well as on the natural environment, are assessed and movements toward organic agriculture, fair trade and slow food are also analysed.

### Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

### Structure

#### Core modules

- The Anthropology of Food (30 credits)
- Students with no previous Anthropology degree must take the Foundation module, Theoretical Approaches to Social Anthropology (30 credits) plus options worth a further 60 credits

#### Compulsory module

- Ethnographic Research Methods (0 credits)

#### Optional modules

Plus options worth a further 90 credits (see table, p.24)

## MA Anthropological Research Methods

**Convenor: Dr Naomi Leite**

Covering both qualitative and quantitative research tools, this programme is designed to provide you with all of the practical and social skills that place SOAS students in high demand from the professional and academic sectors, or to provide an accelerated path to a PhD. You will be trained in the full range of skills, methods and tools prescribed by the Economic and Social Research Council's training guidelines.

Interview techniques, data collection, statistical analysis and interpretation form the foundations of this programme. During your time at SOAS, you will become adept in ethnographic methods, ethical and legal issues, logistics of long-term fieldwork, team working and the effective communication of your research findings.

If you are looking to be challenged, to enhance your specialist knowledge or to prepare for a PhD in Anthropology, this MA is the choice for you.

### Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

### Structure

Students take taught modules to the value of 120 credits and complete a dissertation. All students take the compulsory core modules, Ethnographic Research Methods (15 credits) and Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Social Research (15 credits), and attend the weekly MPhil Research Training Seminar. Students with no previous anthropology degree must take the foundation module, Theoretical Approaches to Social Anthropology. The remaining credits are made up of optional modules chosen from the table on pages 24–26.

### Modules taught in other departments

Students may also take an Asian or African language module in the Faculty of Languages and Cultures, subject to approval by the convenor.

## MA Medical Anthropology



**Convenor: Dr Orkideh Behrouzan**

We attract students from all corners of the globe, propelled by undergraduate studies, work or travel experience. This diversity of experience makes for an intellectually exciting atmosphere in which to develop a phenomenological understanding of the body in different socio-political contexts.

Covering anthropological theory and cultural understanding, this programme is distinctive in focus on medical and health issues in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Areas explored include combinations of anthropology and food, gender, shamanism and therapy, psychoanalysis, religion and healing in South Asia, China and in Africa, and study of the language and ethnography of a particular region.

### Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

### Structure

#### Core modules

- Cultural Understandings of Health (30 credits)
- Students with no previous Anthropology degree must take the foundation module, Theoretical Approaches to Social Anthropology (30 credits) plus options worth a further 60 credits

#### Compulsory module

- Ethnographic Research Methods (0 credits)

#### Optional modules

Plus options worth a further 90 credits (see table, p.24)

Please note: there is a guided element to optional modules available for this programme. Please visit [www.soas.ac.uk/anthropology/programmes/mamedanth](http://www.soas.ac.uk/anthropology/programmes/mamedanth) for further details.

## MA Migration and Diaspora Studies



**Convenor: Dr Ruba Salih**

The modern world is highly transnational, which makes this programme both relevant and vital for anyone keen to understand cultural transformation from the angles of anthropology, sociology and postcolonial studies.

This programme offers a broad-based degree for those who want to receive specialised research training in Migration and Diaspora Studies, which will prepare you for advanced postgraduate research. The programme is enriched not only by our students' myriad backgrounds, but also the insights of world-leading experts who can be found at seminars, films and public lectures hosted by the SOAS Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies. The Centre is also a part of a migration research network of London colleges including the London School of Economics and University College London, giving you unparalleled access to a critical body of scholars.

Close ties with other departments and centres at SOAS, such as Development Studies, the Centre for Gender Studies, Law and Politics provide depth and breadth to the programme.

### Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

### Structure

#### Core modules

- African and Asian Diasporas in the Contemporary World (30 credits)
- Students with no previous Anthropology degree must take the foundation module, Theoretical Approaches to Social Anthropology (30 credits) plus options worth a further 60 credits

#### Compulsory module

- Ethnographic Research Methods (0 credits)

#### Optional modules

Plus options worth a further 90 credits (see table, p.24)

### Modules taught in other departments:

Students may also take an Asian or African language module in the Faculty of Languages and Cultures, subject to approval by the course convenor.



## MA Museums, Heritage and Material Culture Studies

**Convenors: Dr Maria Kostoglou and Dr Stefanie Lotter**

This unique interdisciplinary programme, run jointly with the School of Arts, brings together anthropological, art historical and archaeological perspectives to explore the interconnecting fields of museums, heritage and material culture studies.

The programme will equip students with a theoretically-informed critical understanding of museums, heritage and material/visual culture. It provides opportunities to curate an exhibition and put into practice ethnographic research techniques. And by studying at SOAS, situated in London's 'Museum Mile', a few hundred metres from the British Museum and with its own Brunei Gallery, students will benefit from a unique environment in which to study the cultural heritage of Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

The programme is ideal for students wishing to pursue a career in the museum, heritage and arts sectors with a focus on non-Western art and culture or as a pathway to PhD research.

### Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

### Structure

#### Core module

- Museums, Heritage and Material Culture Studies (30 credits)

#### Compulsory modules

- Critical Theory in Art History and Material Culture (15 credits)
- Theoretical Approaches to Social Anthropology (30 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)

#### Recommended optional modules

- Curating Cultures (15 credits)
- Ethnographic Research Methods (15 credits)

Students may also select from a wide range of optional modules available in the Department of Anthropology & Sociology, School of Arts and across SOAS, allowing you to shape the programme according to your own interests (see table on p.24)

## MA Social Anthropology



**Convenor: Dr Kevin Latham**

If you are fascinated by how people behave, how communities form and dissolve, how societies bond and break, this programme will both challenge and excite you. Bringing together people with different life experiences from around the world, it will enrich you intellectually and socially.

Whether you already have a degree in anthropology or are completely new to the discipline, this programme provides breadth and depth. You will explore issues of culture, conflict, gender, religion, warfare and architecture, to name a few, with special reference to Asia, Africa and the Middle East - past and present.

The emphasis given to particular regions and approaches varies with emerging trends and contemporary global developments.

### Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

### Structure

#### Core modules

- Comparative Studies of Society and Culture (30 credits)
- Students with no previous Anthropology degree must take the foundation module, Theoretical Approaches to Social Anthropology (30 credits) plus options worth a further 60 credits

#### Compulsory module

- Ethnographic Research Methods (0 credits)

#### Optional modules

Plus options worth a further 90 credits (see table, p.24)

#### Modules taught in other departments:

A language module may be taken in the Faculty of Languages and Cultures, subject to the approval of the course convenor and the agreement of the MA Social Anthropology convenor.

## MA Social Anthropology of Development



### Co-convenors: Dr Catherine Dolan and Professor David Mosse

This MA combines theory and anthropological case studies to help students develop a critical knowledge of, and insight into, all aspects of international development. A wide range of students take this course including experienced development practitioners and students from across the world who have a desire to work in international development and social business.

Key features of the programme include: learning about the history and political economy of development, poverty, migration, human rights, humanitarianism and refugees, gender, climate change, health, ethics and markets and corporate social responsibility. Students can develop a regional expertise on Africa and Asia, professional skills, language competency and in-depth knowledge of research methodologies.

### Fees

- £9,685 (Home/EU)
- £19,930 (Overseas)

### Structure

#### Core modules

- Social Anthropology of Development (30 credits)
- Students with no previous Anthropology degree must take the foundation module, Theoretical Approaches to Social Anthropology (30 credits) plus options worth a further 60 credits

#### Compulsory module

- Ethnographic Research Methods (0 credits)

#### Optional modules

Plus options worth a further 90 credits (see table, p.24)



MA Social Anthropology  
 MA Social Anthropology of Development  
 MA Anthropology of Food  
 MA Medical Anthropology  
 MA Migration and Diaspora Studies  
 MA Museological Research and Material Culture Studies

Modern Film from Taiwan and the Chinese Diaspora						●			
Music, Place and Politics in Cuba						●		●	
Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) as Development Agencies		●							
Perspectives on Development	●		●	●			●	●	
Religions on the Move: New Currents and Emerging Trends in Global Religion	●	●	●		●			●	
Theoretical Approaches to Social Anthropology				●			●		
Transnational Communities and Diasporic Media: Networking, Connectivity, Identity					●			●	
Therapy and Culture	●	●	●				●	●	
<b>30 credits</b>									
Anthropology of Development							●		
Anthropology of Food							●		
Comparative Studies of Society and Culture							●		
Death and Religion	●								
Migration and Development						●			
Nepali Language 1 (PG)									
Persian for Readers of Arabic Script (PG)					●				
Political Economy of Violence, Conflict and Development			●						
Postcolonial Theory and Practice					●				
Religious Practice in Japan: Texts, Rituals and Believers				●					





The subject above is a nomad girl named Salimata, pictured in the Sahara desert between Mali and Burkina Faso. She is of mixed heritage, from two peoples who traditionally have not mixed: the Tuareg and Bella.