PhD in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Study in London or via Distance Learning

ilas.sas.ac.uk/study
About the degree

The Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) offers specialist doctoral supervision across the humanities and social sciences, covering Latin America and the Caribbean. Join us and become part of an internationally recognised centre of excellence, with a close-knit team of expert Latin Americanists who will welcome you into our research community and help you make the most of your student experience. All of our graduates are awarded a University of London degree.

Study with us

As a PhD student at the Institute of Latin American Studies, you will enjoy the personal attention of our academic staff, who will guide you through the programme and supervise your thesis. You’ll learn from leading specialists in your field; hone your research skills in our highly regarded training programmes; expand your knowledge through an extensive calendar of events, conferences, and seminars; and become part of a worldwide network of humanities scholars.

When the time came to choose where I wanted to do my PhD course, I decided on ILAS because it is one of the main centres for promotion and research in humanities in the UK. The intense dynamic of the School and Senate House has enriched my research and professional career.

José Guevara
ILAS PhD student

As a PhD student at the Institute of Latin American Studies, you will enjoy the personal attention of our academic staff, who will guide you through the programme and supervise your thesis project. Our PhD students have access to a rich and varied programme of subject-specific research training, as well as general research skills training and methodologies courses. You are encouraged to attend the Institute’s extensive range of Latin American and Caribbean-focused research seminars, conferences, and guest lectures, which offer opportunities to hear and discuss papers by leading scholars as well as to meet others interested in a particular field of study.

The Institute offers students an unparalleled range of resources in Latin American Studies. The Latin American and Caribbean Studies Collection, based at Senate House Library, combines the holdings and strengths of the ILAS and Senate House Library collections to provide more than 90,000 volumes of research-level material. Senate House Library is the central library of the University of London and, with more than two million books and 1,200 archival collections, one of the UK’s largest academic libraries focused on the arts, humanities, and social sciences.
**Distance-learning option**

ILAS now offers students the opportunity to undertake their research degree by distance learning. Distance learning allows you to study wherever you are, arranging your studies around your work or family life. You will be required to attend our London campus on three set occasions: at the start of your studies for an intensive induction programme, for an external review of your progress (the upgrade panel), and for the final oral exam (viva).

The programme is run on the same basis as our campus-based programmes. You will maintain regular contact with your supervisors via video conferencing. You will need to demonstrate that you have the appropriate local resources, IT equipment, and infrastructure before you can commence study.

As a distance-learning student, you will benefit from the School’s extensive research training portfolio, online e-resources, podcasts, video recordings, transcriptions, and live streaming of research seminars on a wide range of topics to help you complete your research degree. Research modules will include, but are not limited to: Organising Successful Academic Events, Getting Research Published, Public Speaking, Research Data, and Ethics.

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**Supervisors**

ILAS undertakes multidisciplinary, specialist research on Latin America and the Caribbean. Our expert scholars offer doctoral research supervision on an extensive range of subjects within the humanities and social sciences. We also work closely with other institutes within the School of Advanced Study (SAS), in particular the Institute of Modern Languages Research (IMLR) and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICwS). Cross-institute supervision and collaboration is actively encouraged making us an ideal location for interdisciplinary research.

**Professor Linda Newson OBE, FBA**

Director

linda.newson@sas.ac.uk

Professor Linda Newson has conducted extensive archival research in Latin America and is the author of seven monographs and two edited books. Her first five monographs examined the demographic and cultural impact of Spanish colonial rule in Trinidad, Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador, and the Philippines. More recently, she examined the African slave trade in Peru in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. She is currently researching the history of medicine in Peru in the early colonial period. She has received awards for distinguished scholarship from the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (USA) and the Royal Geographic Society. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and chairs its Latin American and Caribbean Panel. In 2015, Professor Newson received the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to Latin American Studies.

**Professor Mark Thurner**

Professor in Latin American Studies

mark.thurner@sas.ac.uk

Professor Mark Thurner joined ILAS in 2014. His current research and writing traces the critical place of the Americas in the global history of knowledge. He directs the Leverhulme Trust-funded LAGLOBAL project, an international research network examining the global historical significance of Latin American knowledge. He also convenes the London Andean Studies seminar. Professor Thurner advises doctoral students working in the areas of intellectual and cultural history, historical anthropology, colonial and postcolonial studies, and museum studies.

**Dr Ainhoa Montoya**

Senior Lecturer in Latin American Studies

ainhoa.montoya@sas.ac.uk

Dr Ainhoa Montoya’s research focuses on post-conflict violence in El Salvador, exploring ethnographically how Salvadorans conceive of democracy and the state, and how they participate in the country’s political life in the context of a violent peace and a liberal market economy. Her current ESRC-funded project examines the role of the jural in the environmental politics of Central America. She welcomes PhD students with an interest in bringing an anthropological perspective to the study of violence and conflict, democracy and state transformation, the law, the environment and natural resources, social movements, or human rights.

Supervision is available across a wide range of fields. For a full list of ILAS staff, please consult ilas.sas.ac.uk/about-us/people.
The University of London experience

The Institute of Latin American Studies is located in Senate House, an iconic, Grade II-listed Art Deco building in the heart of Bloomsbury. Our central London location ensures that you will be able to enjoy everything the city has to offer, from the world-class resources of the British Museum (adjacent to Senate House) and British Library (within short walking distance) to shops, restaurants, parks, clubs, and theatres. London is regularly named the best university city in the world for its welcoming attitude, diversity, and vibrant student-friendly culture.

Full-time PhD students, and part-time students with disabilities, may apply for accommodation in one of the University of London’s award-winning intercollegiate Halls of Residence. Our Registry office will send you housing information after you have been offered a place. To learn more about accommodation options, please visit halls.london.ac.uk/our-accommodation.

Entry requirements

Applicants to our PhD programme are usually required to hold a master’s degree. However, we will consider applications from candidates who do not meet the formal academic requirements but who offer alternative qualifications and/or relevant experience. English is the language of instruction and applicants are required to demonstrate an appropriate level of proficiency.

For more information on entry requirements, please visit sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/entry-requirements.

How to apply

We accept applications throughout the year for entry in September or January. We recommend you contact a prospective supervisor in the first instance in order to initiate an informal discussion of your research proposal. Alternatively, please email ilas@sas.ac.uk and the institute manager will be able to direct you to the most appropriate academic staff member for your interests. That person will then be able to help you develop the research proposal that must be submitted with your application. All applications are made online. Please visit sas.ac.uk/phd/latinamerica for details.

Course summary

Degree structure

The degree can be taken full time over three years or part time over six years, with entry in either September or January. You’ll initially be registered for our MPhil and will then, providing your progress has been satisfactory, be upgraded to our PhD programme. The primary activity of the PhD programme is the writing of a thesis of up to 100,000 words. Although this is primarily an independent piece of work, you will receive extensive research training, and our supervisors will be on hand to support and encourage you. Suitably qualified applicants can undertake their research degree by distance-learning.

Fees and funding

For up-to-date fees and funding opportunities, please visit sas.ac.uk/funding.

The School of Advanced Study is a member of the London Arts and Humanities Partnership, which offers studentships providing tuition fees at the Home/EU rate and an annual maintenance grant. The competition for these opens in December each year; candidates should apply for a place in the School well in advance of the LAHP deadline (usually in January for entry in September) to ensure they have time to consult with a prospective supervisor. For details, visit lahp.ac.uk.

Learn more

Institute of Latin American Studies: ilas.sas.ac.uk/study
School of Advanced Study: sas.ac.uk/study
Please note that tuition fees are subject to annual uplift. The University of London reserves the right to alter or withdraw courses and amend other details without prior notice.