

<p>Institution: SOAS</p> <hr/> <p>Unit of Assessment: 27 Area Studies</p> <hr/> <p>a. Overview</p> <p>The contribution of the 6 area studies departments which comprise the Faculty of Languages and Cultures (China and Inner Asia, Japan and Korea, South Asia, South East Asia, Near and Middle East, and Africa) lies at the core of SOAS' commitment to language-based research. (Linguistics researchers in these departments are being submitted under Linguistics.) Although diverse in area coverage, the area departments share strong disciplinary identities, with foci on Literature, Film, Media, Cultural Studies, Translation, Gender and Postcolonial Studies, History and Religion. Their shared vision is coordinated by and further integrated into the intellectual agendas of the Faculty-based Centres for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies, Gender Studies (relocated in the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences in 2012), Film and Screen Studies and Translation Studies. Area studies comprises 50 (46.95FTE) research scholars, including 6 FTE early career researchers and 1.5 FTE research-only staff. The number of researchers has remained steady since the 2008 RAE with some decrease in expertise in African, Turkish, Hebrew, Malay and Indonesian studies. This is compensated for by new appointments in Gender Studies, Comparative Literature/Cultural Studies, Film and Screen Studies and Translation Studies which have given cross-Faculty focus to these disciplines. Members of the Centre for Gender Studies, the Centre for Media and Film Studies and some Area specialists working in history, religion and politics are also included in the Area Studies submission.</p> <hr/> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>SOAS is one of the world's leading universities specialising in the languages, cultures and societies of Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The breadth and depth of SOAS' language expertise was recognized in the 2009 Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education. The 6 area studies departments in the UoA have worked to maintain and enhance their internationally acknowledged level of scholarship since the 2008 RAE. The Faculty promotes and supports individual scholarship through a system of research mentoring, individual research grants and research leave. The core aim of its research strategy is to maintain an environment in both 'area studies' and 'disciplinary' research that enables individual and collaborative research and research training to flourish and that sustains a dynamic and creative balance between the methodologies of language-based empirical research on the one hand and research that addresses particular theoretical and comparative paradigms on the other. This facilitates collaboration between individuals in different departments in cross-regional, discipline-based research and research training. The work of many researchers in other Departments (especially History, Art History, Religion, Anthropology and Music) also complements that conducted in the Languages and Cultures Faculty.</p> <p>The key premise is that individuals are expected to work both within a regional context (a Department) and within a discipline (a Centre) enabling effective collaboration in research and teaching as both area and discipline specialists. The first major step in the creation of this structure was the establishment of the AHRC-funded joint SOAS-UCL Centre of Excellence for Asian and African Literatures (2000-05), which focused on themes such as gender, translation and cultural studies and challenged Western paradigms on literary/cultural research by placing Asian and African literatures/cultures in a comparative context. The Centre created a Faculty-wide research training scheme, which has been maintained and developed further since that time. In order to sustain this strategy, the Faculty established new posts in Gender Studies, Translation, and Cultural Studies, and established new Centres as loci for research on Gender; Translation; Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies; and Film and Screen Studies. Each of these centres has been very effective in stimulating research among staff, improving discipline-specific research training, and increasing postgraduate numbers over the last five years.</p> <p>Researchers, therefore, work within three streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individuals work with both departmental colleagues and other area specialists throughout SOAS through regional Centres or Institutes for Africa, Middle East, South Asia, South East Asia, China, Korea and Japan. - Individuals also work and supervise PhD students in disciplines through the disciplinary Centres
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listed above.

- Individuals collaborate with specialists in institutions in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, as well as in Europe and North America.

Inter-regional and inter-disciplinary research in the UoA is supported through the work of the following Centres:

Building on SOAS' unparalleled concentration of expertise in the aesthetic, cultural and intellectual traditions of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, the **Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies (CCLPS)** (chaired by El-Desouky/Laachir) represents a coordinated institutional response to recent calls for such expertise in established disciplines as well as in the pioneering work of critical humanism. It engages with the work of Area Studies through critical and theoretical paradigms, and paradigm-shifting comparative critical methods in the Humanities disciplines from the perspective of traditions beyond Europe. In order to ensure the critical reach of the new vision and the rigour of its training in disciplinary, interdisciplinary and comparative critical methodologies, the founding members consulted colleagues and prominent scholars in key international institutions worldwide. The CCLPS MPhil/PhD programme and its three MA programmes (in Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies and Postcolonial Studies), with their innovative core theory courses, attract high calibre applicants from all over the world. A total of 26 research students have been recruited since the CCLPS opened its MPhil/PhD programme in 2010 and many others registered in the Area Departments also participate in the Centre's programmes. In 2010, the first CCLPS workshop devoted to developing approaches to the study of World Literatures took place, with colleagues from Europe and North America, and with a sequel hosted in 2012. This research initiative has led to further collaborations with colleagues from Germany, North America and several institutions in the UK, together with hosting key visiting lectures by such speakers as David Damrosch (Harvard University, January 2013). In 2011-2012, a fortnightly Special Series Seminar devoted to problematizing approaches to World Literature was convened, and culminated in an international workshop bringing together experts in European, American, Asian, African and Middle Eastern literatures. As a result of such activities, special issues in leading academic journals (e.g., Routledge Journal of Postcolonial Literature) and monographs in leading academic series have been commissioned (Palgrave Pivot and others). The CCLPS also runs a programme of international conferences, workshops and lectures exclusively conceived within the larger vision of pioneering work in Area Studies and Interdisciplinarity. Two such conferences (in collaboration with UCL), for example, offered the first international forums devoted to new directions in Egyptology, bringing together Egyptologists, cultural theorists, historians and postcolonial studies scholars in 2010 and 2013 (two volumes are currently being prepared for publication). The CCLPS has hosted a number of Visiting PhD Research Students and Senior Scholars from South Korea, Pakistan, Spain, Italy, the Czech Republic, and the USA, all attracted by its vibrant new research culture. The more popular aspects of CCLPS research have been taken to the wider community by establishing the CCLPS/P21 Gallery Reading Group, open to all members of the wider London community and leading in-depth discussion of world literatures and cultures.

The Centre for Film and Screen Studies (CFSS), chaired by Standish) was established in 2011 to bring together the considerable strengths across all 6 area departments in the field of film and screen studies. This Centre is the home for several MA programmes and has also hosted MPhil/PhD students from 2013 with its own tailored research training. The work of the Centre intersects with the Arts and Humanities Faculty **Centre for Media and Film Studies (CMFS)**, the focus of which lies with contemporary and historical trends in the growth of media and cultural industries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Recognising the interdisciplinary nature of the field of media and cultural studies, CMFS research examines a wide range of forms of mediated communication within the context of cultural production, diffusion and reception in the global South. Current projects include, the political rhetoric and communications of Hezbollah (Matar); Cultural production and the Arab Spring (Matar); BBC World Service and soft power in the Middle East (Sreberny); new media and Iran (Sreberny); Media and the Indian elections (Batabyal); critical European theory in the East Asian context (Kang); and East Asian cultural studies (Kang). CMFS Research Seminars include a wide range of academics, film and television producers and NGO activists and its PhD students are provided with discipline-specific research training.

The Centre for Gender Studies (CGS) was created and led by Harrison and Yaqin in

2006 after which Al-Ali was appointed to chair the CGS 2007-2012. The staff, research and PhD supervision of the CGS include and involve members of all three SOAS faculties. The primary objectives of the CGS are to promote interdisciplinary research and teaching in the field of gender in relation to Asia, Africa and the Middle East and to provide a forum for collaboration in research and teaching both within SOAS and in conjunction with other institutions, supported by a programme of postgraduate teaching, publications, conferences and workshops. The CGS provides an administrative and intellectual home for highly successful MA and MPhil/PhD programmes in Gender Studies, of which the latter has enrolled more than 25 PhD students since its inception in 2009. The CGS contributes to theoretical, methodological and pedagogical debates at both national and international levels. Its initial focus reflected the interests and expertise of its founding members on gendered perspectives on literature, film and cultural studies. With the appointment of two core members - Al-Ali in 2007 and Salih in 2010 - its emphasis has subsequently expanded to one of feminist approaches to law and policy, anthropology and development studies and has created one of the largest concentrations nationally and internationally of expertise on women and gender issues with reference to the Middle East. Harrison has also been instrumental in promoting sexuality and Queer studies at SOAS, and jointly with a range of colleagues, most prominently Rao (politics), Osella (anthropology), and Murtagh (South East Asia), has been pushing the fields sexuality and Queer Studies by applying their area studies expertise. Between Salih, Al-Ali, Khalili (Politics), Welchman (Law) and Matar (Media Studies), CGS boasts one of the largest concentrations nationally and internationally of expertise on women and gender issues with reference to the Middle East. The Centre's research strategy harmonizes with this collective capacity, informing the targeted pursuit of projects focussing on the Middle East and recruitment of post-graduate students. The Centre is a founding member of the Bloomsbury Gender Network and organizes joint events with Birkbeck, IoE and UCL, attracting a broad range of stakeholders. Since 2008, CGS has been running a pathfinder programme for female academic refugees.

The Centre for Translation Studies (CTS), is home to a successful MA programme and, from September 2013, its own MPhil/PhD research degree.

While a large part of its strategy has focused on the disciplinary Centres described above, the Faculty of Languages and Cultures also contributes significantly to the work of the School-wide Area Centres and Institutes, which function as intellectual homes for area-based cross-disciplinary research linking humanities research with research in politics, history and religion, for example in the work of Singh on South Asia and Nadarajah on Sri Lanka. The Area Centres deploy dedicated administrative support to provide regular public events, seminars, workshops and conferences that maintain SOAS' position as a key hub for research on Asia, Africa and the Middle East. These Centres/Institutes also importantly host a large number of research associates whose work contributes to the overall research environment of the School.

One example of how area studies centres can harness expertise across the School and enhance provision for a subject is the **Centre of Korean Studies**. In 2006, SOAS became the first European beneficiary of the "Korean Studies Institution Grant", which enabled it to significantly expand its focus on Korea, creating a new post in modern Korean History (Miller), plus postdoctoral fellowships and scholarships. It was subsequently awarded the Academy of Korean Studies "Overseas Leading University Program for Korean Studies" grant for the period 2011-2016 (GBP 550,000). This has led to an increase in PhDs in Korean studies and has made SOAS the most important European centre for Korean Studies. Dodd has played a leading role as Chair of the **Japan Research Centre** in making this centre the focus for research on Japan at SOAS and in raising the profile of Japanese studies with the aim of fundraising for research. Philanthropic donations of £1million have also been secured for the **London Middle East Institute**, enabling it to move into a new building and greatly expand its outreach to the wider Middle East community in London, in part through a revamped magazine aimed at popular audiences ('*The Middle East in London*').

In 2013 the Centre for Chinese Studies became the **SOAS China Institute (SCI)**, with Hockx as Director) and in 2014 the Centre for South Asian Studies will become the **SOAS South Asia Institute (SAI)**, with Hutt as Director). Each Institute comes into being with a dedicated staff of 3.5 fte (SCI) and 2.5 fte (SAI) including a Deputy Director and an Administrator. The SCI also secured a £125k charitable donation from the Lee Foundation of Singapore. The two new Institutes are being established with accelerated forward investment and are intended as models for a future

comprehensive approach to all aspects of SOAS activity related to specific areas, including teaching, research, outreach, development and alumni relations, student recruitment, media relations and communications. The SCI represents the largest community of China scholars working together under one roof in Europe. With more than 40 affiliated academics working across the various SOAS departments, the Institute promotes interdisciplinary, critically informed research and teaching on China, showcasing the strength of Chinese Studies at SOAS in the humanities and the social sciences, from ancient times to the present. The SCI's new, two-year Advanced Masters programme in language-based Chinese Studies will provide students with a balanced and rounded set of highly competitive skills that will enable a better transition into PhD research. These skills include disciplinary rigour, genuine language proficiency (i.e. not just an accelerated language course but real training in using Chinese-language materials for research), and wider knowledge of Chinese society, history, economics and culture. The SCI also plays a crucial role in the transfer of SOAS Chinese Studies research to constituencies outside academia. It delivers interdisciplinary research seminars and workshops; organises high profile lecture events; facilitates roundtable meetings on current affairs; and provides specialist briefings, short courses and bespoke training opportunities.

With reference to South Asia, the SAI will enhance the research environment for South Asian Studies at SOAS significantly, providing it with a higher international profile than hitherto, and securing external funding for research projects and doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships. It will develop a range of new Masters programmes that include both intensive language training and research training, thus equipping research students with a strong set of area-specific skills. It will develop new links with universities in the region and with other South Asia institutes elsewhere to facilitate collaboration in research and research training.

Both Institutes, through their targeted fundraising activities, will help address gaps in area-related provision across SOAS, one example being the appointment of Dr Jieyu Liu to the China Institute, who is a specialist on Gender Studies in China, adding a new dimension to both Gender Studies and Chinese Studies.

The research strategy for area studies clearly articulates a policy of creating lively and critical communities, with staff situated both within Departments that focus on language and culture teaching and research, and within Centres that foster interaction and collaboration across discipline and region. The most recent creation, in 2013, of the Centre for Film and Screen Studies and of larger scale Institutes for China and South Asia confirm SOAS's continued commitment to this strategy, which will sustain a vital research environment for academics at all levels from PhD upwards.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

All L&C staff are assigned to Departments and may, in addition, be members of multiple Centres. The staffing strategy of the Area Studies Departments in the Faculty is built upon the maintenance of a matrix of different sorts of expertise – key aspects of disciplinary fields and selected dimensions of regional coverage. A strategic aim is to ensure that individual staff members form part of a, sometimes small, team of senior and junior staff, within either a disciplinary field or a regional focus. This prevents isolation within the unit and is achieved by active participation in Centres, as outlined in the Research Strategy. Mentoring is an essential part of the life of early-career academics, and all aspects of research direction, training needs, and individual research plans are the subject of annual staff development review processes supported centrally by the institution. The vast majority of academic staff is on a research and teaching contract with very few purely research staff. However, the mentoring and collaborative relationships that underpin research are complemented by the provision of teaching support opportunities, particularly to research students as GTAs.

The Department of China and Inner Asia has maintained a strong balance between classical and modern/contemporary culture, with expertise in literature, philosophy, popular culture, film and translation studies. The Department's strength lies in the breadth and depth of its coverage of the literature and culture of China from the ancient to the modern, and in its unique coverage of Tibetan culture, literature and linguistics (Hill). It employs 8 full-time research and teaching staff, and 5 teaching-only staff. Three research and teaching staff cover the literature and culture of classical and pre-modern China (Fuehrer, Lo and Tan); four cover the literature, culture,

film and theatre of modern and contemporary China (Bruno, Ferrari, Hockx and Lu); and one Tibetan linguistics and literature (Hill).

The Department of Japan and Korea has also remained constant in its focus on traditional and modern literature (Dodd, Gerstle, Karlsson, Koh) and languages (staff submitted to Linguistics), while strengthening its coverage of media (Kirsch), film (Standish), and history (Miller). Two new appointments have been made since the 20028 RAE (Karlsson and Miller). There are 10 research/teaching staff, 6 teaching-only staff and 3 postdoctoral scholars. Gerstle's Leverhulme grant has funded a half-time postdoctoral post (Yano) that was taken over by SOAS from May 2013. A new Leverhulme postdoc (Preston) began in Sept 2013, and is working with Gerstle, and a new postdoc in Korean will be appointed in 2013. The Department's strengths lie in literary, theatre and media/film studies, for Japan, and history and literature for Korea. The number of PhD students has increased considerably since the last RAE. From September 2013, Dodd and Kirsch have been part of a SOAS editorial team that publishes the journal *Japan Forum* under the auspices of the British Association of Japanese Studies. The Korea Foundation grants (outlined above) over the last seven years have increased the number of PhD scholarships and enabled a lively research culture in this growing area.

The Departments of South and South East Asia maintain a strong national and international reputation for research in a range of languages, literatures and cultures that is unrivalled in UK higher education, with expertise in Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, Sanskrit, Urdu, Indonesian, Thai, Vietnamese, Burmese and Khmer. All research-active members of the combined departments produce language-based research in the disciplines of literature, gender studies, postcolonial studies, linguistics, history, film studies, politics, and religion. South Asia has 6 full-time research and teaching posts (Caron, Cox, Dwyer, Hutt, Orsini and Yaqin) plus three lectorships and a Leverhulme postdoctoral fellow from January 2013 (Stevens). Caron's appointment in 2012 introduced new coverage of Islamic South Asia. Since 2008 South Asia has expanded its research on Pakistan, led by Yaqin and Caron, and supported by the research activities of the Centre for the Study of Pakistan, which runs a fortnightly seminar series, occasional public lectures, and an Annual lecture. The South East Asia department lost 2 professorial posts in Malay and Indonesian literature through retirement but retains 4 full-time research and teaching posts focussing on literature and culture (Harrison, Healy, Murtagh and Smyth) and one on linguistics (Watkins, submitted to Linguistics) plus 1.5 lectorships and one British Academy Research Fellow (Hijjas). The research strategies of both departments are focused upon maintaining a broad spectrum of research into the languages and cultures of the region, upon enhancing research collaboration, both within the discipline and interdisciplinary, within SOAS and beyond, and upon expanding the many individual research projects of departmental staff over the coming years.

The Department of Near and Middle East is host to Britain's largest concentration of expertise in the region. Five research and teaching staff cover pre-modern and contemporary Islamic Studies (Abdel-Haleem, Shah, Sihadeh, Zebiri, Al-Matroudi), one is a specialist of Georgian languages and cultures (Hewitt), 2 work on ancient Near and Middle Eastern languages and literatures (Akkadian, Sumerian and Hittite: George and Weeden), one is a specialist of modern Iranian literature (Mina), one of Ottoman studies (Dedes), one of Israeli Studies (Wallach), and 6 cover the history, literature and culture of pre-modern and modern Arabic speaking world (including the Middle East and North Africa: El-Desouky, Hammond, Kennedy, Laachir, Ouyang and Sperl). The Department's strength lies in the breadth and depth of its coverage of the literatures and cultures of the Arab world from the pre-modern to modern period, ranging from religion to classical and popular literature, cultural studies and cinema, with a further strength in Islamic Studies. Members have developed literary approaches to the Quran (through a biannual international conference and the *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*) and exegetical literatures (editing the multi-volume Oxford University Press series and the Oxford Handbook).

In line with the Department's research strategies and the Faculty's plans following the RAE 2008, staff capacity for interdisciplinary work and supervision has been further strengthened through a new appointment in Arabic popular literature and cinema (Hammond). Further new appointments include Wallach, in Israeli Studies, covering the history of Zionism and Palestine-Israel conflict; Laachir, in Cultural Studies; Shihadeh, in Islamic Studies, covering Islamic theology and philosophy and intellectual traditions; Weeden, in Akkadian, Hittite and Sumerian. New areas of interdisciplinary research include: literature and cinema (Hammond); Cultural Studies and

Maghrebi studies (Laachir), Translation Studies and Comparative Literature and (El-Desouky); and Anglophone Literatures and Global English Studies (El-Desouky).

Research in the **Department of the Languages and Cultures of Africa** is wide-ranging and members collectively edit the *Journal of African Cultural Studies*. Current staff research areas include African language metrics and language / music relations (Orwin); African language dictionaries and reference grammars (Githiora); Afrophone philosophy (Rettova); contemporary African literature in English (Easton and Osei-Nyame); travel writing (Easton); African film, video and film festivals (Dovey); comparative and historical Bantu linguistics (Marten); and praise poetry in Southern Africa (Opland). Staff are also engaged in organising symposia, conferences, film festivals and other events that help to create a dynamic and active research culture.

In the **Centre for Media and Film** the retirement of one professorial member of staff led to the recruitment of two new posts (Batyabal and Kang), so expanding provisions in East and South Asian media. The **Centre for Gender Studies** built on the appointment of Al-Ali in 2007 with the addition of Salih in 2010 and a further dedicated post (Heathcote) in 2012 shared with the School of Law. As a School-wide centre, Gender Studies draws together the work of colleagues in all 3 faculties in terms of teaching, PhD supervision and collaborative research.

Staff development across all 6 area studies departments focuses upon the support of early career researchers in particular through mentoring and monitoring of performance through the first three years in the profession. A central Staff Development unit provides a wide range of training courses to complement the discussions between an individual and a Head of Department in Staff Development Review (SDR) processes. Probationers are protected from administrative duties. They gain experience as research supervisors by working as a second or third supervisory committee member during their probationary period and undertake compulsory training in good supervision practice. SOAS abides by the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and has been recognised with an award by the EU for doing so.

New arrivals, whether early career or established researchers, are appointed to contribute to an existing or developing field and are integrated into one or other of the research clusters operating in their department through participation in seminars, shared supervision of research students, and through co-authorship in pieces of research. Laachir exemplifies this process: she was appointed as a specialist in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies and her area focus is North Africa, thus she was appointed to the Department of the Near and Middle East; however, she is also a key contributor to the work of the CCLPS.

SOAS' research leave policy provides one term of leave after twelve terms of teaching. This is often complemented by project-funded leave, and additional support is provided to colleagues who have taken on heavy administrative roles and need additional time to strengthen their profiles, such as a year after a term of office as HoD or Dean. In recognition of the particular difficulties in maintaining a research profile over periods of maternity leave, the School treats periods of maternity leave as if they were periods of teaching for the purposes of calculating leave. Early career researchers who have successfully completed three years of probation are provided with leave that covers the two main teaching terms in the subsequent year. This is intended to boost the next stage of their research careers.

A yearly promotion round requires all HoDs to review all members of academic staff and assess whether there is a case for promotion. The Faculty Promotions Committee considers applications for promotions and assesses the quality of each applicant's publications. A central School Promotions Committee meets to assess all applications against a set of published criteria, with external monitoring. Demonstrating achievement in research is central to all successful applications for academic promotions. Feedback and review is provided to unsuccessful candidates in order to enhance the chances of success in a subsequent application.

The association of post-doctoral researchers with research at Department and Centre level is facilitated through Research Associateships directly to the Department and through periods of academic hospitality sometimes through regional and disciplinary Centres. Seminar presentation, conference participation and joint research activity are the main forms of contribution to the unit.

SOAS's academic staff are extremely diverse in nationality and ethnicity as evidenced by the data published in the Annual Equality and Diversity Report. Equal opportunities are embedded in all recruitment activity throughout the institution, and the School looks to encourage staff to build an appropriate balance between, for example, a profile in the Arabic, Korean or Chinese academic communities with a profile in English-language journals, depending upon the expectations of the

discipline or subject field.

The Research and Enterprise Office (REO) provides a central facility to support the engagement of academic staff with a wide range of external governmental, public and private sector organisations, through briefings, consultancy and commissioned research. Over the period, the unit was particularly involved in the Executive Training Programme (ETP) with funding from the EU over three years for up to 60 individuals each year to learn about Japanese and Korean culture, business and language.

ii. Research students

In the assessment period 108 FTE PhDs have been completed and the annual new intake of doctoral students has risen from 24 to 53 over the period. There has been a dramatic improvement in submission rates since the School moved to a policy of 48-month maximum registration for research degrees in 2007. Four-year submission rates for the School as a whole stood at 27% in 2008, and rose to 78% in 2012. In addition to the SOAS Research Scholarships and fieldwork awards, open to the entire School, the Faculty of L&C provides funding for 2 MPhil/PhD students in Literary, Cultural or Postcolonial Studies in the CCLPS and 1 in Literatures and Cultures (formerly in Gender Studies until 2012). Further specific scholarships are offered, such as the Ouseley Memorial Scholarship for research that requires use of a Middle Eastern or Asian language; the Meiji Jingu scholarship for Japanese; the Sochon foundation award for Korean Studies; and the Nohoudh scholarships for the study of the integration of Muslims in British Society. The Faculty is also home to the London Confucius Institute (LCI), a partnership between SOAS and Beijing Foreign Studies University. The LCI plays an important role in providing access to Chinese government scholarships (including PhD scholarship) for study in China. Several PhD students have benefited from such scholarships to support their fieldwork years, The LCI also provides research students with the opportunity to prepare for and sit official Chinese language tests (HSK), needed in order to be eligible for Chinese government funding.

Research students in the UoA are integrated into their Departments/Centre of registration in a number of key ways:

- Their primary point of integration is via their main supervisor who oversees the development of their individual research projects and of their wider research training through face-to-face meetings (weekly or fortnightly in the first year and fortnightly to monthly thereafter) and electronic logbook dialogue. During periods of fieldwork, supervision is provided by email, phone, Skype and in-country visits. The most recent QAA (March 2013) cited the quality of PhD supervision at SOAS as an example of Good Practice, noting in particular “the quality and promptness of feedback and accessibility of supervisory support”.
- Students are, in addition, assigned two further members of a supervisory committee to combine area, discipline and regional expertise. The supervisory division of labour is 60:25:15. Second and third supervisors may be from different Departments, Centres or Faculties to maximise academic potential and intellectual rigour. The entire committee is responsible not only for providing sustained academic advice but for assessing performance at upgrade from MPhil to PhD at the end of year 1 and the quality of the thesis draft completed in year 3 before continuation of writing-up status can be conferred for a fourth year of registration.
- Students are further supported by a Department/Centre Research Tutor (RT) and have the support of the Associate Dean for Research, who also convenes the weekly Faculty Research Training Seminar (RTS). It is the role of the ADR to liaise on a weekly basis with the Postgraduate Research Manager in the Registry to resolve issues affecting students and maintain and monitor adherence to the School’s Code of Practice for Research degrees. Issues which affect students and cannot be resolved by the RT or the ADR are referred to the Head of the Doctoral School or to the Pro-Director for Research.
- All first-year MPhil students from the 6 area studies Departments and the 3 faculty Centres participate in the compulsory RTS which provides weekly training seminars and creates a supportive peer-group environment. The RTS also provides opportunities for students to present their research in preparation for upgrade presentations at Department/Centre level at the end of year 1. Students registered in the CCLPS, CFSS and CTS are given additional specific research training through their Centres. The RTS further advises on preparation of papers for publication and publication processes. Since the UoA prides itself on language-based research, the Faculty supports and encourages the provision language tuition in-house or, where specific languages are

not available, pays up to £750 for external provision per student.

- MPhil students present their research to all staff members and fellow research students of the Department/Centre of registration as part of the process of upgrade to PhD status. In subsequent years students are invited to present their work at Department/Centre research seminars, workshops and conferences. Furthermore, the CCLPS Critical Forum, which is open to all staff and students of the School and which focuses on methodology, theory and practice across regions and disciplines, is crucial for second and final year PhD candidates preparing for academic careers that require solid training in interdisciplinary method (as opposed to the current available model worldwide of multi-disciplinarity, or simply bringing experts together who lack the training needed for crossing the boundaries of either expertise or discipline). CCLPS graduates are therefore able to compete for positions both in Area Studies and in Disciplines. The CCLPS held its first annual Postgraduate Conference in June 2013, entirely conceived and organised by students and involving national and international participants and invited renowned scholars as panel chairs. The Faculty also provides funding of up to £300 per academic session to support students presenting papers and posters at conferences both at home and overseas and this provision has a strong uptake. A significant proportion of conference presentations result in publications in the form of conference proceedings, peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters, the preparation of which is supported at the supervisory level.
- A significant percentage of PhD students have the further opportunity for integration into the work of the Faculty through GTA teaching opportunities at UG level and for taught masters tutorials.
- All research students are encouraged to become members of the relevant area Centres, further integrating their regional research interests across the three Faculties. The Centres and Departments of the School run a wide range of weekly research seminars and guest lectures by home and visiting scholars.
- In addition to the research training offered within the Faculty, all students are members of the Doctoral School, established in 2012, the facilities of which provide them with designated working spaces and points of peer interaction. Further generic training, such as in core chapter writing and interview skills, is available through the School's Academic Development Directorate (ADD), and a yet wider range through the Bloomsbury Postgraduate Skills Network and the ESRC Bloomsbury Doctoral Training Centre. Overseas PGR students are provided with additional tailored support from the ADD and by the student welfare office, while our relations with a range of housing and support organizations such as Goodenough College, International Students House (ISH) and others provide scholarships in the form of accommodation.
- As with staff research proposals, PGRs are strictly required to adhere to the School's Code of Research Ethics and are trained to do so in the RTS and by the ADD. Supervisors provide first-hand advice on ethics and more complex proposals are considered by the ADR and/or referred for consultation to the School's Research Ethics Committee.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The unit attracted £2.322 million in research income showing a maintenance of income over this difficult funding environment. In addition to income reported to HESA, a combination of interest drawn from bequests and endowments, donations of other types and disbursements of internally allocated funds supported research in this unit in respect of Chairs, fellowships, events, conferences, publications and special journal issues. The total over the period amounted to £1,793,000.

- . Specific awards in the UoA include but are not limited to:
 - Dovey's Leverhulme Prize of £70,000 to complete research and writing of the first book to explore the integral relationship between film festivals and African film, *Curating Africa in the Age of Festivalization: Film Festivals, Audiences, Resistance* (forthcoming 2015). The book is also informed by practice-based research through involvement in the founding, organizing, and curating of African film festivals in the UK over the past 12 years.
 - Gerstle's Leverhulme-funded project (£214,000 and British Council, £38,000) on Japanese traditional erotic art (*shunga*) from 2009-2013, hosted by the School's Japan Research Centre and conducted in collaboration with the British Museum and two universities in Japan. The project concluded with a major exhibition '*Shunga: Sex and Pleasure in Japanese Art*' at the British Museum (2013).
 - Murtagh's AHRC Early Careers Research Fellowship of £42,762 (1 October 2011 - 31 March

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2012) to complete his book on *Genders and Sexualities in Indonesian Cinema*. Murtagh subsequently secured £7000 from the Indonesian Embassy in London to organise a series of Indonesian film screenings and a Workshop on Indonesian Cinema (October 2013), bringing together 17 emerging and established scholars from the UK, Germany, Holland, the US and Indonesia. A journal special issue of articles from the workshop is planned for 2015.

- Orsini's AHRC-funded project (2006-9) on 'North Indian Literary Culture and History 1450-1650'; Hutt and Orsini have both secured British Academy South Asia International Partnership projects on 'The Creation of Public Meaning in Nepal' (Hutt 2010-13) and 'Hinglish: the Social and Cultural Dimensions of Hindi-English bilingualism in contemporary India' (Orsini 2012-15), working with Martin Chautari in Kathmandu and Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in New Delhi respectively. In May 2013 Hutt also secured funding from the Foundation Open Society Institute for an international conference on the Bhutanese Refugee Resettlement Experience.

Procedures for internal review of research proposals and ethics committee appraisal contribute towards maintaining and improving on application success rates. Moreover, researchers always build on a base of strong regional knowledge and language expertise together with strong local networks so that even small grants and fellowships lead to high quality outputs. Staff are encouraged to develop grant applications with dedicated support from the Research Office (RO) and through regular research leave provision monitored by the Faculty Research Committee. All applications for external research funding are submitted through the RO, which supports this activity through the dissemination of information about research funding opportunities, costing projects and advising on funders' terms and conditions and administering the School's research ethics policies and procedure. The RO is part of the larger Research and Enterprise Office (REO) established at SOAS during the assessment period and which works across the School to secure external funding and income, to support research excellence and to facilitate knowledge transfer. In addition to the activities of the RO, the REO builds relations between SOAS academics, businesses, government and the wider community, enabling them to access the School's unique knowledge and expertise about Asia, Africa and the Middle East. It is responsible for editing and publishing internationally esteemed journals such as the *Bulletin of SOAS*, *China Quarterly* and *South East Asia Research* (ed. Harrison). The REO further supports the School's 8 Regional Centres which bring together world renowned inter-disciplinary expertise.

SOAS is a unique institution in its exclusive focus upon the Humanities and Social Sciences with reference to Asia, Africa and the Middle East at the heart of which lies one of the five National Research Libraries with an unparalleled collection of materials amounting to more than 1.2 million volumes in over 400 languages, including 4500 journal subscriptions and a growing body of electronic resources tailored to the needs of SOAS scholarship. The film and screen studies scholarship of the UoA is further supported by library holdings of feature and documentary DVDs.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

SOAS encourages collaborative research and the work of virtually all staff includes regular interaction with individuals and institutions within Britain and around the world. This is exemplified by a number of the staff in the UoA: Kirsch hosted a major conference on Film/Media in Asia/Africa at SOAS in Feb. 2012 through the CAAS (Consortium of Asian and African Studies) in conjunction with its 6 other members: Tokyo U. of Foreign Studies, INALCO, Leiden, Singapore, Columbia, Hankuk U of Foreign Studies. SOAS has designated CAAS as an important forum to expand research collaboration in the future. Al-Ali co-authored publications with Pratt (Warwick) and undertook research with 2 academics from the University of Baghdad and 3 from the University of Salahadeen (Erbil) in Iraq on the specific problems and challenges facing female academics in higher education. Other examples of collaboration include but are not limited to:

- Lo's joint project on Chinese Export Paintings of the Qing Period in The British Library, in collaboration with Song Jiayu (Institute of History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), Wang Tzi-Cheng (National Central University, Taiwan) and Frances Wood (British Library), published in 2011.

- EI-Desouky's 2010 agreement with the Research Institute of Korean Studies for an international research project on Canonicity and Canon Formation in European and Non-European Traditions; and with the Centre for Colonial and Postcolonial Research at the U of Kent as part of the Global Uncertainties Initiative for a project and international conference on The Siege of Beirut and the Ethics of Representation.

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- Harrison's collaboration with Peter Jackson (Australia National University) in conjunction with Cornell U on Siam/Thailand's crypto-colonial relations with the West, and with Tony Day (Yale NUS), Ben Tran (Vanderbilt U), Jack Yeager (Louisiana State U), Sarah Weiss (Yale NUS) and Janit Feangfu (Chiangmai U, Thailand) in an informal consortium on the comparative literature and culture of S.E. Asia.
- Gerstle's collaboration with the British Museum and two Japanese universities in Kyoto, International Research Centre for Japanese Studies and Ritsumeikan University on his Leverhulme project.
- Ferrari's participation from 2012 in the international research network 'Staging China' on the practice and production of Chinese-language spoken drama in the twenty-first century, co-sponsored by the University of Leeds, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (principal investigator: Dr Li Ruru, University of Leeds).
- Fuehrer's joint project with the Graduate Institute for Taiwan Literature of National Taiwan University on Hokkien language and compilation of research-based teaching material.
- Hockx's 3-year project (2009-2011), funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada) and the Humboldt Foundation (Germany), led by scholars from York University (Toronto), McGill University (Montreal), and Heidelberg University and entitled "A New Approach to the Popular Press in China: Gender and Cultural Production, 1904-1937."
- Lu's participation in an international research project on "The Overseas Life-Writings of Modern Chinese Figures" led by Shanghai Jiaotong University Centre of Life Writing and funded by China's National Social Sciences Grant
- Tan's 2011-2016 research project on Tang Xianzu, in collaboration with Zhejiang University, PRC; his 2013-2014 Research Network on China and Shakespeare, in collaboration with Shakespeare Birthplace Trust; and his 2010-present, joint research project on Emotions in the Peony Pavilion, in collaboration with Sapienza University of Rome.
- Miller's collaborative book project on the economic history of China, Korea and Japan, working with colleagues from Brunel University and University of Westminster in the UK and Gyeongsang National University in South Korea.
- Kang's collaborative research project on "Early Department Stores in East Asia (Tokyo, Seoul, and Shanghai)" with Dr Jeeseon Hong (Chinese Studies, University of Manchester) (2011-2012); and on 'Critical Urban Studies', with the Institute of Urban Humanities (University of Seoul, Korea) (2010-2011).
- Kennedy's EU Initial Training Network on Power and Institutions in Medieval Christendom and Islam (PIMIC) in partnership with CSIC Madrid, Universities of St Andrews, Roma Tre, Birbeck, Roma Tor Vergata, Tel Aviv, Paris I, from January 2013.
- Ouyang's 4-year project on Tropics of Travel, 2007-2010, with Frederic Bauden (Liege), Aboubakr Chraibi (INALCO) and Antonella Ghersetti (Venice), resulting in several key publications; and her on-going project on 'World Literature', 2008-present, with Dominique Jullien (University of California at Santa Barbara), Paulo Horta (NYU Abu Dhabi), Aboubakr Chraibi (INALCO), which has merged with SOAS's project on 'Approaches to World Literature', 2011-present in collaboration with Orsini and Laachir.
- George's collaborative research on Cuneiform Royal Inscriptions in the Schøyen Collection with M. Civil (Chicago), G. Frame (Pennsylvania), P. Steinkeller (Harvard), F. Vallat (France), M. Weeden (SOAS), C. Wilcke (Leipzig), published in 2011.
- Furniss's joint work from 2008 to date, with Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria, on the rise of modern popular Hausa fiction, resulting in joint publications; and his collaborative arrangement with Anthropology at the University of Basel on West African savanna-forest interactions.
- Laachir is involved in a series of collaborations: The World Literature Project I: Approaches to World Literature in collaboration with the University of Houston, University of Hawaii, and University of Yale: The World Literature Project II: Network of Circulation in collaboration with colleagues at the University of California, University of New York in Abu Dhabi, and INALCO, Paris; research collaboration on Democratisation in North African with the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Australian National University; and the founding of the Maghreb Academic Network with colleagues from King's College and Oxford University
- Yaqin has made collaboration a key element of her research strategy, having developed an AHRC International Network (Partnerships with European and US academic institutions) for a project on 'Framing Muslims' (with Peter Morey, U of East London) 2007-2010 leading to

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publications and media impact.

Several members of the UoA have participated in the work of **Research Councils**. These include: Hutt, British Academy South Asia Panel; Harrison, British Academy Southeast Asia Panel; Gerstle, AHRC Peer Review College and Strategic Review Group, and Hong Kong Universities RAE 2014; Yaqin and Hockx, AHRC Peer Review Colleges; George, British Academy Standing Committee and Spanish National Research Council; and Furniss, Chair of British Academy Africa Panel, HEFCE review of School of Advanced Studies, U of London.

Many members belong to **Professional subject associations and learned societies**: These include: Al-Ali, President of the Association of Middle East Women's Studies and member of the Board of the Middle East Studies Association; Hutt, Chair Britain-Nepal Academic Council; Harrison, Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Studies UK; Hockx, President of British Association of Chinese Studies; Tan, Secretary-General of European Assoc of Chinese Studies. Ouyang, Executive Committee of British Comp Lit Assoc. Shindler, Founding Chair of European Assoc of Israel Studies; Furniss, Vice-Chair, Royal Africa Society; Murtagh, Director Royal Asiatic Society; Sreberny, President, International Assoc for Media and Communication Research.

Most staff are members of **Editorial Boards**, with some performing key leadership roles: Harrison, editor of *South East Asia Research*; Murtagh, editor of *Indonesia and the Malay World*; Haleem, Editor, *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*; George, Editor of *IRAQ*; Al-Ali, Associate Editor *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* and of *Feminist Review*; Hutt, Editor, *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research*; Kennedy, editor of Brill series 'The Medieval Mediterranean'; Ouyang, Editor-in-Chief, *Middle Eastern Literatures*, series editor of Edinburgh Studies in Classical Arabic Literature; Dwyer, editor of series on Indian cinema Indiana U Press; Hockx, Associate Editor of *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*, Dodd and Kirsch, editorial team of *Japan Forum*.

The list of **refereeing academic publications or research proposals** is extensive, from vetting journal articles, to reviewing book manuscripts for publication and grant applications from research bodies. Research staff are regularly involved in the **examination of doctorates**, both within the U of London, and at universities throughout the UK and abroad, including in N. America, Asia and Africa. Universities include UCL, LSE, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Manchester, Exeter, Leeds, Kent, Paris IV, Oslo, Rome, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Punjab, Peshawar, Kyoto and Cape Town.

As outlined in our research strategy, a system of Centres supports the **organisation of conferences and scholarly encounters** in the form of an extensive range of weekly research meetings, from small workshops to Association general conferences.

Many staff have given **keynote lectures**. They include: Dwyer, Distinguished Ford Lecture, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Fuehrer, Distinguished Scholar's Lectures (Academy of Korean Studies, Seoul); Haleem, Hajj Conference British Museum London; and Salih at the Araba Council for the Social Sciences in Cairo, at the American University of Beirut, the University of Bir Zeit and the University of Copenhagen. Al-Ali delivered a Distinguished Lecture for the Journal of Middle East Women's Studies at Yale; a keynote lecture at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard Conference on Democratising Women; an invited lecture at Berkeley, at UCLA Los Angeles and at the Centre of Middle East Studies at Duke University.

Scholarly awards or fellowships include Orsini's Radcliffe Fellowship, Harvard; Dovey's Choice Outstanding Academic Title Award; Hammond's *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* Book award; Haleem's OBE for contributions to Arabic literature and Interfaith Understanding. George, Furniss and Kennedy are Fellows of British Academy, and Kennedy a Fellow of Royal Society of Edinburgh; Hutt gained the Nai Derukha International Award, Kathmandu, Hockx an ARC Fellowship, and Dodd a Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science Fellowship, AHRC Fellowship. Al-Ali was granted a CARA Iraq fellowship award (2009-11).

Most staff have also been involved in **Consultancies**, such as Hutt, in his review of Nepal School of Social Sciences and UK Border asylum cases; Al-Ali in her review of the March 2011 Iraq Country of Origin Report commissioned by the Independent Advisory Group on Country Information; Bruno for the British Council on Chinese writers and the British Centre for Literary Translation on Chinese poets; Haleem, on Islamic matters for UK councils and solicitors; and Dovey, on Kenya government film projects.