

T500 African Studies

The African Studies degree programme at Birmingham is broad, combining arts and social science approaches. It is taught in the Department of African Studies and Anthropology within the School of History and Cultures, which is a small, friendly community of undergraduates, postgraduates, visiting scholars and staff.

Programme

All our programmes have their compulsory core modules which give them their cohesion and distinctiveness. However, choice is always present; different option modules are available in all three years of the programme. You will also develop a dissertation topic based on your interests in consultation with a supervisor with relevant expertise.

How many contact hours will I have per week? This will vary from year to year and from module to module. All our programmes are designed to enable a student to progress from being a dependent to an independent learner. Furthermore, each of our modules has its own learning outcomes and these can involve very different teaching methods.

How will my work be assessed? Our modules are made up of a combination of mostly lectures and tutorials, but with occasional student workshops, debates and presentations. You will be expected to devote at least as much time to private study as to attending formal lectures and tutorials. There are unseen examinations in some modules.

Semester Abroad

A semester abroad can be chosen and would be undertaken in either

Semester 1 or 2 of the second year. Students choose a host University which is approved by the University of Birmingham's International Office within the Study Abroad and Exchanges scheme, and which the Department deems offers modules relevant to the degree programme and comparable with modules offered at Birmingham. Students undertake study abroad on an exchange basis, whereby incoming and outgoing students each pay the normal tuition fee to their home institution.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning in the School of History and Cultures takes the form of **critical enquiry, debate and self-motivation**, summed up by the term Enquiry-based Learning. Enquiry-based Learning describes an environment in which learning is driven by the shared enquiry of students and tutors. Depending upon the level and the discipline, it can encompass problem-based learning, evidence-based learning, small scale investigations, field work, projects and research. Enquiry-based Learning places you at the centre of your own learning process so that you learn through involvement and ownership and not simply by being a passive recipient of information thrown at you. You will spend time developing comprehension and note-taking skills. Reading, thinking and analysing for yourself are the

most important parts of your degree.

Careers

Let's give you some examples of the career paths of recent African Studies graduates:

- Bank Management
- Teaching
- Civil Service
- Foreign Office
- Retail management
- Aid work with Save the Children
- Probation work
- Welfare rights worker
- Computer programmer
- NGO work in Kurdistan
- Work with adults who have learning disabilities
- Research with Amnesty International
- Officer in the Parachute Regiment
- EFL teaching
- BBC Radio producer
- BBC World Service correspondent

African Studies graduates have also gone on to postgraduate work either in African Studies or in other fields like Development Studies, Anthropology, Systems Analysis, Education, and Political Science. Our students are also able to benefit from a dedicated College of Arts and Law careers service.

First Year/Level C	Second Year/Level I	Third Year/Level H
<p>Focus on Studying Societies 20 credits <i>Essays and group presentation</i> (Small Group Teaching, including a one-to-one)</p>	<p>Perspectives on Africa 20 credits <i>Group presentation, reports and dissertation proposal</i> (Small Group Teaching)</p>	<p>Dissertation 40 credits <i>10,000 word dissertation</i> (one-to-one sessions with a supervisor and workshops with other students)</p>
<p>Either</p> <p>Option Choose 100 credits of Department of African Studies and Anthropology modules <i>Assessment Variable</i></p> <p>Or</p> <p>Option Choose 80 credits of Department of African Studies and Anthropology modules and a 20 credit Module Outside the Main Discipline <i>Assessment Variable</i></p>	<p>Option Choose 100 credits of Department of African Studies and Anthropology modules <i>Assessment Variable</i></p>	<p>Option Choose 80 credits of Department of African Studies and Anthropology modules <i>Assessment Variable</i></p>

We are happy to answer any questions about the Single Honours African Studies programme at Birmingham. Please address your enquiries to:

Heather Cullen
School of History and Cultures
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT
United Kingdom
Tel: 0121 414 5752
Email: dasa-ug-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk
www.birmingham.ac.uk/dasa

This document was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes, courses or modules are offered every year. Our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study, therefore some courses or modules may be withdrawn and new ones offered in their place.