

UNIVERSITY OF KENT

Programme Specification

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 in the programme handbook. 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.

BA (Joint Honours) Asian Studies

1. Awarding Institution/Body	University of Kent
2. Teaching Institution	University of Kent
3. School responsible for management of the programme	School of European Culture and Languages
4. Teaching Site	Canterbury
5. Mode of Delivery	Full-time Part-time
6. Programme accredited by	N/A
7. a) Final Award	BA (Hons)
7. b) Alternative Exit Awards	BA (Non Honours) Asian Studies and 'Another Subject' Diploma in Asian Studies and 'Another Subject'; Certificate in Asian Studies and 'Another Subject'
8. Programme	Asian Studies and 'Another Subject'; This is a half-programme. Please see prospectus for current information.
9. UCAS Code (or other code)	Please see prospectus for current information.
10. Credits/ECTS Value	360 Credits (180 ECTS)
11. Study Level	Undergraduate
12. Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Area Studies (October 2016)
13. Date of creation/revision	Sept 2013 / Revised Jan 2016 / Revised FSO Jan 2018
14. Intended Start Date of Delivery of this Programme	September 2018

15. Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to:

- Provide a solid grounding in Asian Studies utilising multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches drawn from the Humanities and Social Sciences.

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- Develop a critical awareness of the interpretive, cultural and political challenges to understanding Asian cultures and civilisations both historically and in the contemporary period.
- Provide opportunities for written and spoken language competency in an Asian language up to languages global scale level B2.
- 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.
- Facilitate an engaged and critical awareness of Asian cultures and civilisations.
- Develop an awareness of Asian culture in a global context, with specific reference to historical and contemporary relations with European cultures and traditions.
- 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.
- 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.
- Provide a means of access to intercultural awareness and understanding and an awareness of the interpretive, theoretical and practical challenges to its development.
- Contribute to widening participation in higher education by offering a variety of entry routes.
- 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.
- Develop general critical, analytical and problem-solving skills which can be utilised in a wide range of situations.

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.

A. Knowledge and Understanding of:

1. The interdisciplinary nature of Asian Studies **(SB 1.2; 1.6; 3.1; 3.2)**;
2. Humanities and social scientific methods **(SB 1.2; 1.6; 3.1; 3.2; 4.3)**;
3. Asian cultures and traditions **(SB 3.2; 4.3)**;
4. Asia understood in relation to the global context **(SB 4.3)**;
5. Asia and its historical and contemporary relationship to Europe **(SB 4.3)**;
6. Interpretive issues related to developing intercultural understanding **(SB 3.2; 4.3)**.

Skills and Other Attributes

B. Intellectual Skills:

1. Apply the skills needed for academic study and enquiry;
2. Evaluate information critically **(SB 4.3; 4.4)**;
3. Synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of the subject **(SB 4.3; 4.4)**;
4. Make use of problem-solving skills **(SB 4.3; 4.4)**;
5. Utilise communication skills for the coherent expression and transfer of knowledge **(SB 4.4)**;
6. Analyse, evaluate and interpret a variety of evidence in a critical manner **(SB 4.4)**;
7. Study and reach conclusions independently **(SB 4.4)**;

C. Subject-specific Skills:

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1. Where chosen as an option, be able to communicate effectively in an Asian language both orally and in writing **(SB 3.2; 4.3)**;
2. Demonstrate detailed knowledge and effective understanding of Asian culture, traditions and societies **(SB 3.2; 4.3)**;
3. Critically analyse a variety of texts and images, i.e. historical, literary, religious, philosophical and journalistic etc. **(SB 3.2; 4.3)**;
4. Gain an appreciation of and sensitivity to cultural diversity **(SB 3.2; 4.3; 4.4)**;
5. Develop an awareness of challenges, obstacles and ways of developing cultural awareness **(SB 4.3)**

D. Transferable Skills:

1. Communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals using a variety of information sources and methods **(SB 4.4)**;
2. Identify problems and explore alternative solutions **(SB 4.4)**;
3. Library and bibliographical research skills **(SB 4.4)**;
4. Techniques for using Asian language source materials in their original and in translation **(SB 4.3; 4.4)**;
5. Take responsibility for personal and professional learning and development **(SB 4.4)**;
6. Manage time and prioritise workloads, think and perform under pressure **(SB 4.4)**;
7. Capacity for teamwork, working creatively and flexibly with others in a group environment **(SB 4.4)**;
8. Deploy a range of Information Technology skills effectively, such as word processing, using email, using academic databases and software, conducting research online **(SB 4.4)**;

Teaching/learning and assessment methods and strategies used to enable the programme learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

Student and teacher-led seminars, as well as supervised study and lectures comprise the basic strategies for teaching and learning. Study and assessment using course information, online resources, and research-based teaching materials and methods form the basis for self-directed learning. Seminars focus primarily on structuring and articulating arguments; these are further developed in essay-based assessments and further teaching occurs through staff and peer feedback. Guidance is also given, formally and informally, about how to identify, locate and use material available in the library and online. Discussion of appropriate methods and approaches is incorporated into seminars and individual or small group meetings.

Students' assessment is purposefully diverse, although principally achieved through coursework assignments and essays. Other forms of assessment may regularly include document exercises, commenting on selected literary and material evidence individual seminar presentations, visual tests, examinations on previously unseen text and material, small-group, student-led projects, and supervised extended essays, for which students work independently. We emphasise the variety and innovation in assessment.

For more information on the skills developed by individual modules and on the specific learning outcomes associated with any Certificate, Diploma or BA non-honours awards relating to this programme of study, see the module mapping table, located at the end of this specification.

17 Programme Structures and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

This programme is studied over three years full-time or six years part-time.

This programme can also be taken full-time over four years with the optional year abroad. Students studying the programme on a part time basis do not have the option of doing a year abroad/placement year. Please refer to the Humanities Year Abroad specification for further details.

If this programme is taken with either French, German, Hispanic Studies, or Italian, it will include a compulsory Year Abroad which must be taken in a country whose native language is also the target language. This means that students choosing any of these particular combinations will not therefore be able to study in an Asian country. The Languages Year Abroad includes specific rules governing credit retrieval and dispensation. For full details, please see the programme specification relating to the appropriate language.

The programme is divided into three stages, each stage comprising modules to a total of 120 credits. Students must successfully complete each module in order to be awarded the specified number of credits for that module. One credit corresponds to approximately ten hours of 'learning time' (including all classes and all private study and research). Thus obtaining 120 credits in an academic year requires 1,200 hours of overall learning time. For further information on modules and credits refer to the Credit Framework at <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/ga/credit-framework/creditinfo.html>

Each module and programme is designed to be at a specific level. For the descriptors of each of these levels, refer to Annex 2 of the Credit Framework at <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/ga/credit-framework/creditinfoannex2.html>. To be eligible for the award of an honours degree students must obtain 360 credits (480 including Year Abroad, at least 210 of which must be at Level 5 or above, including at least 90 credits at level 6 or above at Stage 3.

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 in Asian Studies and 'Another Subject'. 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 in Asian Studies and 'Another Subject'. Students successfully completing Stage 2 of the programme and achieving 300 credits overall including at least 60 credits at level 6 or above in Stage 3 and meeting Credit Framework requirements will be eligible for the award of a BA non-honours degree.

Students successfully completing Stage 2 and also the year abroad and meeting credit framework requirements will be eligible for the award of the Diploma with a Year Abroad.

For further information refer to the Credit Framework at <https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/ga/credit-framework/creditinfo.html#exit-awards>.

Compulsory modules are core to the programme and must be taken by all students studying the programme. Optional modules provide a choice of subject areas, from which students will select a stated number of modules. The normal expectation is that the termly module load will be equally balanced across the terms.

Where a student fails a module(s) due to illness or other mitigating circumstances, such failure may be condoned, subject to the requirements of the Credit Framework and provided that the student has achieved the programme learning outcomes. For further information refer to the Credit Framework at <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/ga/credit-framework/creditinfo.html>.

Where a student fails a module(s), but has marks for such modules within 10 percentage points of the pass mark, the Board of Examiners may nevertheless award the credits for the module(s), subject to the requirements of the Credit Framework and provided that the student has achieved the programme learning outcomes. For further information refer to the Credit Framework.

Compulsory modules cannot be condoned, compensated or trailed.

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KV Code	Code	Title	Level	Credits	Term(s)
Stage 1					
Compulsory Modules					
ASIA3002	TH348	Introduction to East Asian Traditions	4	15	Spring
RSST3310	TH331	Introduction to Hinduism and Buddhism	4	15	Autumn or Spring
Optional Modules Students must select 30 credits at Level 4 from the Asian Studies optional modules list					
Stage 2					
Compulsory Modules					
ASIA6001	TH640	Themes in the Study of Asia	5	30	Autumn or Spring
Optional Modules Students must select 30 credits at Level 5 from the Asian Studies optional modules list					
Stage 3					
Optional Modules Students must select 60 credits at Level 6 from the Asian Studies optional modules list					

18 Work-Based Learning

This programme does not include any work-based learning, unless specified in the associated joint degree programme.

19 Support for Students and their Learning

- School and University induction programme
- Programme/module handbooks
- Library services <http://www.kent.ac.uk/library/>
- Student Support <http://www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport/>
- Student Wellbeing www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing/
- Centre for English and World Languages <http://www.kent.ac.uk/cewl/index.html>
- Student Learning Advisory Service <http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/about/slas.html>
- PASS system <https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/annexg.html>
- Academic Adviser system <https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/advisers/index.html>
- Kent Union www.kentunion.co.uk/
- Careers and Employability Services www.kent.ac.uk/ces/
- Counselling Service <https://www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing/counselling/>
- Information Services (computing and library services) www.kent.ac.uk/is/
- Undergraduate student representation at School, Faculty and Institutional levels
- International Recruitment Office <https://www.kent.ac.uk/internationalstudent/>;
- International Partnerships Office <https://www.kent.ac.uk/global/partnerships/>
- Medical Centre <https://www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing/medicalcentre.html>

20 Entry Profile

The minimum age to study a degree programme at the university is normally at least 17 years old by 20 September in the year the programme begins. There is no upper age limit.

20.1 Entry Route

For current information, please refer to the University prospectus

- **A levels and AS levels:**
BBB at A Level
- **Access programmes:**
The University will not necessarily make conditional offers to all Access candidates but will continue to assess them on an individual basis.
If we make you an offer, you will need to obtain/pass the overall Access to Higher Education Diploma and may also be required to obtain a proportion of the total level 3 credits and/or credits in particular subjects at merit grade or above.
- **International Baccalaureate:**
34 points (15 points at HL)
- **BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma:**
The University will consider applicants holding BTEC National Diploma and Extended National Diploma Qualifications (QCF; NQF; OCR) on a case-by-case basis. Please contact us for further advice on your individual circumstances.

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

The applicant will have:

- 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.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student module evaluations • Annual programme and module monitoring reports http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/annexe.html • External Examiners system 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 • Peer observation • Quality Assurance Framework http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/index.html • QAA Higher Education Review http://www.qaa.ac.uk/InstitutionReports/types-of-review/higher-education-review/Pages/default.aspx
21.2 Committees with responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality and standards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff-Student Liaison Committee • School Education Committee • Faculty Education Committee • Faculty Board • Education Board • Board of Examiners
21.3 Mechanisms for gaining student feedback on the quality of teaching and their learning experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student module evaluations • Staff-Student Liaison Committee • Student rep system (School, Faculty and Institutional level) • Annual NSS
21.4 Staff Development priorities include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PGCHE requirements • HEA (associate) fellowship membership • Annual appraisals • Institutional Level Staff Development Programme • Academic Practice Provision (PGCHE, other development opportunities) • Professional body membership and requirements • Programme team meetings • Research seminars • Conferences • Study leave • Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) awareness

22 Indicators of Quality and Standards

- Results of periodic programme review (May 2017)
- QAA Higher Education Review 2015
- Annual External Examiner reports
- Annual programme and module monitoring reports

22.1 The following reference points were used in creating these specifications:

- QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality>
- QAA Benchmarking statement for Area Studies (October 2016)
- School and Faculty plan
- University Plan <https://www.kent.ac.uk/about/plan/> and Learning and Teaching Strategies <https://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/strategies/lta.html>
- Staff research activities
- Kent Inclusive Practices (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/studentssupport/accessibility/inclusive-practice.html>)

23 Inclusive Programme Design

The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the programme is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

Template last updated November 2017

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BA (Joint Honours) Asian Studies

	Stage 1		Stage 2
	Introduction to East Asian Traditions	Introduction to Hinduism and Buddhism	Themes in the Study of Asia
Programme Learning outcomes			
Knowledge and Understanding:			
A1	x	x	x
A2	x	x	x
A3	x	x	x
A4	x	x	x
A5	x	x	x
A6	x	x	x
Intellectual Skills:			
B1	x	x	x
B2	x	x	x
B3	x	x	x
B4	x	x	x
B5	x	x	x
B6	x	x	x
B7	x	x	x
Subject-specific Skills:			
C1		x	
C2		x	x
C3	x	x	x
C4	x	x	x
C5	x	x	x
Transferable Skills:			
D1	x	x	x
D2	x	x	x
D3	x	x	x
D4		x	
D5	x	x	x
D6	x	x	x
D7	x	x	x
D8	x	x	x

* Optional Modules cover all programme learning outcomes irrespective of the combination taken.