

Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies (CCLPS)

Ours is a dynamic, diverse and cross-cultural environment in which to engage with the critical and theoretical debates surrounding Asia, Africa and the Middle East. While other institutions may adopt a Eurocentric approach, we impose no limits in our efforts to fully appreciate aesthetics, literature and culture.

SOAS fosters a vibrant research culture, comprising expert scholars from across the social science disciplines. We aim to play a key role in the critical debate of comparative literature, cultural and postcolonial studies, meaning that, as a student, you too will help to shape an evolving area of study that could see you taking part in events, seminars, workshops, training programmes or contributing to staff projects through your dissertation.

Our ultimate aim is to instigate and promote research on non-European cultures and literatures, so as to reinvigorate exciting new debates in the field. Here you will find a cross-section of people with a keen interest in everything from gendering violence to transnational migration, from Sanskrit and Tamil literature to Christian-Jewish relations, all the way through to literature and Sinology in Europe.

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 for alternative acceptable qualifications

Duration

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



Taught Masters Programmes

- MA Comparative Literature (Africa/Asia)
- MA Cultural Studies
- MA Postcolonial Studies



More Information

www.soas.ac.uk/cclps



A new approach to world literature

'Multilingual locals and Significant Geographies: For a New Approach to World Literature' is a European Research Council-funded research project led by Professor Francesca Orsini, Chair of the Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies (CCLPS), which explores the numerous, often fractured, and non-overlapping worlds of literature, and studies world literature from the perspective of multilingual societies. With case studies in north India, the Maghreb, and the Horn of Africa, the project will focus on three periods: colonial consolidation, decolonisation, and the current globalising moment. It will study the local interplay of cultural traditions, local debates on world literature, old and new forms of multilingualism, and actors and technologies of print and orality.

Professor Francesca Orsini

Project title: 'Multilingual Locals and Significant Geographies'



Photo by Walid Bendra

MA Comparative Literature (Africa/Asia)



Convenor: Dr Alena Rettová

If you are looking for the chance to explore new horizons in African and Asian literature, then this programme is for you. Thanks to the extensive and unrivalled expertise of SOAS, you will find yourself immersed in a rich multi-cultural domain, ready to be mined for fresh critical comparisons, analysis and perspectives.

You will be able to study the English language literatures of Africa and Asia and literature written in African and Asian languages presented through English translations.

The major theoretical contributions made by Western scholars are explored in tandem with the emerging literature from Africa and Asia, making this a unique opportunity for students in search of a more nuanced education in literary traditions.

Fees

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

Structure

Core module

- Theory and Techniques of Comparative Literature (30 credits)

Optional modules – English-based

Students choose options worth a further 90 credits:

- Years of Radical Change: South Korean Cinema from the 'New Wave' to the New Millennium (15 credits)
- Japanese Traditional Drama (MA) (15 credits)
- Modern Japanese Literature (MA) (15 credits)
- Modern Chinese Literature in Translation (30 credits)
- Modern Chinese Film and Theatre (MA) (15 credits)
- Modern Film from Taiwan and the Chinese Diaspora (15 credits)
- Traditional Chinese Literature in Translation (30 credits)
- Literatures in African Languages (30 credits)
- The Story of African Film: Narrative Screen Media in Africa (15 credits)
- Travelling Africa: Writing the Cape to Cairo (30 credits)
- Aspects of African Film and Video 2 (15 credits)
- Realism and Magical Realism in the Afrophone Novel (PG) (30 credits)

- Literary Traditions and Culture of Korea (MA) (15 credits)
- Trajectories of Modernity in 20th Century Korean Literature (MA) (15 credits)
- English Literatures of South East Asia (15 credits)
- Literatures of South Asia (30 credits)
- Postcolonial Theory and Practice (30 credits)
- Under Western Eyes: European Writings on South East Asia (PG) (15 credits)
- War, Revolution and Independence in South East Asia Literatures in Translation (MA) (15 credits)
- Genders and Sexualities in South East Asian Film (15 credits)
- Modern Arabic Literature and the West (30 credits)
- Culture, Society and Politics in Classical Arabic Literature (30 credits)
- Japanese Transnational Cinema: From Kurosawa to Asia Extreme and Studio Ghibli (15 credits)
- Japanese Post-War Film Genres and the Avant-Garde (15 credits)
- Indian Cinema: Its History and Social Context (15 credits)
- Indian Cinema: Key Issues (15 credits)
- Research Methods in Translation Studies (15 credits)
- Translating Cultures (30 credits)
- Turkey: Continuity and Change (30 credits)

Language-based modules

- Arabic Women's Writing: Theories and Practices (30 credits)
- Modern Arabic Literary Genre: Themes and Techniques (30 credits)
- Arabic Poetry and Criticism (30 credits)
- Arabic Popular Literature: Themes, Genres & Theory (30)
- Classical Arabic Prose Literature and Adab (30 credits)
- Arabic Critical Theory and Thought (30 credits)
- Readings in Korean Literature (MA) (30 credits)
- Social and Political Trends in 19th Century Turkish Literature (30 credits)
- Selected Topics in 20th Century Turkish Literature (30 credits)
- Social and Political Dimensions of Modern Arabic Literature (30 credits)
- Modern Palestinian Literature (30 credits)
- Sanskrit Literature (30 credits)
- Directed Readings in the Literature of a Modern South Asian Language (15 credits)
- Literature and Colonialism in North India (15 credits)
- Narratives of Mobility in Contemporary Hindi Literature (MA) (15 credits)
- Identity and Language in Hebrew Literature (30 credits)

MA Cultural Studies

Convenor: Dr Karima Laachir

Issues of ideology, power, race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity and class all come under close scrutiny as part of this programme, which explores complex theoretical concepts in the cross-cultural contexts of Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

You will gain a thorough grounding in Marxism, Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, Post-Marxism, Feminism, and Post-Modernism, drawing on theory and practice to strengthen your analytic skills for your own research projects.

Combined with the opportunity to learn a language, this is the most thorough postgraduate education available in this rich discipline.

Fees

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

Structure

Core module

- Cultural Studies Theories and the Study of Asia, Arica and the Middle East (30 credits)

Optional modules

Students choose options worth a further 90 credits

No more than 30 credits can be taken from Group B or C.

The options below are recommended due to their relevancy to the programme. However, students are allowed to take any postgraduate optional module that SOAS offers (see website for a full list), provided they receive the approval of the degree convenor and the relevant course convenor.

Group A

- Turkey: Continuity and Change (30 credits)
- Selected Topics in 20th Century Turkish Literature (30 credits)
- Arabic Women's Writing: Theories and Practices (30 credits)
- Years of Radical Change: South Korean Cinema from the 'New Wave' to the New Millennium (15 credits)
- Curating Africa: African Film and Video in the Age of Festivals (15 credits)
- Travelling Africa: Writing the Cape to Cairo (30 credits)
- Japanese Traditional Drama (MA) (15 credits)
- Modern Japanese Literature (MA) (15 credits)
- Modern Chinese Literature in Translation (30 credits)
- Modern Chinese Film and Theatre (MA) (15 credits)
- Modern Film from Taiwan and the Chinese Diaspora (15 credits)

- Traditional Chinese Literature in Translation (30 credits)
- Literatures in African Languages (30 credits)
- Literatures of South Asia (30 credits)
- The Politics of Culture in Contemporary South Asia (30 credits)
- Modern Arabic Literature and the West (30 credits)
- Film and Society in the Middle East (30 credits)
- Genders and Sexualities in South East Asian Film (15 credits)
- English Literatures of South East Asia (15 credits)
- The Story of African Film: Narrative Screen Media in Africa (15 credits)
- Aspects of African Film and Video 2 (15 credits)
- Realism and Magical Realism in the Afrophone Novel (PG) (30 credits)
- Japanese Television Since 1953 (30 credits)
- Indian Cinema: Its History and Social Context (15 credits)
- Indian Cinema: Key Issues (15 credits)
- Indonesia on Screen (PG) (15 credits)
- Under Western Eyes: European Writings on South East Asia (PG) (15 credits)
- Directed Readings in a South East Asian Language (15 credits)
- Identity and Language in Hebrew Literature (30 credits)
- Translating Cultures (30 credits)
- Research Methods in Translation Studies (15 credits)
- Culture and Society of China (15 credits)
- Culture and Society of East Africa (15 credits)
- Culture and Society of Japan (15 credits)
- Culture and Society of South Asia (15 credits)
- Culture and Society of South East Asia (15 credits)
- Culture and Society of the Near and Middle East (15 credits)
- African and Asian Diasporas in the Modern World (15 credits)
- African and Asian Cultures in Britain (15 credits)
- The Transnational News Environment: Production, Representation and Use (15 credits)
- Transnational Communities and Diasporic Media: Networking, Connectivity, Identity (15 credits)
- Japanese Transnational Cinema: From Kurosawa to Asia Extreme and Studio Ghibli (15 credits)
- Japanese Post-War Film Genres and the Avant-Garde (15 credits)
- Mediated Culture in the Middle East: Politics and Communications (15 credits)
- International Political Communication (15 credits)
- Studies in Global Media and Post-National Communication (15 credits)
- Atlantic Africa: (P)Layers of Mediation in African Popular Music (PG) (30 credits)
- Pop and Politics in East Asia (MA) (15 credits)
- Gender and Music (MMus) (15 credits)
- Histories of Ethnicity and Conflict in South East Asia 1 - Making States and Building Nations (15 credits)

- Histories of Ethnicity and Conflict in South East Asia 2 - Non-National Perspectives (15 credits)
- The End of Empire in the Middle East and the Balkans (30 credits)
- Japanese Modernity I (15 credits)
- Japanese Modernity II (15 credits)
- Knowledge and Power in Early Modern China (15 credits)
- Nationhood and Competing Identities in Modern China (15 credits)
- Representing Conflict: A Cross-Cultural and Interdisciplinary Approach (15 credits)
- Islam and the West: Artistic and Cultural Contacts (15 credits)

Group B

One African or Asian PG Language module or one language-based MA Literature/Film/Media module may be included as one of the options. See the relevant language department website for module lists.

Group C

One theory module may be included as an option.

- Gender Theory and the Study of Asia, Africa and the Middle East (30 credits)
- Postcolonial Theory and Practice (30 credits)
- Theory and Techniques of Comparative Literature (30 credits)

MA Postcolonial Studies

Convenor: Dr Alena Rettová

For students keen to understand the complexities of our contemporary world, this programme is hard to beat. Focusing on the interplay of power, domination, imperialism and colonialism, you will gain new insights through the study of literature and culture from the late 19th century to the present.

You will explore the theories, methods and representations used in literature, film and media of postcolonial activities, cultures and societies across Africa, Asia the Caribbean and the Near and Middle East.

At a time when multiculturalism and race relations are continually being reframed, this programme is a vital opportunity to explore contemporary issues through the multiple perspectives that exist today.

Fees

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

Structure

Core module

- Postcolonial Theory and Practice (30 credits)

Optional modules – non-language

Students choose options worth a further 90 credits

- Modern Palestinian Literature (PG) (30 credits)
- Travelling Africa: Writing the Cape to Cairo (30 credits)
- Modern Japanese Literature (MA) (15 credits)
- Modern Chinese Literature in Translation (30 credits)
- Traditional Chinese Literature in Translation (30 credits)
- Literatures in African Languages (30 credits)
- Literatures of South Asia (30 credits)
- Imagining Pakistan: Culture, Politics, Gender (MA) (30 credits)
- Social and Political Dimensions of Modern Arabic Literature (30 credits)
- War, Revolution and Independence in South East Asia Literatures in Translation (MA) (15 credits)
- English Literatures of South East Asia (15 credits)
- Under Western Eyes: European Writings on South East Asia (PG) (15 credits)
- Translating Cultures (30 credits)
- Modern Bengal: The Evolution of Bengali Culture and Society from 1690 to the Present Day (MA) (30 credits)
- African Philosophy (15 credits)
- African Philosophies (15 credits)
- Years of Radical Change: South Korean Cinema from the 'New Wave' to the New Millennium (15 credits)
- Japanese Transnational Cinema: From Kurosawa to Asia Extreme and Studio Ghibli (15 credits)
- Japanese Post-War Film Genres and the Avant-Garde (15 credits)
- Indian Cinema: Its History and Social Context (15 credits)
- Indian Cinema: Key Issues (15 credits)
- Modern Chinese Film and Theatre (MA) (15 credits)
- Modern Film from Taiwan and the Chinese Diaspora (15 credits)
- Aspects of African Film and Video 2 (15 credits)
- Curating Africa: African Film and Video in the Age of Festivals (15 credits)
- Realism and Magical Realism in the Afrophone Novel (PG) (30 credits)
- Film and Society in the Middle East (30 credits)
- Indonesia on Screen (PG) (15 credits)
- Global Media and Post-National Communication: Theoretical and Contemporary Issues (30 credits)
- Genders and Sexualities in South East Asian Film (15 credits)
- Gendering Migration and Diasporas (15 credits)
- African and Asian Diasporas in the Modern World (15 credits)
- African and Asian Cultures in Britain (15 credits)
- Transnational Communities and Diasporic Media: Networking, Connectivity, Identity (15 credits)



Photo by Walid Bendra