

English

Studying English at SOAS offers an exciting new approach to an established academic discipline. Building on the School's existing regional and interdisciplinary strengths and expertise, the BA English at SOAS takes a global perspective on Anglophone literatures and literary cultures.

The degree introduces students to the processes through which the English language and its literatures have spread across the globe, including trade, war, colonisation, globalisation, and digitisation. Its core modules emphasise dialogue, placing the English literary canon in conversation with Anglophone texts from around the world, including Africa, Asia, the Near and Middle East, Australia, the United States and the Caribbean. Optional modules allow students to explore a wide range of regional topics and disciplines, while dissertation field trips, guest seminars, and networking events immerse students in London's rich, multicultural literary heritage and provide valuable employability opportunities. Characterised by cutting-edge, research-led teaching, this inclusive, globally-oriented programme of study is the first of its kind in the UK, and represents a rigorous and stimulating alternative to the traditional BA English curriculum.

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. An A in English Language or English Literature A level or IB equivalent is required).

IB: 35 points with 6/6/5 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

In an increasingly competitive job market, English remains an exceptionally employable degree, with around 90% of graduates either in employment or further study within six months of graduation. The BA English core modules equip students with a strong skillset in written and oral communication, research, and critical thinking, while optional modules allow students to explore and pursue new areas of expertise. BA English at SOAS is thus an excellent training ground for careers in media, journalism, publishing, creative writing, education, arts and cultural organisations, the civil service, international charities, NGOs and social enterprise areas. Academic staff work closely with Careers and the Alumni Office to maximise opportunities for students to gain work experience and develop strong professional networks, capitalising on the School's reputation and location in the heart of the capital.

Examples of prestigious internships and graduate placements secured by current students include the BBC, the Welsh Parliament, TeachFirst, and the Hay Festival.



Taught Programmes

- BA English
- BA English and...



More Information

www.soas.ac.uk/english



It was a friend who first introduced me to SOAS and, when I saw the course, I knew that it was the best place for me. Other English courses were too European focused and were just reading books which I had already read, whereas English at SOAS has a much wider scope and has introduced me to a range of new authors. I am also grateful to SOAS for introducing me to drama: I am now president of the Drama Society; have written a play, which was performed at the Edinburgh Festival; and have tried my hand at directing and producing.

When I leave university, I would love to get into theatre production, although I realise it is a very competitive field.

Abigail Moselle
BA English



BA English

UCAS code: Q300

The programme consists of compulsory modules on key thematic concerns in English literary and language studies, plus a wide range of optional modules. Students can combine English with an Asian or African language, or another humanities discipline such as History or World Philosophies. Please note that, apart from language modules, optional modules for this programme are organised into specific thematic lists (A, B, C, D). On occasion optional modules may also be selected from the School's general list of open options.

Structure

(Typical course content)

Core modules

Year 1

- Global Shakespeare (30 credits)
- Ways of Reading: Introduction to Critical Theory (30 credits)

PLUS

Any module(s) to the value of 30 credits from:

- Language open options
- List A

Year 2

- The Novel and Its Others (30 credits)

PLUS

Any modules to the value of 60 credits from:

- Fictions of History (30 credits)
- Intercultural Communication and Interaction (15 credits)
- Issues in World Englishes (30 credits)
- List B

PLUS

Any modules to the value of 30 credits from:

- Fictions of History (30 credits)
- Intercultural Communication and Interaction (15 credits)
- Issues in World Englishes (30 credits)
- List B, C or D
- Language open options
- Non-language open options

Year 3

- BA Dissertation in English (30 credits)

PLUS

Any modules to the value of 60 credits from:

- Empire and the Postcolonial: Race, Genders,

- Sexualities (15 credits)
- Southern Spaces (15 credits)
- A Special Author (15 credits)
- Psychology of Multilingualism: Social and Cognitive Aspects (15 credits)
- Development Communication (15 credits)
- List B

Any modules to the value of 30 credits from:

- Empire and the Postcolonial: Race, Genders, Sexualities (15 credits)
- Southern Spaces (15 credits)
- A Special Author (15 credits)
- Psychology of Multilingualism: Social and Cognitive Aspects (15 credits)
- Development Communication (15 credits)
- List B, C, or D
- Language open options
- Non-language open options

Optional modules

List A

- Culture in Africa (30 credits)
- Language in Africa (30 credits)
- Chinese 103: History and Culture of China (30 credits)
- Aspects of Japanese Culture 1 (15 credits)
- Aspects of Japanese Culture 2 (15 credits)
- Culture and Society in Modern and Contemporary Korea (30 credits)
- Introduction to Arabic Culture (30 credits)
- Introduction to Israeli Culture (30 credits)
- Introduction to South East Asia (15 credits)
- South Asian Culture (30 credits)

List B

- Southern Spaces (15 credits)
- Literatures of the Near and Middle East (30 credits)
- Contemporary African Literature (30 credits)
- South Asian Literature in English (30 credits)
- English Literatures of South East Asia (15 credits)
- War, Revolution and Independence in South East Asian Literatures in Translation (15 credits)
- Nation and Nationalism in Middle Eastern Fiction (in translation) (30 credits)
- The City and the Countryside in South East Asian Literatures (15 credits)
- Persian Poetry in Translation (30 credits)
- Survey of Pre-Modern Japanese Literature in Translation (15 credits)
- Survey of Modern Japanese Literature in Translation (15 credits)
- Literary Traditions and Culture of Korea (15 credits)
- Trajectories of Modernity in 20th Century Korean Literature (15 credits)
- Under Western Eyes: European Writings on South East Asia (15 credits)
- Imagining Pakistan: Literature, Nation, Gender (30 credits)

List C

- Introduction to Phonology (30 credits)
- Meaning and Interpretation (15 credits)
- General Linguistics (30 credits)
- Language, Society and Communication (15 credits)
- Morphology (15 credits)
- Psychology of Language (15 credits)
- Phonetics (15 credits)
- Topics in Lexical Semantics (15 credits)
- Historical Linguistics (15 credits)
- Linguistic Typology (15 credits)
- Extended Essays in Linguistics (A) (15 credits)
- Extended Essays in Linguistics (B) (15 credits)

List D

- Japanese Cinema: A Critical Survey (30 credits)
- South East Asia on Film (15 credits)
- Thailand on Screen (post '97) (15 credits)
- Indonesia on Screen (15 credits)
- Anthropology and Film (15 credits)
- Cinema and Society in South Asia: History and Social Context (15 credits)
- Cinema and Society in South Asia: Key Issues (15 credits)
- Black British Urban Studies: Culture and Representation (15 credits)
- Britain and Slavery (15 credits)
- African and Asian Cultures in the Diaspora (15 credits)
- The Anthropology of African and Asian Communities in British Society (15 credits)
- The Muslim World: Unity in Diversity (30 credits)
- Perspectives on African Experience (30 credits)
- Pop and Politics in East Asia (15 credits)
- New Media and Society (15 credits)
- Perspectives on African Experience (30 credits)
- Filmmaking and Curatorial Practices in the Age of Festivalisation (15 credits)
- African Philosophy (15 credits)
- Situating China I: China and Other World Views Before 'Westernisation' (15 credits)
- Situating China II: Missionaries and Misfits in the British Construction of China (15 credits)
- Issues in Post-war Japanese Society 1 (15 credits)
- Issues in Post-war Japanese Society 2 (15 credits)
- Society, Culture and Politics in Nepal (30 credits)
- Modern Bengal: the Evolution of Bengali Culture and Society from 1690 to the Present (30 credits)
- History and Culture of Korea to the late 19th Century (30 credits)
- Sages Through the Ages: Confucius and Laozi (15 credits)

BA English and...*May be combined with***African Studies****Arabic+** **Q3T6****Chinese+** **QT31****Development Studies****Hebrew+** **QQ34****Japanese+** **QT32****Japanese Studies****Korean+** **QT3K****Korean Studies****Linguistics** **QQ31****Middle Eastern Studies****Politics****Persian+** **QT36****Social Anthropology****South Asian Studies (3 years)****South Asian Studies (4 years)+** **QT33****South East Asian Studies****Tibetan****Turkish+** **QT3P****+4-year degree with (compulsory) 1 year abroad****+ +3- or 4-year degree with option of 1 year abroad**

Please note that the structure of BA English and Arabic; BA English and Chinese; and BA English and Korean are slightly different from the generic BA English and... programme. In Year 1, students enrolled on these programmes take only one of the core English modules, and make up the remaining 90 credits from core modules in their chosen language pathway. These students then take the remaining Year 1 and 2 core English modules in their 2nd or 3rd year of study, depending on when their study abroad year falls.

Structure**(Typical course content)****Core modules****Year 1**

- Global Shakespeare (30 credits)
- Ways of Reading: Introduction to Critical Theory (30 credits)

PLUS

- Modules to the value of 60 credits in your chosen combined degree pathway (please see the prospectus page for your chosen combined degree for specific details on compulsory and optional modules)



Year 2

- The Novel and its Others (30 credits)

PLUS

Any modules to the value of 30 credits from:

- Fictions of History (30 credits)
- Literatures of the Near and Middle East (30 credits)
- Contemporary African Literature (30 credits)
- South Asian Literature in English (30 credits)
- English Literatures of South East Asia (15 credits)
- War, Revolution and Independence in South East Asian Literatures in Translation (15 credits)
- Nation and Nationalism in Middle Eastern Fiction (in translation) (30 credits)
- The City and the Countryside in South East Asian Literatures (15 credits)
- Persian Poetry in Translation (30 credits)
- Survey of Pre-Modern Japanese Literature in Translation (15 credits)
- Survey of Modern Japanese Literature in Translation (15 credits)
- Literary Traditions and Culture of Korea (15 credits)
- Trajectories of Modernity in 20th Century Korean Literature (15 credits)
- Under Western Eyes: European Writings on South East Asia (15 credits)
- Intercultural Communication and Interaction (15 credits)
- Issues in World Englishes (30 credits)

PLUS

- Modules to the value of 60 credits in your chosen combined degree pathway

Year 3

Year Abroad for students taking this degree as

combined honours with BA Arabic, BA Hebrew, Hindi Pathway, BA Japanese, Nepali Pathway, BA Persian, BA Tibetan, BA Turkish and Urdu Pathway. For students combining the degree with BA Chinese and BA Korean the Year Abroad will take place in Year 2. For these students, Year 3 follows the Year 2 structure outlined above.

For those students not taking the Year Abroad, Year 3 follows the Year 4 structure outlined below.

Year 4

- BA Dissertation in English (30 credits)

PLUS

Any modules to the value of 30 credits from:

- Empire and the Postcolonial: Race, Genders, Sexualities (15 credits)
- Southern Spaces (15 credits)
- A Special Author (15 credits)
- Contemporary African Literature (30 credits)
- War, Revolution and Independence in South East Asian Literatures in Translation (15 credits)
- The City and the Countryside in South East Asian Literatures (15 credits)
- Persian Poetry in Translation (30 credits)
- Literary Traditions and Culture of Korea (15 credits)
- Trajectories of Modernity in 20th Century Korean Literature (15 credits)
- Under Western Eyes: European Writings on South East Asia (15 credits)
- Development Communication (15 credits)

PLUS

- Modules to the value of 60 credits in your chosen combined degree pathway

An introductory reading list

Students on our BA degree study a range of canonical and contemporary texts in conversation with each other. We look at intersections, intertextuality, adaptations, life writing, graphic novels and films from the highlighted modules below:

Global Shakespeare (Year 1)

The course looks at a selection of Shakespeare's plays:

- *Titus Andronicus*
- *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*
- *King Lear*
- *Othello*
- *Hamlet*
- *Much Ado About Nothing*
- *The Tempest*

It also looks at different books and films adapted from or inspired by Shakespeare from around the world, including:

- Aimé Césaire (*A Tempest*)
- Jane Smiley, *A Thousand Acres*
- Toni Morrison, *Desdemona*
- Emily St John Mandel, *Station Eleven*
- Matthew Hahn, *The Robben Island Shakespeare*
- *Ran* (dir. Akira Kurosawa)
- Shakespeare Wallah (*Merchant Ivory*)
- *Haider* (dir. Vishal Bardwaj)

The Novel and Its Others (Year 2)

- Aphra Behn, *Oronooko*
- Samuel Richardson, *Pamela*
- Jane Austen, *Lady Susan*
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*
- Gustave Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*
- Mirza Hadi Ruswa, *Umrao Jaan Ada* (in Urdu or English translation)
- Virginia Woolf, *The Waves*
- Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
- Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

Fictions of History (Years 2, 3, 4)

- Sara Salih, *The History of Mary Prince*
- Valerie Martin, *Property*
- Harper Lee, *Go Set a Watchman*
- Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- J. M. Coetzee, *Foe*
- Sally Morgan, *My Place*
- Alexis Wright, *Tracker*

- Henk Van Woerden, *A Mouthful of Glass*
- Zoë Wicomb, *Playing in the Light*
- Raghu Karnad, *Farthest Field*
- *The English Patient* (dir. Anthony Minghella)
- *Belle* (dir. Amma Asante)
- *A United Kingdom* (dir. Amma Asante)
- *The New World* (dir. Terrence Malick)
- *Mabo* (dir. Rachel Perkins)

Empire and the Postcolonial: Race, Genders, and Sexualities (Year 3)

- Rudyard Kipling, *Selected Short Stories*
- E. M. Forster, *A Passage to India*
- Muhammad Iqbal, *Selected Poems*
- Mahmoud Darwish, *Memory for Forgetfulness*
- Anita Desai, *In Custody*
- Jamaica Kincaid, *The Autobiography of My Mother*
- Leila Aboulela, *Minaret*
- Abdulrazak Gurnah, *By the Sea*
- Marlon James, *A Brief History of Seven Killings*
- Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*

Southern Spaces (Year 3)

- Leonard Woolf, *Diaries in Ceylon, 1908-1911*
- Kate Grenville, *The Lieutenant*
- Michelle de Kretser, *The Hamilton Case*
- Michael Ondaatje, *Running in the Family*
- J. M. Coetzee, *Scenes from Provincial Life*
- Zoë Wicomb, *October*
- *Sea Point Days* (dir. Francois Verster)
- *Tropical Amsterdam* (dir. Alexa Oona Schulz)
- *The First Australians* (dir. Rachel Perkins)
- *Goldstone* (dir. Ivan Sen)