



South Asia

The study of language gives unique access to the culture of a region, to its contemporary life and its historical civilization. That is why, at SOAS, we take it as the starting point in our collective bid to improve how we understand the depth, beauty and complexity of the Indian subcontinent.

Within Europe, we offer the widest coverage of research and teaching related to this significant region, which means you gain access to an inestimable level of knowledge on the languages, literatures and cultures of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

By choosing to come to SOAS you will also be gaining unprecedented access to the SOAS South Asia Institute, which represents the largest multi-disciplinary community of scholars working on South Asia of any university in Europe.

Our central London location affords the additional advantage of placing us in the centre of a virtual microcosm of South Asia, with an enviable array of festivals, events, galleries and resources. As a student you will find many new experiences are right on your doorstep, including the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, a major venue for Indian performance arts; the Oriental and India Office Collection of the British Library; the Nehru Centre and the cultural wing of the High Commission of India.

We encourage an interdisciplinary approach to research, our areas of interest include: Indian cinema and popular culture; diaspora studies; postcolonial literature; literary and linguistic studies associated particularly with Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Nepali, Gujarati, Tamil, Sanskrit; classical Hinduism; feminism; representations of Islam; the politics of Nepal and Bhutan; and literary translation.

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 Intensive South Asian Studies
- MA South Asian Area Studies



More Information

www.soas.ac.uk/southasia

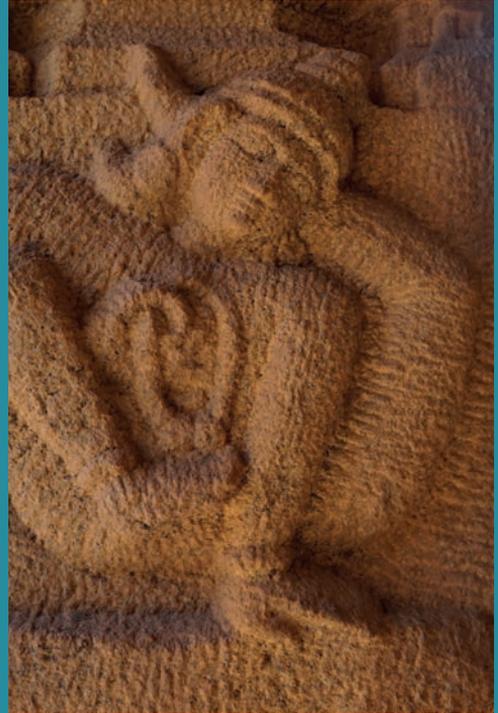


Charting the history of physical yoga practices

The Hatha Yoga Project is a five-year European Research Council-funded project, hosted by the Centre of Yoga Studies. The project aims to map the history of physical yoga practices using philology and ethnography. The project team consists of four researchers based at SOAS including Dr James Mallinson, Senior Lecturer in Sanskrit and Classical Indian Studies.

The project's primary outputs will be critical editions and annotated translations of ten Sanskrit texts on hatha yoga, four monographs, and a range of journal articles, book chapters and encyclopedia entries. The project hosted a workshop for twenty scholars working on critical editions of Sanskrit texts on yoga at SOAS and All Souls, Oxford, and at the conclusion of the project there will be a public conference to be held at SOAS in 2020.

Dr James Mallinson
Project title: 'Hatha Yoga Project'



A Sadhu (holy man), Pashupatinath Temple, Kathmandu, Nepal



MA Intensive South Asian Studies

Convenor: Professor Rachel Dwyer

This is an exciting opportunity to develop an understanding of South Asia that is of the greatest possible depth and sophistication, and is based upon cultural and linguistic fluency as well as advanced training in an academic discipline.

Students study a South Asian language and a relevant discipline and spend a semester at a partner university in a South Asian country. Such a potent combination of linguistic, cultural and disciplinary skills cannot be acquired in any UK university other than SOAS.

The skills developed on this programme will equip students for professional work in or on South Asia, or for research at a doctoral level, under the expert supervision of one of our sixty South Asia-focused academics.

Fees

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

Structure

Students take 120 credits worth of modules in London during the first year of which a language course (in Bengali, Hindi, Nepali or Urdu), and the module The Politics of Culture in Contemporary South Asia are compulsory. During their second year, students spend a semester at a partner university in a South Asian country before returning to write a 20,000 word dissertation.

Duration

Two years (full-time)

Start of programme

September intake only

Entry requirements

Minimum upper second honours degree (or equivalent) in a social science or humanities discipline.

Structure

Core module

- The Politics of Culture in Contemporary South Asia (30 credits)

Optional modules

Anthropology (minor only)

- Culture and Society of South Asia (15 credits)
- African and Asian Diasporas in the Modern World (15 credits)

Art and Archaeology

- The Indian Temple (30 credits)

Cinema

- Indian Cinema: Its History and Social Context (15 credits)
- Indian Cinema: Key Issues (15 credits)

Culture

- Contemporary India: Methods, Issues and Approaches (30 credits)
- Contemporary Punjab: Society and Culture Across Borders (30 credits)
- Culture and Conflict in the Himalaya (30 credits)

Economics

- Economic Development of South Asia a) the Macroeconomy (15 credits)
- Economic Development of South Asia b) Major Sectors and the International (15 credits)

History

- Environmental History of Asia (15 credits)
- Gender, Law and the Family in the History of Modern South Asia (15 credits)

Language

- Bengali Language 1 (PG) (30 credits)
- Bengali Language 2 (PG) (30 credits)
- Hindi Language 1 (PG) (30 credits)
- Hindi Language 2 (PG) (30 credits)
- Hindi Language 3 (PG) (30 credits)
- Hindi Language 4 (PG) (30 credits)
- Readings in Contemporary Hindi (PG) (30 credits)
- Nepali Language 1 (PG) (30 credits)
- Nepali Language 2 (PG) (30 credits)
- Urdu Language 1 (PG) (30 credits)
- Urdu Language 2 (PG) (30 credits)
- Urdu Literacy (PG) (30 credits)

Law

- Law and Society in South Asia (MA/LLM) (30 credits)

Literature

- Literatures of South Asia (30 credits)
- Postcolonial Theory and Practice (30 credits)
- Theory and Techniques of Comparative Literature (30 credits)
- Sanskrit Literature (30 credits)
- Directed Readings in the Literature of a Modern South Asian Language (30 credits)
- Sanskrit Texts from the Hindu Tradition (30 credits)
- Literature and Colonialism in North India (MA) (15 credits)
- Narratives of Mobility in Contemporary Hindi Literature (MA) (15 credits)

Music

- Raga: Concept and Practice (PG) (15 credits)
- Sacred Sound in South Asia (15 credits)

Politics

- Government and Politics of Modern South Asia (30 credits)

Study of Religions

- Religions and Development (15 credits)
- Modern Muslim Thinkers from South Asia (30 credits)
- History and Doctrines of Indian Buddhism (30 credits)
- Religious and Philosophical Ideas of Ancient and Medieval India (30 credits)
- Classical Hindu Texts in Translation: Epics and Puranas (30 credits)
- Buddhism in Tibet (15 credits)
- Imag(in)ing Buddhahood in South Asia (1) (15 credits)
- Imag(in)ing Buddhahood in South Asia (2) (15 credits)
- The Buddhist Conquest of Central Asia (15 credits)
- Jainism: History, Doctrine and the Contemporary World (30 credits)
- Buddhist Rituals (15 credits)
- Basic Pali (PG) (30 credits)
- Pali: Intermediate Level (30 credits)
- Oriental Religions in European Academia and Imagination, 1815-1945 (30 credits)
- Features of Buddhist Monasticism (15 credits)
- Contemporary Islamism in South Asia: Readings in Sayyid Abu Al-A'la Mawdudi (30 credits)
- Buddhist Meditation in India and Tibet (30 credits)
- The Origins and Development of Yoga in Ancient India (30 credits)

MA South Asian Area Studies

Convenor: Professor Rachel Dwyer

A diverse student community coupled with unrivalled quality and quantity of specialist resources makes this programme the ideal choice for anyone keen to study one of the world's most diverse and important regions.

Depending on how you choose to direct your studies, you can gain an exceptional insight into the politics, economics, anthropology, law and history of the South Asian Countries.

Covering the pre-modern and modern era, this might see you engaging with the issues of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan or Sri Lanka.

The SOAS South Asia Institute, a dedicated research centre, underpins student study. So too does SOAS's central London location with its vibrant calendar of festivals, events and activities.

Fees

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

Structure

The degree programme is 180 credits in total. This comprises: Dissertation in South Asian Area Studies (60 credits) and Select options worth 120 credits in total.

- A maximum of 60 credits may be taken in any one discipline
- A minimum of three disciplines MUST BE covered
- For students opting to take two language acquisition modules, only one of these can be at introductory level

Optional modules

Anthropology

- Culture and Society of South Asia (15 credits)
- African and Asian Diasporas in the Modern World (15 credits)

Art and Archaeology

- The Indian Temple (30 credits)

Cinema

- Indian Cinema: Its History and Social Context (15 credits)
- Indian Cinema: Key Issues (15 credits)

Culture

- Contemporary India: Methods, Issues and Approaches (30 credits)
- Contemporary Punjab: Society and Culture Across Borders (30 credits)
- The Politics of Culture in Contemporary South Asia (30 credits)

Economics

- Economic development of South Asia a) the macroeconomy (15 credits)
- Economic Development of South Asia B) Major Sectors & The International Economy (15 credits)

History

- Colonialism and Nationalism in South Asia (15 credits)
- Environmental History of Asia (15 credits)
- Gender, law and the family in the history of modern South Asia (15 credits)
- Islam in South Asia (15 credits)

Languages – one option as a minor only

- Bengali Language 1 (PG) (30 credits)
- Bengali Language 2 (PG) (30 credits)
- Hindi Language 1A (PG) (15 credits)
- Hindi Language 1B (PG) (15 credits)
- Hindi Language 2 (PG) (30 credits)
- Hindi Language 3 (PG) (30 credits)
- Hindi Language 4 (PG) (30 credits)
- Readings in Contemporary Hindi (PG) (30 credits)
- Nepali Language 1 (PG) (30 credits)



- Nepali Language 2 (PG) (30 credits)
- Prakrit Language 1 (PG) (30 credits)
- Sanskrit Language 1 (PG) (30 credits)
- Sanskrit Language 2 (PG) (30 credits)
- Punjabi Language 1 (30 credits)
- Urdu Language 1 (PG) (30 credits)
- Urdu Language 2 (PG) (30 credits)
- Urdu Literacy (PG) (30 credits)
- Elementary Written Persian (30 credits)
- Intensive Persian Language (30 credits)
- Intermediate Persian Language (PG) (30 credits)
- Persian Language 3 (PG) (30 credits)
- Tibetan (Classical) 1A (15 credits)
- Tibetan (Classical) 1B (PG) (15 credits)

Law

- Law and Society in South Asia (MA/LLM) (30 credits)

Literature

- Literatures of South Asia (30 credits)
- Postcolonial Theory and Practice (30 credits)
- Theory and Techniques of Comparative Literature (30 credits)
- Sanskrit Literature (30 credits)
- Directed Readings in the Literature of a Modern South Asian Language (30 credits)
- Sanskrit Texts from the Hindu Tradition (30 credits)
- Literature and Colonialism in North India (MA) (15 credits)
- Narratives of Mobility in Contemporary Hindi Literature (MA) (15 credits)

Music

- Raga: Concept and Practice (PG) (15 credits)
- Indian Vocal Music: Styles and Histories (15 credits)
- Sacred Sound in South Asia (15 credits)

Politics

- Government and Politics of Modern South Asia (30 credits)

Religions

- Buddhism in Tibet (15 credits)
- Buddhist Meditation in India and Tibet (30 credits)
- Imag(in)ing Buddhahood in South Asia (1) (15 credits)
- Imag(in)ing Buddhahood in South Asia (2) (15 credits)
- Issues in Religion and Media (15 credits)
- Jainism: History, Doctrine and the Contemporary World (30 credits)
- Religions and Development (15 credits)
- The Origins and Development of Yoga in Ancient India (30 credits)



