

Korea

We are unique in the breadth and depth of our regional specialisation and are home to the largest concentration of Korean specialists in Europe.

Our rich and diversified expertise allows you to gain focused knowledge in the regions of your interest, both in their classical traditions as well as their contemporary developments, together with more or less intensive study of their languages, both at SOAS and at our many prestigious partner universities in Korea.

Learning the languages of these cultures is essential for study at any level and all students will have the opportunity to develop and maintain a high level of competence in the Korean language.

BA Korean

The BA Korean degrees are four years in total (including a year abroad) and combine study of the written and spoken language along with lecture modules that focus on Korean culture, society, literature and history. Joint degree combinations are also four years. It provides intensive training in the language and aims to impart to its students an understanding of pre-modern Korean tradition, sensitivity to Korea's experience under Japanese colonial rule (1910-1945) and during the Korean War, and the tools with which to interpret modern Korean culture and society in the West.

BA Korean Studies

The BA Korean Studies single-subject degrees are three year degrees and do not include a period of study abroad. Joint degree combinations are also three years, apart from those with Chinese or Japanese, which are all four years and include a year abroad in China or Japan. Students focus on the study of Korea through a wide range of modules available across SOAS, not just in the East Asia Department. Students are required to take only a minimum amount of language modules. The degrees can accommodate both students with no preexisting language skills and those who already possess an intermediate or higher proficiency.

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 points with 6/6/5 at Higher level

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

Duration

Three years, or four years if the degree includes a Year Abroad.

Skills gained

Our Korean degrees prepare you for a wide range of careers in a variety of sectors including marketing and publishing, nongovernmental agencies, international political organisations, diplomacy, business and public service. A language study programme does not just teach you a body of facts, but also a range of skills that employers look for, 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 Korean studies graduates do?

Academic

Architect

Director of Development and Alumni Relations

Director of Digital Agency Public Relations

Financial Analyst

Freelance Korean Translator

Head of Production

HM Ambassador to Korea

Interactive Designer

Media and Communications

Project Leader, Strategic Planning

Regional expert

Senior Research Executive

Solicitor

US Marketing Executive

Employers include

Bloomberg L.P

British Council Seoul

British Council Tokyo

British High Commission

Deloitte Management Consulting Ltd.

Edelman Korea

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Korea Broadcasting Corporation

Korea Trade Organisation

KOTRA (Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency)

KPMG

Mitsubishi UFJ Securities International

NHK-Japan Broadcasting Corporation

Oxford University

The British Embassy

The British Museum

Wall Street Associates



I grew up in Kent, but spent a few years in Ukraine before moving back to the UK for University. I come from a Christian family who were also multilingual. The study of languages has always interested me. I became interested in Japanese culture through anime. And then became interested in Korean culture when I stumbled across K-Pop on Tumblr.

I really enjoy my course as I'm doing what I love. Learning a language is difficult though. Being at SOAS challenges me to see life through the eyes of different cultures. What surprises me most about SOAS is how inclusive it is for undergrads to connect with postgraduate and research students. Also, that not everybody agrees with the Students' Union!

I'm still only in second year so I still don't have a clear idea of what I want to do after I graduate. Broadly speaking I would like to do something in writing and education, but I'm still deciding what my next step will be.

Laura Trokyhmenko
BA Korean Studies



Taught Programmes

- BA Korean
- BA Korean and...
- BA Korean Studies
- BA Korean Studies and...



More Information

www.soas.ac.uk/japankorea



BA Korean

UCAS code: T415

This degree is designed to provide a comprehensive overview and understanding of Korea and Korean culture by combining instruction in language, literature, and history. On completion of their studies, students should have a strong command of both spoken and written forms of Korean.

In addition to thorough training in the language, the degree aims to impart to its students knowledge of pre-modern traditions and the tools with which to interpret modern Korean society.

Structure

(Typical course content)

Year 1

- K100 Elementary Korean (60 credits)
- Modern Korea 1: History (15 credits)
- Modern Korea 2: Culture and Society (15 credits)
- Open option (30 credits) OR
- 30 credits at Level 4 from List B

Year 2

- Year Abroad

Year 3

Choose 60 credits from the following:

- K301: Introduction to Mixed Script Korean (30 credits)
- K302: Korean Readings (30 credits)
- K303: Composition in Korean (15 credits)
- K304: Korean Conversation (15 credits)
- Ch 103: History and Culture of China (30 credits)
- Japanese Cultural History to 1600: Power, Belief, Creativity (15 credits)
- Japanese Cultural History 1600 to 1945: Power, Belief, Creativity (15 credits)
- Cultural History of Tibet (15 credits)
- Imagining Tibet (15 credits)
- H120 Introduction to the History of East Asia (30 credits)
- Themes in the Art and Archaeology of East Asia (15 credits)
- R170 Introduction to the Religions of East and Central Asia (15 credits)
- Management in Japan and Korea: Domestic and International Developments (30 credits)
- R110 Introduction to Buddhism (15 credits)
- Cool Japan: Manga, Anime, Sushi (15 credits)
- History and Culture of Korea to the late 19th Century (30 credits)
- Trajectories of Modernity in Korean Literature (15 credits)
- Literary Traditions and Culture of Korea (15 credits)

- The Other Korea: North Korea since 1945 (15 credits)
- 1990's South Korean Cinema: A Critical Survey (15 credits)
- Extended Essay in Korean Language and Culture (15 credits)
- Fieldwork methods in language and culture (15 credits)
- Royal Arts of Korea (15 credits)
- Buddhist Arts of Korea (15 credits)
- Contemporary Korean Arts in East Asia (15 credits)
- Paintings of Korea (15 credits)
- Queer Cinema in Asia (15 credits)
- History and Structure of the Korean Language (30 credits)
- History and Memory in East Asian Cultures (15 credits)
- Identity and social relations in Japanese (15 credits)
- Japanese Cinema: a Critical Survey (15 credits)
- Japanese New Wave Cinema: Youth, Sex and Protest (15 credits)
- Modern Film from Taiwan and the Chinese Diaspora (15 credits)
- Cinema and Performance in China: Critical and Historical Approaches (15 credits)

Year 4

- Independent Study Project in Korean Language and Culture (30 Credits)

Plus 30 credits of Korean language modules from the following list:

- K401: Advanced Korean Readings (30 credits)
- K402: Advanced Korean Composition (15 credits)
- K403: Korean-English Translation (15 credits)
- Readings in Korean Literature (15 credits)
- Readings in Modern Korean Society (15 credits)

BA Korean and...

May be combined with

African Studies

Arabic

Chinese **TTC4**

Development Studies **TL49**

Economics **LTCL**

English **QT3K**

History **TVL1**

History of Art/Archaeology **VT34**

International Relations **LT24**

Japanese

Japanese Studies **TT42**

Law	MTDL
Linguistics	QTCJ
Middle Eastern Studies	
Music	TWLH
Persian	
Politics	LTFI
Social Anthropology	LTPL
Religions	TVLP
South Asian Studies (3 years)	
South Asian Studies (Year Abroad)	
South East Asian Studies	
Tibetan	
Turkish	
World Philosophies	T431

BA Korean Studies

UCAS code: T411

This is a three-year degree (four years in combination with Chinese or Japanese) and does not include a year of study in Korea. It requires less intensive study of the Korean language than the BA Korean – a smaller number of language classes can be taken at various levels of proficiency, from complete beginner to very advanced. The degree provides wide-ranging coverage of disciplines taught by specialists in the Korean section (pre-modern and modern literature, theoretical and applied linguistics, history, film and popular culture) and allows access to the disciplinary expertise of other Korea-related specialists across the School. This enables students to structure their programme of study with great flexibility and to develop and pursue their own individual interests.

Structure

(Typical course content)

Year 1

Korean language, history and culture, and options to choose modules from various disciplines.

Year 2

Korean language, contemporary studies, literature and options to choose modules from various disciplines.

Year 3

Independent study project, Korean language, and options to choose modules on Korea from various disciplines.

BA Korean Studies and...

May be combined with:

African Studies	
Arabic	
Chinese+	TT14
Development Studies	TL48
Economics	TL41
History	T41
History of Art/Archaeology	TV43
International Relations	TL42
Japanese+	TT24
Japanese Studies	T2T4
Linguistics	TQ14
Middle Eastern Studies	
Music	TW43
Persian	
Politics	TL14
Social Anthropology	TL46
Religions	TV64
South Asian Studies (3 years)	
South Asian Studies (Year Abroad)	
South East Asian Studies	
Tibetan	
Turkish	
World Philosophies	TV54

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