

# History

**History at SOAS will re-centre your world. We offer our students a unique opportunity to develop a better understanding of the world through the study of the histories of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, rather than through a western-centric framework. Studying with us allows you to explore the dynamic histories of these regions in depth and to work closely with world-renowned historians whose research is building a new way of looking at the world as a whole. We will help you to develop the valuable critical thinking, research, and writing skills that will enable you to make a difference in the world in whatever career you choose.**

Our research informs and enhances our approach to teaching, and as a result, our students benefit from direct engagement with a wide range of up-to-date scholarship, primary historical sources, and innovative approaches to the regions we study.

Our students develop the skills to understand the historical conditions of the contemporary world from a global perspective, while developing their ability to engage with multiple theories and to analyse complex systems.

## 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)

IB: 35 (665 at HL)

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

## English language requirement

Overall IELTS grade of 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

Three years, or four years when combined with a language.

## Skills gained

A degree in History prepares you for a number of careers ranging from law and public relations teaching and accountancy. Employers will be looking for highly skilled graduates. A History degree does not just teach you a body of facts, but also a range of skills, for example:

- analytical and problem solving
- communicating with clarity and fluency in writing and verbally

## What do History graduates do?

Account Executive  
Business Development Manager  
Conference Producer  
Copywriter  
Finance Researcher  
Freelance TV Researcher  
Journalist  
Production Editor  
Public Relations and Policy Manager  
Research Analyst  
Trainee Accountant  
Teaching

## Employers include

Blackstock PR  
Bonhams  
British Council  
Ernst and Young  
HSBC  
International Society for Water Solutions (ISWS)  
Middle East Consultancy Services  
Oxford Policy Management  
Shed Productions Ltd (Independent UK television production company)



### Taught Programmes

- BA Ancient Near Eastern Studies
- BA History
- BA History and...
- Certificate in Ancient Near Eastern Studies

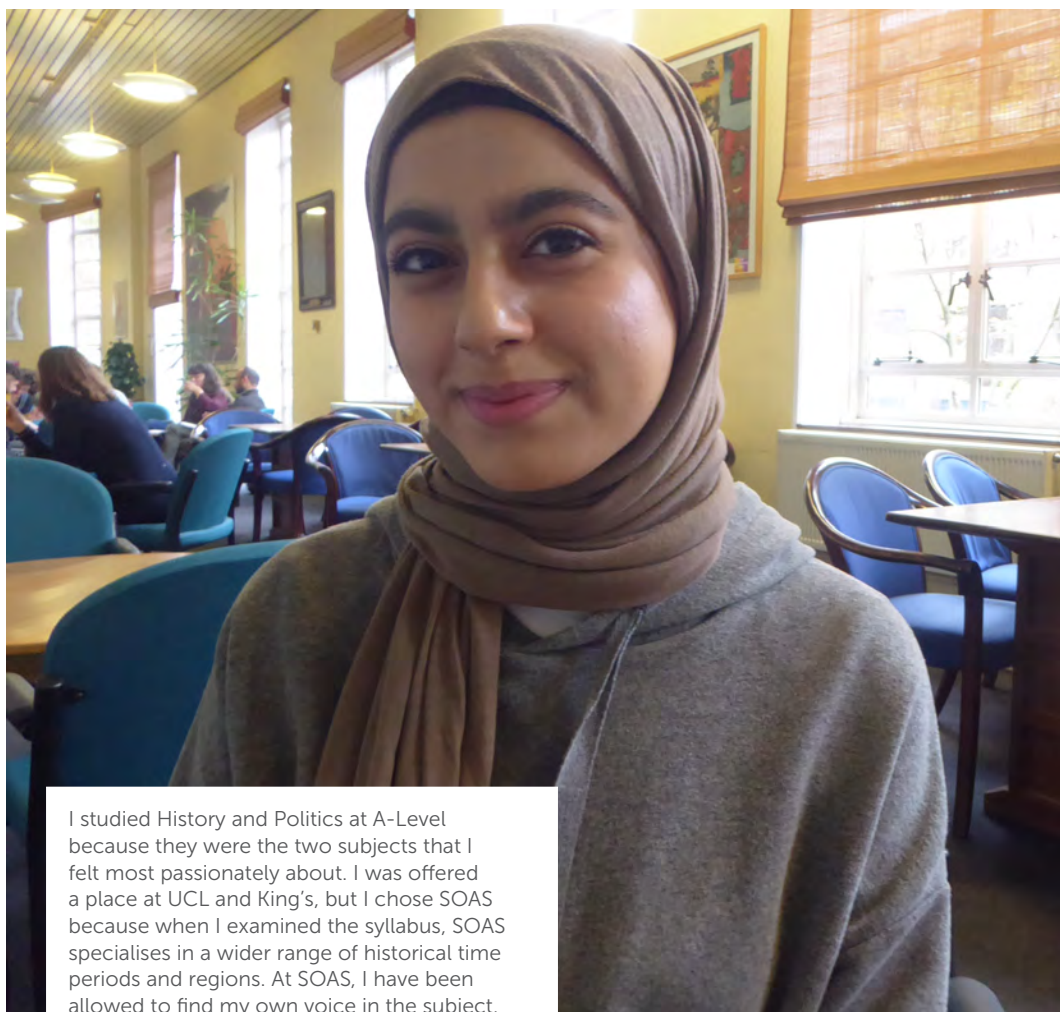
### Related Programmes

- BA Global Liberal Arts



### More Information

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



I studied History and Politics at A-Level because they were the two subjects that I felt most passionately about. I was offered a place at UCL and King's, but I chose SOAS because when I examined the syllabus, SOAS specialises in a wider range of historical time periods and regions. At SOAS, I have been allowed to find my own voice in the subject, studying the Middle East and India in my first year, and Modern China this year. What makes SOAS different is that it looks at history from a non-Western perspective, which challenges perceptions and has made me change ideas on history that I had previously held. After graduating, I am considering a possible career in teaching, perhaps as a history lecturer, but that is in the future and for the time being I am just going with the flow.

**Safia Zare**  
BA History



## BA History

UCAS code: V100

The single honours history degree provides a high standard of training in history as an academic discipline and develops in students an in-depth understanding and appreciation of the history of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

The BA History programme offers students different approaches to historical subject matter, interpretation and methodology—from the different perspectives of, for instance, economic and legal history or the history of religion and culture.

### Structure (Typical course content)

#### Year 1

Four modules, including:

- Approaching History (30 credits)
- History of the World (30 credits)

#### EITHER

- Two further introductory History modules (100-level)
- OR one introductory History module (100-level) plus an approved open option

#### Year 2

Four modules, including:

- H200-level modules

- Core module: Historical Research: Approaches, Methods, Design
- Two thematic modules (15 credits each), including: Cities; Frontiers; Gender; Violence

#### EITHER

- Two regional modules (200-level)
- OR a regional module and an approved open option

#### Year 3

Four modules, chosen from:

- A 'Special Subject' taught module (300-level) and EITHER a linked 400-level Study Project OR an Independent Study Project (10,000 words)
- EITHER two 200-level modules
- OR one 200-level module and an approved open option

#### Modules

##### Introductory History modules (100-level)

##### Core modules

- Approaching History (30 credits)
- History of the World (30 credits)

##### Regional introductions

- Introduction to the History of Africa (30 credits)
- Introduction to the History of East Asia (30 credits)
- Introduction to the History of the Near and Middle East (30 credits)
- Introduction to the History of South Asia (30 credits)
- Introduction to the History of South East Asia (30 credits)

**Intermediate History modules (200-level)****Core module**

- Historical Research: Approaches, Methods, Design (30 Credits)

**Thematic modules**

- Cities in History (15 credits)
- Frontiers in History (15 credits)
- Gender in History (15 Credits)
- Violence in History (15 Credits)

**Regional modules**

(Module offerings are subject to change)

- Culture and Identity in Modern South Asia (30 credits)
- State and Society in Mughal India (30 credits)
- The Middle East in the Period of the Crusades (30 credits)
- Cities of Paradise and Empire (30 credits)
- Medieval Iran: Nomads, Settlers and Dynasts (30 credits)
- The Making of the Modern Middle East (30 credits)
- Islam in Southeast Asia, 1760s-1960s (30 credits)
- Indigenous Warfare and Society in Early Modern Southeast Asia, 1300-1830 (30 credits)
- Society and Culture in Twentieth-Century Africa (30 credits)
- Race, Class and Culture in the History of Southern Africa (30 credits)
- Muslim Societies in West Africa (30 credits)
- Atlantic Slavery and its Legacies: Western Africa (30 credits)
- Modern Japan (30 credits)
- Modern China (30 credits)
- Islamic Reform Movements in Modern Africa (15 credits)

**Advanced History modules (300-level)**

(Module offerings are subject to change)

- Urban Modern Eastern Asia I (30 credits)
- Histories of Partition: India and Pakistan 1947 (I) (30 credits)
- Reform, Resistance and Revolution: the Ottoman Empire 1876-1909 (I) (30 credits)
- Opium and Empires: Eastern Asia's Narcotic Trade and Culture in Global Context I (30 credits)
- Rulers, Rebels and Scholars in Early Islam I (30 credits)
- The Creation of Modern Burma 1852-c.1941 (I) (30 credits)
- Violence, Identity and Politics in Modern East and Northeast Africa I (30 credits)
- Asante, the Gold Coast and the British, 1807-1935 (I) (30 credits)
- The Mongols and the Islamic World I (30 credits)
- The Vietnam War and Asia I (30 credits)
- Gandhi and Gandhism (30 credits)

**ISP and Special Subjects (400-level)**

(Module offerings are subject to change)

- Independent Study Project (Asian and African History) (30 credits)
- The Vietnam War and Asia II (30 credits)
- Histories of Partition: India and Pakistan 1947 (II) (30 credits)
- Reform, Resistance and Revolution: the Ottoman Empire 1876-1909 (II) (30 credits)
- The Mongols and the Islamic World II (30 credits)
- Rulers, Rebels and Scholars in Early Islam II (30 credits)
- The Creation of Modern Burma 1852-c.1941 (II) (30 credits)
- Violence, Identity and Politics in Modern East and Northeast Africa II (30 credits)
- Asante, the Gold Coast and the British, 1807-1935 (II) (30 credits)
- Opium and Empires: Eastern Asia's Narcotic Trade and Culture in Global Context II (30 credits)
- Urban Modern Eastern Asia II (30 credits)
- Gandhi and Gandhism II (30 Credits)

**BA History and...***May be combined with*

<a href="#">African Studies</a>	<a href="#">VT15</a>
<a href="#">Arabic+</a>	<a href="#">TV61</a>
<a href="#">Chinese+</a>	<a href="#">TV11</a>
<a href="#">Development Studies</a>	<a href="#">LV91</a>
<a href="#">Economics</a>	<a href="#">LV11</a>
<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">Q3V1</a>
<a href="#">History of Art/Archaeology</a>	<a href="#">VV13</a>
<a href="#">International Relations</a>	<a href="#">LV22</a>
<a href="#">Japanese+</a>	<a href="#">TV21</a>
<a href="#">Korean+</a>	<a href="#">TVL1</a>
<a href="#">Law</a>	<a href="#">MV11</a>
<a href="#">Linguistics</a>	<a href="#">QV31</a>
<a href="#">Middle Eastern Studies</a>	
<a href="#">Music</a>	<a href="#">VW13</a>
<a href="#">Politics</a>	<a href="#">LV21</a>
<a href="#">Religions</a>	<a href="#">VV16</a>
<a href="#">Social Anthropology</a>	<a href="#">LV61</a>
<a href="#">South Asian Studies++ (3 years)</a>	<a href="#">VT1J</a>
<a href="#">South Asian Studies++ (4 years)</a>	<a href="#">TV31</a>
<a href="#">South East Asian Studies</a>	<a href="#">VTCJ</a>
<a href="#">World Philosophies</a>	<a href="#">V101</a>

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

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

On the combined degree, some students choose to focus mainly on one region (Africa, Near and Middle East, South, South East or East Asia) or theme (Islam,



modernisation and modernity). Others choose to range more broadly, exploring various themes and parts of the world. There are advantages to both approaches, developing an in-depth knowledge of one particular region but also being able to place its history in comparative context.

## Structure

### (Typical course content)

#### Core modules

##### Year 1

Four modules, chosen from:

- Approaching History – the compulsory core introductory module (30 credits)
- One module from either History of the World, or an Introductory History module (100 level) (30 credits)
- Two modules from the other subject

##### Year 2

Two modules, chosen from:

- Core module: Historical Research: Approaches, Methods, Design (30 credits)
- 30 credits from among the 200-level thematic and regional History modules
- Two modules from the other subject

##### Year 3

- One module chosen from the 300-level modules
- One module that may be a 400-level 'Special Subject' dissertation linked to the 300-level module, OR an Independent Study Project OR an Intermediate (200-level modules)
- Two modules from the other subject

#### Optional modules

##### Intermediate History modules (200-level)

(Module offerings are subject to change)

- Culture and Identity in Modern South Asia (30 credits)
- State and Society in Mughal India (30 credits)
- The Middle East in the Period of the Crusades (30 credits)
- Cities of Paradise and Empire (30 credits)
- Medieval Iran: Nomads, Settlers and Dynasts (30 credits)
- The Making of the Modern Middle East (30 credits)
- Islam in Southeast Asia, 1760s-1960s (30 credits)
- Indigenous Warfare and Society in Early Modern Southeast Asia, 1300-1830 (30 credits)
- Society and Culture in Twentieth-Century Africa (30 credits)
- Race, Class and Culture in the History of Southern Africa (30 credits)
- Muslim Societies in West Africa (30 credits)
- Atlantic Slavery and its Legacies: Western Africa (30 credits)
- Modern Japan (30 credits)
- Modern China (30 credits)
- Islamic Reform Movements in Modern Africa (15 credits)

##### Advanced History modules (300-level)

(Module offerings are subject to change)

- Urban Modern Eastern Asia I (30 credits)
- Histories of Partition: India and Pakistan 1947 (I) (30 credits)
- Reform, Resistance and Revolution: the Ottoman Empire 1876-1909 (I) (30 credits)
- Opium and Empires: Eastern Asia's Narcotic Trade and Culture in Global Context I (30 credits)
- Rulers, Rebels and Scholars in Early Islam I (30 credits)
- The Creation of Modern Burma 1852-c.1941 (I) (30 credits)
- Violence, Identity and Politics in Modern East and Northeast Africa I (30 credits)
- Asante, the Gold Coast and the British, 1807-1935 (I) (30 credits)
- The Mongols and the Islamic World I (30 credits)
- The Vietnam War and Asia I (30 credits)
- Gandhi and Gandhism I (30 credits)

##### ISP and Special Subjects (400-level)

(Module offerings are subject to change)

- Independent Study Project (Asian and African History) (30 credits)
- The Vietnam War and Asia II (30 credits)
- Histories of Partition: India and Pakistan 1947 (II) (30 credits)
- Reform, Resistance and Revolution: the Ottoman Empire 1876-1909 (II) (30 credits)
- The Mongols and the Islamic World II (30 credits)
- Rulers, Rebels and Scholars in Early Islam II (30 credits)
- The Creation of Modern Burma 1852-c.1941 (II) (30 credits)
- Violence, Identity and Politics in Modern East and Northeast Africa II (30 credits)
- Asante, the Gold Coast and the British, 1807-1935 (II) (30 credits)
- Opium and Empires: Eastern Asia's Narcotic Trade and Culture in Global Context II (30 credits)
- Urban Modern Eastern Asia II (30 credits)
- Gandhi and Gandhism II (30 credits)



## Certificate in Ancient Near Eastern Studies

### Duration

Full-time: 1 year

Part-time: 2 or 3 years

Students can choose to study full-time (one year) or part-time (two or three years). 120 credits must be undertaken and passed to gain the certificate.

The certificate can also be based on the first year of the BA Ancient Near Eastern Studies programme and can be taken as an equivalent to this.

### SOAS credits

Full-time syllabus (one year)

Students normally take these SOAS credits:

- Akkadian (Introductory) (30 credits)
- Literatures of the Near and Middle East (30 credits)
- PLUS 60 credits in Archaeology and Ancient History at UCL (see below)

Part-time syllabus (two or three years)

Possible modules include:

- Akkadian (Introductory) (30 credits)
- Akkadian Texts 1 (30 credits)
- Sumerian (Introductory) (30 credits)
- Sumerian Texts 1 (30 credits)
- Hittite (Introductory) (30 credits)
- Hittite Texts (30 credits)

### UCL credits

Possible modules include:

- Introductory unit in Biblical Hebrew (30 credits)
- Introduction to Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology (15 credits)
- Texts in Archaeology (15 credits)
- Ancient History Modules (30 credits)