

Area Studies

at university



What is Area Studies?

Area Studies is a catch-all term referring to courses which specialise in a particular geographical area. These courses include programmes in African Studies, American Studies, Asian Studies, Australian Studies, Caribbean Studies, European Studies, Latin American Studies, Middle Eastern Studies,

Russian and Slavonic Studies. Area Studies courses are interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary. This means that you will cover a wide range of subjects, e.g. the history, politics, geography, literature and language of a particular country or group of countries.

What sorts of things does a degree in Area Studies cover?

'I couldn't decide between English, History and Politics, but this way I was able to do a bit of them all'

Student of American Studies quoted on *The Independent* website.

Area Studies courses vary in terms of what you will study. As well as covering the politics, history and culture of a country or group of countries, many courses will include study of a foreign language. European Studies usually includes study of a European language; courses in Middle Eastern Studies may include the study of Arabic, Persian or Turkish. However, these languages

are usually taught at beginners level so no previous knowledge is assumed. Courses in American Studies rarely include the study of a foreign language. In most cases you will be able to spend a year abroad.

To find out more about a particular university programme you are interested in, it is worth visiting the website of the department offering the degree course or sending off for the departmental prospectus which will contain more detail on course content than the university prospectus.

What sorts of subjects can you study with Area Studies?

Although modern languages often form part of an Area Studies course, Area Studies courses can be combined with many subjects in the arts and social sciences; History, Geography, Literature

and Politics are among the most popular combinations.

Try searching UCAS for yourself – there are many more possible combinations.

What sort of jobs do graduates in Area Studies do?

A degree in Area Studies could be just what you are looking for to prepare you for a career in an increasingly global market in which companies are operating all over the world.

Specific examples of careers where a degree in Area Studies is relevant include:

- civil service;
- marketing;
- careers in research;
- publishing and journalism.

You need not be restricted in terms of career

choice as many careers opportunities (about 40%) are open to graduates in all subjects. In an Area Studies course you will have developed a wide range of skills as part of your study including:

- critical thinking;
- an in-depth knowledge of a particular part of the world;
- proficiency in a modern foreign language (in some Area Studies courses);
- formulating and presenting ideas.

Where can I do a degree in Area Studies?

There is a vast array of choice. Area Studies can be studied as a single honours programme or as part of a joint or combined honours degree course.

Try searching the UCAS Course Search facility using the particular branch of area studies you are interested as a search term. Details of the UCAS Course Search can be found in the **Find out more** section.



Find out more

The following links will help you to find out more about studying Area Studies at university.

University courses

The **Subject Centre website** includes a list of some courses in Area Studies with direct links to the websites of university departments which will give you an idea of what is available.

www.llas.ac.uk/resources/depts.aspx

The University and Colleges Admissions Service

(UCAS) handles undergraduate applications to study at university. The website has a powerful and flexible search function. UCAS also produce a range of print publications about applying for degree courses.

www.ucas.ac.uk

Aim Higher is a portal which has been developed to provide those contemplating entering Higher Education with access to the necessary information from which to make effective decisions and offers an entry point that enables prospective students to seek information about higher education institutions and courses.

www.aimhigher.ac.uk

The CourseSource and **Hot Courses** both list all UK degree courses, searchable by subject, region, college or university **www.thecoursesource.co.uk** and **www.hotcourses.com**

The Independent newspaper has produced an A–Z of degrees which covers Linguistics. They also have an A–Z of colleges and universities.

<http://education.independent.co.uk/higher>

Careers

The Careers Portal gives information on getting into higher education, the low down on a range of careers and lists of professional organisations that collect information on careers, and a job search facility

www.careers-portal.co.uk

A wide range of careers publications are available from

Trotman Publishing.

www.trotman.co.uk



Further information

For further information about the range of services offered by CILT, please contact:

CILT, the National Centre for Languages

20 Bedfordbury, London WC2N 4LB

Tel: 020 7379 5110

Fax: 0207 7379 5082

E-mail: library@cilt.org.uk

For information about the Subject Centre contact:

Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies

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