

## Programme specification 2012/2013

### School of Oriental and African Studies

The following information forms the programme specification at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. It gives definitive information relating to a programme of study and is written for a public audience, particularly prospective and current students. It is also used for other purposes such as initial programme approval, and is therefore produced at the start of the programme development process. Once approved, it forms the baseline information for all statements relating to the programme and is updated as approved amendments are made.

#### CORE INFORMATION

Programme title	BSc International Management (China) (Year Abroad)
Final award	BSc Honours
Intermediate awards	N/A
Mode of attendance	Full time, with one year abroad
UCAS code	NT2C
Professional body accreditation	N/A
Date specification created/updated	March 2011

#### WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAMME?

Why study at SOAS?	SOAS is unique as the only higher education institution in the UK specialising in the study of Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The School also has the largest concentration of specialist faculty concerned with the study of these areas at any university in the world. SOAS is consistently ranked among the top higher education institutions in the UK and the world and it also offers a friendly, vibrant environment for students in a diverse and close-knit community.
What is special about this programme?	Our 4-year programme provides students with a strong grounding in international management, specialist knowledge of business and management in China and competence in Chinese language. Students take courses in accounting, finance, managerial economics, marketing, corporate governance, research methods and international business strategy, together with specialist courses that draw on SOAS's knowledge

	<p>of management and finance in China. In addition, students take three full-unit modules in Chinese and spend their third year in China or Taiwan. During their time at SOAS students have the opportunity to take approved courses from other SOAS departments, such as Law, Politics, Economics and Languages and Cultures of China, providing a rich inter-disciplinary learning environment.</p> <p>The programme aims to provide students with a conceptual understanding of core principles of international management and finance, the ability to apply this knowledge to real issues facing business and other organisations that operate in China or deal with these economies, and competence in Chinese.</p>
Who would it suit?	<p>Graduates will have a firm grasp of international management disciplines that should place them in a good position to pursue a career in business, banking, consulting, media and other industries, especially in companies or organisations that operate in, or do business with China. Students who attain a first or upper second will be well-placed to embark on postgraduate study. The Department of Financial and Management Studies (DeFiMS) maintains close links with employers in the United Kingdom, its focus regions including China and elsewhere. We expect that many of our graduates will move into banking, consulting, media, and other industries.</p>
Programme structure	<p>Students take modules to the value of 4 units in each of their 3 years at SOAS (years 1, 2 and 4). The programme has been designed so that second and final year courses at SOAS build on courses taken in earlier years. Students spend their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of study abroad, normally in one of our partner institutions in China or Taiwan and follow an approved programme of study. In their final year at SOAS students undertake an independent study project or dissertation equivalent to 1 course unit.</p>

<p>Assessment summary</p>	<p>The assessment procedures involve coursework assignments, unseen examinations and a dissertation. They provide the student with opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the content and systems taught in lectures, tutorials and the literature.</p> <p>The assessment procedures also provide the student with opportunities to demonstrate how classroom and book learning can be applied to various organisational and cultural contexts – in particular in China. The dissertation requirement aims to develop and assess an awareness of how the basic content and principles can be transferred in different industries and global applications.</p>
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## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

SOAS has general minimum entrance requirements for registration for an undergraduate degree and these can be viewed at <http://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/entryreq/>

- **A Levels:** AAB
- **GCSE Maths B**
- **IB:** 36 (6/6/6)
- **BTEC:** DDM
- **Scottish Highers:** AAABB
- **Scottish Advanced Highers:** AAB
- **Irish LC:** 340 points from 5 Higher level subjects at grade C1 or above
- **Advanced Placement:** 4 4 5 (Two semesters - UCAS Group A) plus US HSGD with GPA 3.0
- **Euro Bacc:** 80%
- **French Bacc:** 14/20
- **German Abitur:** 2.0
- **Italy DES:** 80/100
- **Austria Mat:** 2.0
- **Polish Mat:** 75%

## PROGRAMME AIMS

What will this programme give the student an opportunity to achieve?

- The programme aims to teach a combination of general management courses with specialist courses on management in China and Chinese language courses. It is aimed at students wanting to pursue business careers in Chinese organisations or organisations that deal with China. The planned syllabus

includes general management courses common to most first-degree management programmes; e.g. accounting, marketing, finance, international management, research methods, managerial economics and strategy. The courses devoted to Chinese topics apply the general courses to the region in question, and give the programme specialist interest. Thus the programme aims to apply traditional SOAS expertise in (for SOAS) a new undergraduate field of study. In addition students take 3 full unit modules in Chinese language and normally spend their 3<sup>rd</sup> year aboard in one of our partner institutions, in China or Taiwan.

## **PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES**

What will the student learn?

### **Knowledge**

This programme aims to provide students with an understanding of basic procedures in the subject areas taught. For example, students should:

- have detailed knowledge of the various models and systems taught, and the underlying principles
- understand the strengths and limitations of different techniques and critical methods
- understand how the findings achieved by use of different managerial strategies, financial techniques and critical methods may be used to inform managerial decisions in different countries and organisational contexts.
- understand the limits and effectiveness of different managerial, financial and other regulatory systems
- understand the different roles played by managers in different functions and cultures
- understand how far factors associated with the global and local cultural (China) context influence decision-making within organisations
- have knowledge and understanding of the Chinese language/grammar (written and spoken) to a competent level

### **Intellectual (thinking) skills**

Having successfully completed the programme, students should be able to handle concepts and principles in the subject areas taught. Students should be able to:

- explain and interpret concepts in these subject areas  
understand theoretical models and their relevance in different cultural contexts
- identify how far techniques, conventions and practice differ across cultures, and to show why
- appraise and assess empirical analyses and evidence
- interpret and critically assess the applications made of standard models in different cultural contexts
- understand and utilise written and spoken Chinese language to a competent level

### **Subject-based practical skills**

Having successfully completed the programme, students should be able to apply knowledge and principles in the following areas, and to apply basic models. Specifically, he/she should be able to:

- construct and apply models, systems, and techniques
- interpret financial statements and accounts of businesses and other organisations
- apply different conventions and techniques to construct financial statements, accounts and reports
- explain how models learned in the programme may be used to inform managerial decisions in different countries and organisational contexts
- assess and appraise models, systems and techniques taught in the programme
- use statistical techniques and computer software
- speak and understand Chinese language to a reasonable level of competence

#### **Transferable skills**

Having successfully completed the programme, students should be able to transfer intellectual and practical skills to:

- participating in the labour market at degree level
- solving actual problems in the workplace
- acquiring the experience and additional skills needed for entry to further academic study
- acquiring the experience and additional skills needed for entry to specialised professional training
- estimate the extent to which the skills learned can be transferred between different organisations, and to make any modifications necessary
- estimate the extent to which the skills learned can be transferred between economic and cultural contexts, and to make any modifications necessary
- speaking and reading Chinese language.

### **PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR GAINING AN AWARD**

How will the student's study be structured? How will they achieve an award?

#### **Structure, duration and requirements for gaining an award**

SOAS has standard requirements relating to the structure and duration of undergraduate programmes and for the award and classification of these programmes. Details can be found at

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/registry/degreeregulations/file60378.pdf>

#### **Programme structure diagram**

Below is a structure diagram for this programme.

Level	Year of study	Course code	Course title	Credit	Status	Notes
4	1	151030001	Introduction to accounting	15	Core	
4	1	151030002	Understanding company accounts and reports	15	Core	
4	1	151030003	Management in China: Domestic and	30	Core	

			International Developments			
4	1	155900828	Special Chinese	30	Core	
4	1	151030005	Quantitative and analytical techniques for managers	15	Compulsory	
4	1	151030004	Principles and management of marketing	15	Optional	
		OR				
4	1		An approved half unit open option	15	Optional	
5	2	151030006	Corporate finance and financial accounting	15	Core	
5	2	151030007	Managerial accounting	15	Core	
5	2	151030008	International business strategy	15	Core	
5	2	151030009	Managerial economics	15	Core	
5	2	155900829	Special Chinese II	30	Core	
5	2	151030011	Qualitative and case study research	15	Compulsory	
5	2	151030010	International marketing I	15	Optional	
		OR				
5	2		approved half unit open option	15	Optional	
6	3		The third year will normally be spent overseas at one of our partner institutions in China or Taiwan. Students follow an approved			

			programme of study.			
6	4	155900000	Business Chinese	30	Core	
6	4	151030016	Independent study project in International Management (China)	30	Compulsory	
6	4		Courses to the value of 60 Credits from the list below		Optional	
6	4		Courses to the value of 60 Credits from the list below		Optional	
6	4		Courses to the value of 60 Credits from the list below		Optional	
6	4		Courses to the value of 60 Credits from the list below		Optional	

*The availability of optional/elective courses may vary in a given academic session due to factors such as staff absence and student numbers. For an up to date list of courses running in a given academic session please refer to the degree structures as listed on the SOAS website for the degree programmes taught by each Department.*

#### **Level 6 Year 4 course options (Courses to the value of 60 Credits)**

151030012 Financial strategy (15 credits)

151030013 Finance in China (15 credits) (co-requisite Financial Strategy)

151030018 International human resource management (15 credits)

151030017 Corporate governance (15 credits)

151030014 Contemporary issues in the Chinese economy (15 credits)

151030015 International marketing II (15 credits) (prerequisite International Marketing 1)

153400071 Government and Politics of China (30 Credits)

153400072 Taiwan's Political & Economic Development (30 Credits)

An approved floater(s) (15 credits, two 15 credits', 30 Credits – not more than one 30 credits in total)

#### **TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT**

What methods will be used to achieve the learning outcomes?

##### **Knowledge**

Knowledge of theoretical and empirical analysis in international management is developed via weekly lectures and tutorials in which a particular topic is

introduced and discussed. Students are guided in their reading and independent study on particular topics. In the accounting course units students also carry out exercises, while in the quantitative techniques course they learn how to use a statistical package and how to generate and interpret results. Lectures are led by an academic while tutorials offer students an opportunity to debate ideas, present their work and communicate. The Chinese language courses impart knowledge of spoken and written Chinese. The assessment procedures involve coursework assignments, tests and unseen examinations. They provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the content and systems taught in lectures, tutorials and the literature.

### **Intellectual (thinking) skills**

Lectures are led by an academic and their purpose is to provide a synthesis of the theoretical and empirical analysis on particular topics and to encourage students to think about key intellectual questions and issues in international management. Tutorials offer students an opportunity to debate ideas discussed in the lectures, to present their work, to problem solve and to learn via open discussion in small groups. Students are encouraged to develop their own thinking on topics based on readings, lectures and class discussions. The theoretical material in the course encourages the development of analytical and conceptual skills, while the more applied and empirical subjects develop students' ability to apply techniques and assess empirical data and evidence. The language courses encourage students to appreciate language structure, grammar and literature. The assessment procedures involve coursework assignments, tests and written examinations. They provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their intellectual skills. Coursework and written examinations test students' ability to use data and analytical models to inform managerial decisions/strategies. The assessment procedures also test their knowledge of Chinese grammar and language structure.

### **Subject-based practical skills**

The programme offers students the opportunity to develop practical skills including: the ability to use library-based databases to carry out literature searches; reading and synthesis skills; essay writing skills; accounting methods and techniques; use of a statistical package and quantitative and qualitative techniques. The tutorials, coursework and examinations encourage students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the theoretical and empirical content and to appreciate the contours of debate in management science. In the Quantitative and Analytical Techniques module almost half the tutorial hours are held as computer lab sessions. In the accounting modules unseen written examinations test the students' ability to inform decision-making on the basis of data and analytical models taught in the classroom and the literature. In the language module students learn to speak, listen, read and write in Chinese. Each course requires a weekly commitment of three hours to attend lectures and tutorials, for the remainder of the time students are encouraged and expected to undertake substantial preparation by reading about the topic, carrying out exercises and preparing for tutorial discussions and language classes. The dissertation requirement aims to develop an awareness of how the basic content and principles can be transferred in different industries and global applications. Practical skills are assessed via coursework assignments, tests and written and oral examinations.

### **Transferable skills**



Students are taught to develop their ability to think from first principles, to analyse different management contexts and to problem solve. Small group teaching via tutorials encourages communication skills and teamwork. The accounting courses develop numeracy skills and the ability to apply financial techniques, while the quantitative techniques module shows students how to use statistical software and how to generate and interpret empirical results. Written communication skills are enhanced via essay writing and the independent study project (dissertation). The programme provides students with opportunities to apply their understanding of management and finance to various organisational and cultural contexts – in particular in China. The language courses teach students to speak, listen, read and write in Chinese. Transferable skills are assessed via formative assessment in tutorials and computer lab sessions and via coursework assignments, tests and written and oral examinations.

### **REFERENCE POINTS**

What has been the basis for the design of this programme?

- School learning and teaching strategy
- Staff research
- QAA framework for higher education qualifications

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ENHANCEMENT**

SOAS has internal procedures to assure the quality of provision to be offered to students and to enhance the quality in the light of experience following delivery, taking into account the input of external experts and students. The procedures are set out in the School's Quality Assurance Handbook and can be viewed at (<http://www.soas.ac.uk/add/qualityassurance/quality-assurance-handbook/>).

SOAS is also subject to periodic external review from bodies such as the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and relevant professional and statutory regulatory bodies.

The procedures described in the Quality Assurance Handbook are in place to provide a high quality student experience for those choosing to study at SOAS, and student input and evaluation of their experiences is greatly valued. Students make an input to the ongoing development of their programmes, and the environment in which they operate, in a number of ways, including:

- formal student evaluation as part of the annual programme review;
- student representation on School committees at various levels (through the Students' Union) where many relevant issues are discussed;

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

- [SOAS Vision and Strategy Statement](#);
- [Undergraduate Handbook](#)
- [Programme webpage](#)
- [Quality Assurance Handbook](#);
- [UCAS website](#);
- [QAA website](#);