Master of Research in Latin American Studies

ilas.sas.ac.uk
About the degree

The Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) welcomes applications from suitably qualified candidates for its Master of Research in Latin American Studies. 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 the Institute’s research community and help you make the most of your student experience.

All of our graduates are awarded a University of London degree (MRes).

Our Master of Research in Latin American Studies is a specialised degree that provides a unique opportunity for students interested in Latin America, including the Caribbean, to undertake an extensive piece of independent research while broadening and deepening their knowledge of the region. It is ideally suited to students who wish to develop and demonstrate their research skills, perhaps with the aim of preparing for further study or pursuing a research-based career.

The course can be taken full time over one year with entry in September or part time over two years with entry in either September or January. You will receive two hours of teaching each week during term-time, which takes place in small, intensive seminars led by leading scholars in the field. In the summer term, you will complete a 30,000-word research-based dissertation, which is central to the course. It is not necessary to identify a dissertation topic at the application stage as this will be developed during the autumn term through discussion with your supervisor. However, if you would like to discuss a future research proposal with one of our academics, please contact ilas@sas.ac.uk in the first instance.
Study with us

Recognised internationally as a centre of excellence for research facilitation, ILAS occupies a unique position at the core of academic study of the region in the UK.

Study with us and you'll be joining a long-established, welcoming community of dedicated Latin Americanist scholars. Our students are encouraged to engage with academic staff and involve themselves in the Institute’s wider activities, which include an extensive programme of Latin-American and Caribbean focused events.

The Institute offers students an unparalleled range of resources in Latin American Studies. The Latin American and Caribbean Studies collections, based at Senate House Library, combine the holdings and strengths of ILAS and SHL to provide more than 90,000 volumes of research-level material.

ILAS also hosts the Centre for Integrated Caribbean Research (CICR), an initiative focused on promoting interdisciplinary and comparative work on the Caribbean Region. We encourage dissertation projects in this area.
**Structure**

All modules are core and compulsory:

### Autumn term

- **Research Themes and Debates in Latin America (30 credits)**
  
  **Assessment: a portfolio of reports totalling 5,000 words**
  
  This module provides a historical introduction to key research problems and debates in the field of Latin American Studies, which will enable students to identify potential approaches and research projects in the field. This module will enable students to recognise, problematise, and analyse themes and tropes within Latin American Studies and identify where gaps exist or where new approaches could enrich the field. It will enable students to develop into independent scholars.

### Spring term

- **Research Methods in Latin American Studies (30 credits)**
  
  **Assessment: a literature review of 2,000 words and a dissertation proposal of 3,000 words**
  
  This module introduces students to the range of methods that can be applied in humanities and social science research in Latin American Studies. In addition to providing students with theoretical underpinnings, students will be introduced to the practical issues that may be encountered in the field while conducting research in Latin America.

### Summer term

- **Independent research-based dissertation (120 credits)**
  
  **Assessment: dissertation of 30,000 words (including footnotes)**
  
  Although this is primarily an independent piece of research, you will receive extensive research training and your supervisor will be on hand to support and encourage you. It is not necessary to identify a dissertation topic prior to entry; this can be developed during the autumn term through discussions with your supervisor.
Academic leads

ILAS undertakes multidisciplinary, specialist research on Latin America and the Caribbean. Our expert scholars offer 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).

**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**
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.

For a full list of ILAS staff, please visit ilas.sas.ac.uk/about-us/people.
The University of London experience

As part of the School of Advanced Study (SAS), University of London, ILAS students benefit from a collaborative, interdisciplinary research environment, as well as a range of funding opportunities. SAS is a national research hub and ILAS enjoys close links with its other members, including the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, the Institute of Modern Languages Research, the Institute of Historical Research, and the Warburg Institute. Cross-institute collaboration is actively encouraged, making us an ideal location for interdisciplinary research.

ILAS students join a community of more than 300 students in SAS. They are encouraged to participate in the wider activities of the University and are able to use the libraries of other colleges in addition to Senate House Library.

The Institute is located in the heart of Bloomsbury in central London. Our 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 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

The normal minimum entrance requirement is a First or Upper Second Class Honours degree from a university in the UK or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. 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

Applications should be made online via the SAS website. For full details of the application process, please visit sas.ac.uk/study/latinamerica.

Course summary

Degree structure
The course can be taken full time over one year with entry in September or part time over two years with entry in either September or January.

Fees 2018–19 (subject to annual uplift)
Home and EU students: full time, £7,880 | part time, £4,490
Overseas students: full time, £13,960

Funding
The School of Advanced Study offers a number of funding options, including bursaries, scholarships, grants, and awards. For details, please visit sas.ac.uk/funding.

Learn more

Institute of Latin American Studies: ilas.sas.ac.uk/study
School of Advanced Study: sas.ac.uk/study
The Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) was founded in 1965. ILAS occupies a unique position at the core of academic study of the region in the UK. Internationally recognised as a centre of excellence for research facilitation, it serves the wider community through organising academic events, providing online research resources, publishing scholarly writings, and hosting visiting fellows. It possesses a world-class library dedicated to the study of Latin America and is the administrative home of the highly respected *Journal of Latin American Studies*. The Institute supports scholarship across a wide range of subject fields in the humanities and cognate social sciences and actively maintains and builds ties with cultural, diplomatic, and business organisations with interests in Latin America.

The School of Advanced Study is the UK’s national centre for the support and promotion of research in the humanities. Located at the heart of the University of London in Bloomsbury, the School provides an unrivalled scholarly community in which to pursue postgraduate study and research. Students learn from leading specialists in their fields, hone their research skills in highly regarded training programmes, expand their knowledge through an extensive calendar of events, and become part of a worldwide network of humanities scholars. Funding opportunities include AHRC-sponsored London Arts and Humanities Partnership studentships, SAS studentships, and a number of subject-specific bursaries and awards.

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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.

This material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact sas.info@sas.ac.uk.