

China and Inner Asia

Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese, and Hokkien) and Tibetan languages occupy a major and important part of the undergraduate syllabus, and a wide spectrum of the culture of China and Tibet is covered through our teaching and research. Students and staff are required to develop and maintain language competence and literacy in the culture of their specialisation. BA Chinese and BA Tibetan students will spend a year studying in China or Tibet.

As a graduate who specialised in China and Inner Asia, you will have gained competency in language skills and intercultural awareness and understanding. Familiarity with the region will have been developed through a study of language in combination with literature, development studies, economics, geography, history, history of art and archaeology, Indonesian, Korean, law, linguistics, music, politics, social anthropology or religion.

Graduates leave SOAS not only with linguistic and cultural expertise, but also with a portfolio of widely transferable skills which employers seek in many professional and management careers, both in business and in the public sector. A large number of graduates find work in which they are able to use their language skills, either in Britain or in East Asia. Recent graduates are currently located in China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan, as well as in various countries of Europe. They work in a variety of sectors and some have gone on to do higher degrees and have found or are aiming for careers in academia.

Structure and assessment

Core modules must be passed in order to proceed to the following year.

Minimum entry requirements

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

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

A-level language is preferred. See p160 for more on entry requirements, application assessment, Widening Participation and joint degrees.

Duration

Four years (if degree includes a study year abroad) or three years

Skills gained

A degree in Chinese 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, cultural organisations, embassies, 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 Languages and Cultures of China and Inner Asia graduates do?

Mandarin Teacher
Academic Analyst
Copy Editor
Export Sales Manager
Investment Banker
Managing Director
Regional Expert
Research Analyst
Social Art Project Manager
On Set Translator (English-Mandarin)

Employers include

Allen & Overy
BBC
China International Publishing Group
Consulate General of Switzerland, Shanghai
Cypress Books Co. (UK)
ITN
Last Word Media
Liu Xiaodong and Yu Hong Studio
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Shakespeare Schools Festival



Taught Programmes

- BA Chinese (Modern and Classical)
- BA Chinese and...
- BA Chinese Studies



More Information

www.soas.ac.uk/cia



I have always been interested in languages. Growing up, I was the only one out of my group of friends at school who was not bilingual. I grew up in London, which is of course a very multicultural city, and have always been aware of SOAS and the Korean and Chinese departments here.

I was first interested in Korean, and later my interests expanded towards Chinese. SOAS was a great choice for me as it allowed me to study both.

I'm really impressed by the high standard of teaching here at SOAS, especially in the languages. The teaching staff here push us really hard. They pride themselves on creating high-level language students. I really enjoyed my year abroad, which allowed me

to immerse myself in the culture. Another great thing about the learning structure here at SOAS is that it's really flexible and allows you to specialise in a specific area.

The thing that surprised me about SOAS was just how multi-cultural it is. You hear so many different languages around campus, and I love how political it is too.

My ambition in the future is to get into the film/tv sector. My favourite module is Chinese Cultures on Screen and Stage, which has inspired me to get into that sector. I'm also considering an MA in Global Cinema here at SOAS.

Ruby James
BA Chinese



BA Chinese (Modern and Classical)

UCAS code: T100

The BA Chinese (Modern and Classical) is a single-subject degree. Year 2 of this four-year degree is currently spent at Beijing Normal University. The curriculum is intended to produce graduates who possess a good grasp of Chinese literature and culture, who are competent in finding and using Chinese language research materials, who are confident in reading classical Chinese and who have an advanced all-round proficiency in modern Chinese.

Structure (Typical course content)

Core modules

Year 1

- Elementary Modern Chinese Language 1 (30 credits)*
- History and Culture of China (30 credits)
- Introduction to Classical Chinese (30 credits)

Compulsory Module

- Elementary Modern Chinese Language 2 (30 credits)*

* Advanced Entry Students take:

- Special Course in Chinese 3 or higher
- One open option

Year 2

- Students spend the second year at Beijing Normal University (BNU)

Year 3

Core modules

- Choice of modules (30 credits) from:
- Intermediate Modern Chinese Language (Reading) (15 credits)
- Intermediate Modern Chinese Language (Writing) (15 credits)
- Intermediate Modern Chinese Language (Translation) (15 credits)
- Intermediate Modern Chinese Language (Listening and Speaking) (15 credits)

Compulsory Module

- Traditional Chinese Language and Literature (30 credits)

Choice of module(s) (30 credits) from the core modules or List A.

Choice of option(s) (30 credits) from List A or C, or an open option (language or non-language).

Year 4

Compulsory Module

- Independent Study Project in Chinese Languages and Cultures (30 credits)

Optional modules (60 credits) from List A and B.

Optional modules (30 credits) from List A, B, or C.

List A (year 3 and 4) includes:

- Chinese Cultures on Screen and Stage (15 credits)
- Elementary Cantonese (30 credits)
- Elementary Spoken Hokkien (Minnanyu, Taiwanese) (30 credits)
- Tibetan (Modern) 1A (15 credits)
- Tibetan (Modern) 1B (15 credits)
- New Taiwan Cinema and Beyond (15 credits)
- History and Memory in East Asian Cultures (15 credits)
- Literature and Social Transformation in Contemporary China (15 credits)
- Reading Modern Literary Text (15 credits)

(Please see the website for a complete list)

List B (year 4 language use modules)

- Advanced Modern Chinese Language (Listening and Speaking) (15 credits)
- Advanced Modern Chinese Language (Reading and Writing) (15 credits)
- Traditional Chinese Language and Literature (Advanced) (30 credits)
- Styles of Modern Chinese Literary Language (30 credits)

List C (East Asia Department Modules) includes:

- Cool Japan: Anime, Manga, and Sushi (15 credits)
- Fieldwork methods in language and culture (15 credits)
- Japanese Cinema: A Critical Survey (15 credits)
- The Other Korea: North Korea since 1945 (15 credits)

(Please see the website for a complete list)

Please see the website for the most up-to-date lists of optional modules:

www.soas.ac.uk/cia/programmes/bachinese





BA Chinese and...

May be combined with

African Studies

Arabic

Development Studies **LT91**

Economics **LT11**

English **QT31**

History **TV11**

History of Art/Archaeology **TV13**

International Relations **LB23**

Japanese

Japanese Studies **TT12**

Korean

Korean Studies **TT14**

Law **MT11**

Linguistics **QT11**

Middle Eastern Studies

Music **TW13**

Persian

Politics **LT21**

Social Anthropology **LT61**

Religions **TV16**

South Asian Studies (3 years)

South Asian Studies (Year Abroad)

South East Asian Studies

Tibetan+ **T101**

Turkish

World Philosophies+ **T103**

The BA Chinese and... is a two-subject degree. Year 2 of this four-year degree is currently spent at Beijing Normal University. The curriculum is intended to produce graduates who possess a good grasp of Chinese culture, who are competent in finding and using Chinese language materials, and who have an advanced all-round proficiency in modern Chinese.

BA Chinese Studies

UCAS code: T102

May be combined with

Japanese

TT21

The programme will be attractive both to students who wish to study China-related subjects without a strong emphasis on language, and to students who wish to work at an advanced language level within a more traditional "sinological" framework, than is offered at most other universities. This programme is for applicants who have intermediate to advanced language skills and are looking for a

programme where they can acquire China-related knowledge across disciplines while working with the language at a suitable level. At the same time, there are also ab-initio students who require a shorter programme without a year abroad. This programme caters to both types of students.

Structure

(Typical course content)

The degree offers flexibility of choice between modern/classical language modules, and language-based/non-language-based disciplinary modules. Any language module is subject to language ability.

Year 1

Core modules

- Modern language module (List A) (30 credits)
- One optional module (List C or D) (30 credits)
- One module (any list or open option) (30 credits)

Compulsory modules

- History and Culture of China (30 credits)

Year 2

- Modern language module (continuation of Year 1, 30 credits)
- One module (List B) (30 credits)
- One module (List C or D) (30 credits)
- One module (any list or open option) (30 credits)

Year 3

- One module (List A or B) (30 credits)
- One module (List C or D) (30 credits)
- One module (any list) (30 credits)
- One module (any list or an open option) (30 credits)

List A – modern languages

Elementary

- Elementary Modern Chinese Language 1 (30 credits)
- Elementary Modern Chinese Language 2 (30 credits)
- Chinese 1 A (15 credits)
- Chinese 1 B (15 credits)
- Chinese 2 (30 credits)

Lower Intermediate

- Chinese 3 (30 credits)
- Chinese 4 (30 credits)

Higher Intermediate (15 credits each)

- Intermediate Modern Chinese Language (Reading)
- Intermediate Modern Chinese Language (Writing)
- Intermediate Modern Chinese Language (Listening and Speaking)
- Intermediate Modern Chinese Language (translation)

Advanced

- Advanced Modern Chinese (Listening and Speaking) (15 credits)
- Advanced Modern Chinese Language (Reading and Writing) (15 credits)
- Styles of Modern Chinese Literary Language (30 credits)
- Reading Modern Chinese Literary Text (15 credits)
- Reading Contemporary Chinese Literary Text (15 credits)

List B – classical languages**Elementary**

- Introduction to Classical Chinese

Lower Intermediate Level

- Reading Classical and Literary Chinese (30 credits)

Higher Intermediate Level

- Traditional Chinese Language and Literature (30 credits)

Advanced Level

- Traditional Chinese Language and Literature (Advanced) (30 credits)

List C – language-based disciplinary modules and regional languages (subject to prerequisite)

- Elementary Spoken Hokkien (Minnanyu, Taiwanese) (30 credits)
- Tibetan (Modern) 1 A (15 credits)
- Tibetan (Modern) 1 B (15 credits)
- Elementary Cantonese (30 credits)
- Advanced Business Chinese (15 credits)
- Chinese Cultures on Screen and Stage (15 credits)
- Independent Study Project in Chinese Languages and Cultures (30 credits)
- New Taiwan Cinema and Beyond (15 credits)

List D – non-language-based disciplinary modules

- Anthropology (various modules)
- Art and Archaeology (various modules)
- Economics (Various modules)
- Politics (Various modules)
- History (various modules)
- Music (various modules)
- Chinese Law (30 credits)
- History and Memory in East Asian Cultures (15 credits)
- Literature, Politics, and National Identity in Modern China (15 credits)
- Modern Film from Taiwan and the Chinese Diaspora (15 credits)
- Cinema and Performance in China: Historical and Critical Approaches (15 credits)
- Cultural History of Tibet (15 credits)
- Imagining Tibet (15 credits)
- Queer Cinema in Asia (15 credits)
- Cool Japan: Manga, Anime, Sushi (15 credits)
- Japanese Cinema: A Critical Survey (15 credits)
- The Other Korea: North Korea since 1945 (15 credits)

Please see the website for the most up-to-date optional modules:

www.soas.ac.uk/cia/degrees/bachineseestudies

Not all modules will be available every year and new modules may be added

