



Development Studies

Development Studies programmes at SOAS provide the highest standard of teaching and learning for students with a passion for addressing the major issues and challenges facing today's global community.

By the time you graduate, you will have cultivated a deep knowledge of the causes of - and responses to - poverty, marginalisation and vulnerability in developing countries and the process of dramatic social, economic and political change.

Our staff have unrivalled academic and practical knowledge across the discipline – not content to study the subject passively, they are practitioners, actively engaged with urgent issues that affect our world. The UN, NGOs and international governments regularly call upon them to inform their work. Our teaching is led by our research and development-practice work, ensuring your studies are at the cutting edge of the sector.

Our programme looks at how development interventions reflect particular societies and cultures, drawing on SOAS' long-history of focusing on Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, as well as the research expertise on Latin America of some of our staff.

As a result, our students are able to demonstrate to potential employers not just their knowledge of international development and their analytical skills, but also a rich historical and cultural knowledge about the countries and regions in which they may work. As a result, our distinguished alumni can be found working in NGOs, charities and governments across the world, making the best difference they can.

We also offer our BA Development Studies students the opportunity to undertake a practical placement with a development organisation as part of their degree, enhancing their practical skills alongside their academic knowledge.

Structure and assessment

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

Minimum entry requirements

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

IB: 37 points with 6/6/6 at Higher level

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

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

Three years, or four years when combined with a language

Skills gained

The multidisciplinary approach of a Development Studies degree develops the ability to examine the big picture and make connections between different disciplines. The degree not only teaches you a body of information, but also a range of skills, for example:

- analytical and critical skills
- the ability to think laterally and employ critical reasoning
- a high level of cultural awareness
- problem solving
- synthesising information from different perspectives and formulating ideas
- practical skills in tools and techniques used by international development agencies

What do Development Studies graduates do?

Coordinator of Education
Development Policy Officer
Freelance Broadcast Journalist
Human Rights Officer
Manager of Fundraising, Communications and Marketing Analyst
Project Support Officer
Resourcing Executive

Employers include

BBC World Service
Bloomberg
British Red Cross
British Council
Department for International Development (DfID)
Palestine Red Crescent Association
Save the Children
UNICEF Ethiopia



Taught Programmes

- BA Development Studies
- BA Development Studies and...



More Information

www.soas.ac.uk/development



Since graduating from SOAS I have worked as a reportage illustrator, combining art and journalism to document social and political issues. I co-founded the creative journalism collective Brush&Bow in 2015, which has allowed us to work throughout Europe and the Middle East. The core part of the team comprise SOAS alumni, and the critical lessons we learnt at SOAS underpin much of our approach.

SOAS was fundamental in teaching me to challenge and question anything which we take for granted. I remember my lecturers at SOAS encouraging me to explore academic ideas creatively, and the mad and wonderful people I met at SOAS continue to be the greatest source of inspiration and collaboration.

Hannah Kirmes-Daly
BA Development Studies and South Asian Studies, 2014
Reportage illustrator at Brush&Bow



BA Development Studies

UCAS code: L905

Development Studies is by definition multidisciplinary, drawing heavily from subjects such as geography, economics, anthropology, politics and law. It studies social, political and economic changes in the developing world within specific environmental, historical and cultural contexts. Through a study of the problems of development, students are expected to acquire analytical skills, learn how the global and the local interact, present materials and ideas effectively, and develop a critical and non-Eurocentric attitude to the understanding of development.

Structure

(Typical course content)

Core modules

Year 1

- Critical Reasoning in Contemporary Development Studies (30 credits)
- Introduction to Development Studies (30 credits)
- Introduction to Political Economy of Development (30 credits)

Optional modules

- The student can elect any open module in a subject or language other than those named in the student's chosen degree title, by selecting one of our open options: www.soas.ac.uk/open-options

Year 2

- Comparative Studies on Development (30 credits)
- Introduction to Development Practice (15 credits)
- Key Thinkers and Theories in Development (15 credits)

Optional modules

Students choose options worth a further 60 credits

Development Studies

- Development and Conflict (15 credits)
- Development Communication (15 credits)
- Governance and Development (15 credits)
- Introduction to Global Forced Migration Studies (30 credits)
- Non-governmental Organisations, Development and Change (15 credits)
- Political Economy of Finance, Debt and Development (15 credits)

Economics

- Banking and Finance (30 credits)
- International Economics (30 credits)

Politics

- Comparative Political Sociology of Asia and Africa (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of China (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of South Asia (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of the Middle East (30 credits)

- Political Theory (30 credits)
- Politics of Development (30 credits)
- The State and Politics in Africa (30 credits)

Year 3

Students take Development Studies options to the value of 120 credits OR 90 credits and one open option (30 credits max) from another department.

- Development and Conflict (15 credits)
- Development Communication (15 credits)
- Governance and Development (15 credits)
- Independent Study Project in Development Studies (30 credits)
- Introduction to Global Forced Migration Studies (30 credits)
- Issues in Borders and Development (15 credits)
- Issues in Gender and Development (15 credits)
- Issues in Global Commodity Chains, Production Networks and Informal Work (15 credits)
- Issues of the Working Poor and Development (15 credits)
- Neoliberalism, Democracy and Development (15 credits)
- Non-governmental Organisations, Development and Change (15 credits)
- Security (15 credits)
- Comparative Political Sociology of Asia and Africa (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of China (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of South Asia (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of the Middle East (30 credits)
- Political Theory (30 credits)
- Politics of Development (30 credits)
- Principles of Marxist Political Economy (15 credits)
- The State and Politics in Africa (30 credits)

• BA Professional Placement (30 credits)

The BA Professional Placement is a 'work placement' in a development organisation and is offered as an option in the final year. It cannot be taken in addition to the Independent Study Project.

BA Development Studies and...

May be combined with

African Studies	TL59
Arabic+	LT96
Chinese+	LT91
Economics	LL91
History	LV91
International Relations	LL28
Korean+	TL49
Law	LM91
Linguistics	LQ93
Middle Eastern Studies	TL6X

Music	LW93
Politics	LL92
Social Anthropology	LL96
South Asian Studies++ specific 3 years	TLH9
South Asian Studies++ specific 4 years	TL38
South East Asian Studies	TLJ9
Religions	LVF6
World Philosophies	L800

+4-year degree with (compulsory) 1 year abroad

++3- or 4-year degree with option of 1 year abroad

Structure

(Typical course content)

Core modules

Year 1

- Introduction to Development Studies (30 credits)
- Introduction to Political Economy of Development (30 credits)

Year 2

- Comparative Studies on Development (30 credits)

Optional modules

Year 1

- The student selects options worth a further 60 credits from Development Studies options or open options across the School

Year 2

Students choose options worth a further 90 credits (60 credits must be taken from the other subject named in the degree) Target subjects: Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies, History and History of Art.

Development Studies

- Development and Conflict (15 credits)
- Development Communication (15 credits)
- Governance and Development (15 credits)
- Introduction to Development Practice (15 credits)
- Introduction to Global Forced Migration Studies (30 credits)
- Key Thinkers and Theories in Development (15 credits)
- Non-governmental Organisations, Development and Change (15 credits)
- Political Economy of Finance, Debt and Development (15 credits)

Economics

- Banking and Finance (30 credits)
- International Economics (30 credits)

Politics

- Comparative Political Sociology of Asia and Africa (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of China (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of South Asia (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of the Middle East (30 credits)
- Political Theory (30 credits)
- Politics of Development (30 credits)

- Southeast Asian Government and Politics (30 credits)
- Taiwan's Politics and International Relations (30 credits)
- The State and Politics in Africa (30 credits)

Year 3

Students may choose further specialist options, an independent study project, or an open option.

Students returning from a year abroad having taken three language modules in the first year must do the Year 1 and Year 2 compulsory modules in Development Studies in Year 3. Please note that final year students may not take any introductory level modules, including languages.

- Development and Conflict (15 credits)
- Development Communication (15 credits)
- Governance and Development (15 credits)
- Independent Study Project in Development Studies (30 credits)
- Introduction to Development Practice (15 credits)
- Introduction to Global Forced Migration Studies (30 credits)
- Issues in Borders and Development (15 credits)
- Issues in Gender and Development (15 credits)
- Issues in Global Commodity Chains, Production Networks and Informal Work (15 credits)
- Issues of the Working Poor and Development (15 credits)
- Neoliberalism, Democracy and Development (15 credits)
- Non-governmental Organisations, Development and Change (15 credits)
- Political Economy of Finance, Debt and Development (15 credits)
- Security (15 credits)
- Comparative Political Sociology of Asia and Africa (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of China (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of South Asia (30 credits)
- Government and Politics of the Middle East (30 credits)
- Political Theory (30 credits)
- Politics of Development (30 credits)
- Principles of Marxist Political Economy (15 credits)
- The State and Politics in Africa (30 credits)

Year Four

Students who have combined Development Studies with a language follow the Year 3 syllabus.