**UNIVERSITY OF KENT**

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| **Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she passes the programme.More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found by following the links. The accuracy of the information contained in this specification is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. |

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| **Degree and Programme Title** BA (Joint Hons) in Asian Studies |

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| 1. **Awarding Institution/Body** | University of Kent |
| 1. **Teaching Institution** | University of Kent |
| 1. **School Responsible for management of the programme** | SECL |
| 1. **Teaching Site** | Canterbury Campus |
| 1. **Mode of Delivery** | Full-time  Part-time |
| 1. **Programme accredited by:** | n/a |
| 1. **Final Award** | BA (Joint Honours) (Dip/Cert Fallback awards) |
| 1. **Programme** | **Joint Honours:**  **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & Religious Studies**  **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & Religious Studies (with year abroad)**  **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & Philosophy**  **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & Philosophy (with year abroad)**  **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & English Language and Linguistics**  **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & English Language and Linguistics (with year abroad)**  **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & French**  **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & German**  **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & Hispanic Studies**    **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & Italian**  **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & Classics and Archaeology**  **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & Classics and Archaeology (with year abroad)**  **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & Comparative Literature**  **BA Joint Honours in Asian Studies & Comparative Literature (with year abroad)** |
| 1. **UCAS Code (or other code)** | TV46, TV45, TQ43, TR41, TR42, TR44, TR43, TQ48, TQ42 |
| 1. **Credits/ECTS Value** | 360 (480 with a Year Abroad) |
| 1. **Study Level** | Undergraduate |
| 1. **Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s)** | Area Studies <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/areastudies08.pdf> |
| 1. **Date of creation/revision** | Sept 2013/January 2015 |
| 1. **Applicable cohort(s)** | 2014 entry onwards |

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| 1. **Educational Aims of the Programme**   The programme aims to: |
| 1. Provide a solid grounding in Asian Studies utilising multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches drawn from the Humanities and Social Sciences. 2. Develop a critical awareness of the interpretive, cultural and political challenges to understanding Asian cultures and civilisations both historically and in the contemporary period. 3. Provide opportunities for written and spoken language competency in an Asian language up to languages global scale level B2. 4. Provide the opportunity, where possible, for the student of Asian culture to spend a significant period of time, and in some instances a year abroad, in an Asian country of relevance to their studies. 5. Facilitate an engaged and critical awareness of Asian cultures and civilisations. 6. Develop an awareness of Asian culture in a global context, with specific reference to historical and contemporary relations with European cultures and traditions. 7. Provide teaching which is informed by current research and scholarship, and which requires students to engage with aspects of work at the frontiers of knowledge. 8. Promote interdisciplinary approaches to disciplines such as religious studies, philosophy, comparative literature, politics, history, sociology, and cinema through the study of appropriate texts and audio-visual material. 9. Provide a means of access to intercultural awareness and understanding and an awareness of the interpretive, theoretical and practical challenges to its development. 10. Contribute to widening participation in higher education by offering a variety of entry routes. 11. Provide opportunities for the development of personal, communication, research and other key skills appropriate for graduate employment both in industry and in the public sector. 12. Develop general critical, analytical and problem-solving skills which can be utilised in a wide range of situations. |

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| 16. **Programme Outcomes**  The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the subject benchmarking statement for [Area Studies](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/areastudies08.pdf) | |
| **Knowledge and Understanding** | **Teaching/learning and assessment methods and strategies used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated** |
| **A. Knowledge and Understanding of:** |  |
| 1. The interdisciplinary nature of Asian Studies (see 15:1, 2, 5, 6) | Acquisition of points 1-6 is achieved through a combination of lectures, research seminars, tutor-led seminars, self-directed learning facilitated by course handbooks, and the use of research-based teaching materials and methods, informal oral classes and use of computer-assisted language learning in the years spent on campus, and additionally by studying or working in Asia during year 3. Honours modules and seminar and independent study work are stressed in the final year.  Language assessment is through a combination of coursework (essays, presentations, projects, translations), unseen written examinations, oral examinations; dissertation, extended essay, and computer-assisted language learning tests.  Content-focused modules are provided in the form of two 30-credit core courses offered at stage 1 and stage 2 respectively, and across the range of current university undergraduate provision of I and H level modules dealing with Asia.  Teaching for all the non-language courses is through a combination of lectures, tutor-led seminars, and student seminar presentations, and assessment is through a combination of coursework (essays and presentations) and written examinations.  In addition, independent study is enhanced by the final year option of the dissertation, which enables students to pursue a topic in greater depth, linking the different pathways of the degree programme. |
| 1. Humanities and social scientific methods (see 15:1, 2, 7) |
| 1. Asian cultures and traditions (see 15:5) |
| 1. Asia understood in relation to the global context (15:6) |
| 1. Asia and its historical and contemporary relationship to Europe (15:6) |
| 1. Interpretive issues related to developing intercultural understanding (15: 1, 6, 9) |
| **Skills and Other Attributes**  **B. Intellectual Skills:** |  |
| 1. Apply the skills needed for academic study and enquiry | Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined below. Each module involves the critical reflection of key themes; verbal discussion and the written analysis and interpretation of the relevant material.  Assessed through essays, class assignments, supervised class discussions, group projects, self-assessment activities, written examinations and supervised projects requiring independent research. |
| 1. Evaluate information critically |
| 1. Synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of the subject |
| 1. Make use of problem-solving skills |
| 1. Utilise communication skills for the coherent expression and transfer of knowledge |
| 1. Analyse, evaluate and interpret a variety of evidence in a critical manner |
| 1. Study and reach conclusions independently |
| **C. Subject-specific Skills:** |  |
| 1. Where chosen as an option, be able to communicate effectively in an Asian language both orally and in writing | All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available both within the School, in the library and online. Comprehensive reading lists are provided for each module at the start of the course, as are guidelines for the production of essays and oral presentations. Information sessions are provided for students who will be participating in a year abroad. Discussions of general theoretical and conceptual issues are integrated into all modules.  Assessment occurs through group work, oral presentations, oral examinations, listening and comprehension tests, participation in structured oral discussions, linguistic commentaries, written examinations, translation tests, year abroad courses and exams and year abroad essays. |
| 1. Demonstrate detailed knowledge and effective understanding of Asian culture, traditions and societies |
| 3. Critically analyse a variety of texts and images, i.e. historical, literary, religious, philosophical and journalistic etc. |
| 4 Gain an appreciation of and sensitivity to cultural diversity |
| 5. Develop an awareness of challenges, obstacles and ways of developing cultural awareness |
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| **D. Transferable Skills:** |  |
| 1. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of information sources and methods | All courses require regular written work, and regular feedback on work is given to the students to help develop their powers of presentation, analysis and communication. Time management is learned as students meet deadlines and plan projects. Information Technology skills are learnt through course work requirements and developed through individual learning.  Assessed continuously. Regular feedback and marks reflect progress in all these areas. |
| 1. Identify problems and explore alternative solutions |
| 1. Library and bibliographical research skills |
| 1. Techniques for using Asian language source materials in their original and in translation |
| 1. Take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development |
| 1. Manage time and prioritise workloads, think and perform under pressure |
| 1. Capacity for teamwork, working creatively and flexibly with others in a group environment |
| 1. Deploy a range of Information Technology skills effectively, such as word processing text with footnotes, basic formatting, use of CD-ROMs, using e-mail, searching databases and text-files, navigating the Internet |
| For more information on which modules provide which skills, see the module mapping | |

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| 17. **Programme Structures and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards**  The BA (Joint Hons) in Asian Studies is available by full-time (three years or four years with a year abroad) study or six years part-time. The full-time B.A. in Asian Studies involves three years' study at Canterbury, plus the option of a further year (the third of four) spent in an Asian country.  Students who opt to take this programme with a Year Abroad will be advised to consider taking appropriate language modules in Stages 1 & 2, or a non-credit bearing course with The Centre for English and World Languages.  If this programme is taken as a joint honours programme with another subject that has a compulsory Year Abroad component in a specific country or countries (for example: BA programmes in French, German, Hispanic Studies or Italian) then students are required to attend the compulsory year abroad and will not therefore be able to study in an Asian country.  Study at the university is organised in 2 x 12-week terms and a final, 6-week term. The programme is divided into modules, which all have a value of either 15 or 30 credits. A 15-credit module represents 150 hours of learning, endeavour and assessment, including a minimum of 20 hours of direct contact in class. All students must take compulsory modules, and are advised to take, but need not take, recommended modules. All students must, during each of the three years of study in Canterbury, take modules amounting to 120 credits, making up their choices from the list of recommended modules.  The degree comprises 360 credits (without a Year Abroad) or 480 credits (with a Year Abroad), 120 at three different levels for each year of study present at the university, plus the option of a further 120 gained on a pass/fail basis in respect of the year abroad, either by producing a year abroad project or studying at a foreign partner university in Asia. The structure of the programme and the modules that make it up, their levels, credits and the terms in which they are taught, are shown below. Not all modules are available every year. Full details of all modules can be found in the programme handbook or course outlines. For further information on modules and credits refer to the Credit Framework at <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfo.html>  Students successfully completing Stage 1 of the programme and meeting credit framework requirements who do not successfully complete Stage 2 will be eligible for the award of the Certificate.  Students successfully completing Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the programme and meeting credit framework requirements who do not successfully complete Stage 3 will be eligible for the award of the Diploma. | | | | |
| **Code** | **Title** | **Level** | **Credits** | **Term(s)** |
| **Stage 1** (Joint Honours students can take between 45-60 credits, and are subject to the requirements specified in the associated joint degree programme) | | | | |
| ***Compulsory Modules: Note that compulsory modules cannot be condoned, compensated, or trailed*** | | | | |
| TH346 | Introduction to Asian traditions | C | 30 | 1 or 2 |
| ***Optional Modules*** | | | | |
| PO318 | The Rise of China | C | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| PO319 | Media and Politics of Contemporary Japan | C | 15 | 2 |
| PO311 | Politics and Popular Culture in Modern Japan | C | 15 | 2 |
| LA 302 | Learning Mandarin 1A | C | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| LA 303 | Learning Mandarin 1B | C | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| LA 304 | Learning Japanese 1A | C | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| LA 305 | Learning Japanese 1B | C | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| CP325 | World Literature: An Introduction | C | 15 | 1 or 2 |
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| **Stage 2** (Joint Honours students may take between 45-75 credits and are subject to the requirements specified in the associated joint degree programme.) | | | | |
| ***Compulsory Modules: Note that compulsory modules cannot be condoned, compensated or trailed*** | | | | |
| TBC | Themes in the Study of Asia | I | 30 | 1 or 2 |
| ***Optional Modules*** | | | | |
| PO620 | East Asian Political Systems | I | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| PO658 | Rise of China | I | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| LA502 | Learning Mandarin 2A | I | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| LA503 | Learning Mandarin 2B | I | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| LA504 | Learning Japanese 2A | I | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| LA505 | Learning Japanese 2B | I | 15 | 1 or 2 |
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| TH634/635 | Foundations of Mahayana Buddhism | I or H | 30 | 1 or 2 |
| TH555/TH601 | Hindu Religious Thought | I or H | 30 | 1 or 2 |
| TH556/TH597 | Buddhism: Its Essence and Development | I or H | 30 | 1 or 2 |
| TH624/TH625 | Indian Philosophy of Religion | I or H | 30 | 1 or 2 |
| **Stage A**  OPTIONAL (HU503)  Students’ third year may be spent in an Asian country | | I | 120 | 1&2 |
| Stage 3 (Joint Honours students may take between 45-75 credits and are subject to the requirements specified in the associated joint degree programme.) | | | | |
| CP652 | Postcolonial Images of Africa and South Asia | H | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| FR637 | Travels to Japan in Modern French Culture | H | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| PO557 | Japan in the World | H | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| SE547 | South-East Asian Societies | H | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| SO684 | Globalization and Development | H | 15 | 2 |
| SO709 | Modern Chinese Societies | H | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| LA518 | Learning Mandarin 3A | H | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| LA519 | Learning Mandarin 3B | H | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| LA506 | Learning Japanese 3A | H | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| LA507 | Learning Japanese 3B | H | 15 | 1 or 2 |
| TBC | Dissertation in Asian Studies | H | 60 | 1 and 2 |
| PO558 | Contemporary Politics of Japan | H | 15 | 1 or 2 |
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| **18 Work-Based Learning**  This programme does not include any work-based learning, unless specified in the associated joint degree programme. |

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| 19. **Support for Students and their Learning** |
| * Personal academic tutor who will guide them throughout their studies. * Induction programme for year abroad students. * One-on-one tutorials for supervision of final-year dissertation. * Staff-Student Committee meeting once a semester. * Learning resources/equipment: Templeman Library, Computing Services, School Video Library and Viewing Room, Computer Assisted Language Learning Laboratory. * Faculty Handbook and individual module booklets. * Personal academic support system providing advice on module choice and programme structure, academic difficulties, progression routes and individual progress. * Central support services, including a learning resources centre, Students' Union * Library services, see <http://www.kent.ac.uk/library/> * Student Support and Wellbeing, see [www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport/) * Centre for English and World Languages, see <http://www.kent.ac.uk/cewl/index.html> * Student Learning Advisory Service, see <http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/about/slas.html> * PASS system, see <https://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/quality/code2001/annexg.html> * Academic Adviser system * Kent Union, see [www.kentunion.co.uk/](http://www.kentunion.co.uk/) * Careers and Employability Services, see [www.kent.ac.uk/ces/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ces/) * Counselling Service [www.kent.ac.uk/counselling/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/counselling/) * Information Services (computing and library services), see [www.kent.ac.uk/is/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/is/) * Undergraduate student representation at School, Faculty and Institutional levels * International Office, see [www.kent.ac.uk/international/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/international/) * Medical Centre, see [www.kent.ac.uk/counselling/menu/Medical-Centre.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/counselling/menu/Medical-Centre.html) * Provided by Partner Universities: * Each institution will designate an appropriate office / a contact person to coordinate student services for incoming exchange students. This office will provide orientation to incoming students upon arrival. The orientation will include information on academic, cultural, health, personal safety, security, general work and welfare issues. The office will also advise students on issues as they arise. Exchange students will enjoy the same support as local students do. * Each partner institution will comply with health and safety laws relevant to students. The institution will satisfy itself that it can provide adequate resources, training and supervision to ensure that students are not subjected to unreasonable risks to health and safety. * In some cases the partner university will provide arrangements for housing for participating students, the cost of which shall be borne by the students. Details can be found in the appropriate Year Abroad guide provided by the University of Kent. The payment for housing together with the payment for all travel, required university technology or activity fees, medical insurance, medical costs not covered by insurance, books and other educational materials, food and subsistence costs shall be the responsibility of individual exchange students. |

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| 20 **Entry Profile** |
| 20.1 **Entry Route**  For fuller information, please refer to the University prospectus |
| * **Minimum requirements:**   Prospective students must be at least 17 years old by 20 September of the year in which their programme begins. There is no upper age limit.   * **A levels and AS levels:**   300 UCAS tariff points over 3 A levels, usually BBB. English Language GCSE at Grade C is also required.   * **Access programmes:**   A satisfactory pass in an approved Foundation or Access programme. Prospective students should check with the University beforehand whether we will accept the Access/Foundation syllabus they have taken. Aptitude to modern European languages should also be demonstrated.   * **European Baccalaureate:**   Average 75-78 points, according to degree programme application.   * **International Baccalaureate:**   30 points (14 points at higher level), or 28 points (13 at higher level), according to degree programme application. Students need to have 7.5 in written English and 7.5 in another European language.   * **BTEC National Certificates/Diplomas:**   DDM overall (excluding common skills), plus acceptable qualification in a European foreign language.   * **Irish Leaving Certificate:**   300 UCAS tariff points over the best five Irish Higher subjects, including a modern European foreign language.   * **Diploma di esame di stato:**   86% needed.   * **Scottish qualifications:**   300 UCAS tariff points over the best five Scottish Higher subjects   * **University Degree:**   Completion of a degree, including all the required examinations at a university in the United Kingdom, or at another approved university.   * **Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL):**   We shall consider any evidence prospective students have of previous study and their ability to follow their proposed programme in Asian Studies.   * **Students over 19 with ‘educational gaps’:**   If prospective students are aged over 19 without traditional qualifications, the School shall likewise seek proof of their ability to follow the proposed programme in Asian Studies.   * **International Applicants:**   In addition to the above requirements, international students can also qualify with the following:  \* A Pass at one of Kent’s Foundation programmes, provided that the applicant meets the subject requirements for Asian Studies and the other subject in the programme they intend to follow.  \* An examination pass accepted as equivalent to any of the above.  \* If a prospective student is not a native speaker of English, they must also, in order to enter directly into a degree programme, demonstrate their proficiency in English by through evidence of their previous university study, or through one of the following:  \* Average of 6.5 in IELTS, minimum 6.0 in reading and writing, 5.5 in Speaking and Listening.  \* Grade B in Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English.  \* Grade A in Cambridge Advanced Certificate in English.  \* A TOEFL score of at least 87 overall (internet based) (including 21 in writing and 22 in Reading).  If a student has not yet reached these standards, the University offers a Foundation Programme for international students, which gives prospective students a year's academic and language training before they begin their degree.  Other Qualifications: Advanced International Certificate of Education; Advanced Placement; Overseas Certificates (including other EU Countries); The Higher School Certificate of Matriculation of approved overseas and EU authorities; American High School Diploma at grade point average of 3.0 out of 4 including grade C in grade 12 English plus two full advanced placements both at grade 4.   * This university considers other qualifications similar to the ones listed above, provided they include a pass at English Language at GCSE/O level or equivalent, as well as demonstrating aptitude in a modern European language other than English. |
| 20.2 **What does this programme have to offer?** |
| * An innovative programme with an emphasis on the cultural, philosophical and historical issues of understanding and contact between Asia and Europe. * The Year Abroad option provides each student with the opportunity to consolidate this grounding through a year's residence in an Asian country, pursuing an approved full-time activity. * The opportunity to study the diverse and interdisciplinary methods relevant to Asian studies within a friendly and committed department. * The opportunity to study in Canterbury, a major centre for European Studies within easy access of London and continental Europe. * A friendly campus with high student morale, dedicated lecturers who have international academic standing. |
| 20.3 **Personal Profile** |
| * A lively interest in the history and/or contemporary cultures of Asia. * A desire to deepen one's knowledge of these fields. * A desire and willingness to travel and experience other cultures. * An openness to what is distinctive of and specific to Asian civilisations and culture. * A willingness to acquire the IT skills appropriate to literary, philosophical, cultural and historical study. * A readiness to share discovery with a larger group and exchange ideas. * Flexibility of mind, the capacity for self-reflection and the desire to be intellectually independent and self-standing. * A readiness to place specialist study in a broad framework of complementary and contextual knowledge. * An interest in, and qualification to take, another Humanities or Social Science subject. |

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| 21. **Methods for Evaluating and Enhancing the Quality and Standards of Teaching and Learning** |
| 21.1 **Mechanisms for review and evaluation of teaching, learning, assessment, the curriculum and outcome standards** |
| * Student module evaluation questionnaires * Annual programme and module monitoring reports, see <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/annexe.html> * External Examiners system, see <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/annexk.html> * Periodic programme review, <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/annexf.html> * Annual staff appraisal * Active staff development programme * Peer observation * Mentoring of new and part-time lecturers * Quality Assurance Framework, <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/index.html> * QAA Higher Education Review, see <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/InstitutionReports/types-of-review/higher-education-review/Pages/default.aspx> * Continuous monitoring of student progress and attendance * Personal Academic Support System * Vetting process of examination questions by module team, Quality Assurance Committee and external examiners |
| 21.2 **Committees with responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality and standards** |
| * Staff-Student liaison committee * School learning and teaching committee * Faculty learning and teaching committee * Board of Examiners (including external examiners) * School part-time studies Director * School quality assurance committee * School ethics committee * Programme approval sub-committee of the University Learning and Teaching Board |
| 21.3 **Mechanisms for gaining student feedback on the quality of teaching and their learning experience** |
| * Staff-student liaison committee * Student module evaluations * Informal meetings and social contact with students (including student role in recruitment activities) * Student representation at School Level * Student representation at Faculty Level * Final-year programme evaluation (NSS) * Year abroad evaluation * Discussions with tutors * Discussions with Senior tutor |
| 21.4 **Staff Development priorities include:** |
| * Peer review teaching scheme * Research led teaching * Links with other European Institutions * Regular formal and informal collaboration in programme development * Staff appraisal scheme * Staff development courses * Study leave * Research seminars * Subject based Conference * Interdisciplinary Conferences * Attendance at relevant conferences * PhD as minimum qualification for appointment to lecturing posts * Strong evidence of research record required for appointment to lecturing posts * Mentoring of new lecturers * Self-evaluation * Professional body guidelines * Membership of relevant academic bodies * Dissemination of good practice on new learning and teaching methods |

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| 22. **Indicators of Quality and Standards** |
| * Internal subject reviews * External examiners' reports * Teaching and research culture recognised by the British Academy in the form of grants given to staff for research * Partnership with other higher education institutions in the UK and abroad * Alumni feedback * International recognition of members of staff research * Invitations extended to members of staff working on some aspect of Asian Studies and other Foreign Universities to give papers |
| 22.1 **The following reference points were used in creating these specifications:** |
| * Subject benchmarking statement for Area studies * The University Plan and Learning and Teaching Strategy (including the School Learning and Teaching Forum) * School and Faculty plan * Current undergraduate provision relating to Asia |