University of Tehran
Faculty of World Studies
Iranian Studies

Prospectus
2017 -2018
MA Iranian Studies
PhD Iranian Studies
For centuries, the land of Persia, one of the oldest and richest civilizations, has inspired people far and wide—attracting thousands of merchants, poets, artists, conquerors, and explorers from all over the globe. Contemporary Iran bears the memory of that rich and ancient history. Despite living a modern life-style, Iranians are very much committed to preserving their long-lasting traditions and culture even today. Iran’s culture has been heavily influenced by Islamic teachings, while in return, Iranian cultural and scientific heritage have also contributed magnificently to the formation of the Islamic civilization. Thus, through studying contemporary Iran you will learn about a vivid and progressive society in one of the most important parts of the world, and you will understand Islam as a constructive religion and civilization.

“Iranian Studies” is a globally well-recognized academic discipline. Many universities worldwide offer courses with different orientations related to the study of Iran—ancient history, literature, and contemporary society. In addition, the emergence of Iran as one of the highest contributing countries to scientific advancements and its increasing influence in the region has demanded further attention. Providing the necessary foundations for this understanding requires interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary knowledge and awareness.

A comprehensive understanding of Iran’s rich culture and civilization
requires an in-depth study of various aspects of the nation including its shared historical experience, belief systems, customs, language, as well as everyday life of the people. And what better place to reach this goal than the University of Tehran in the heart of the Iranian capital? The benefits of studying Iran at the Faculty of World Studies are twofold: You learn about Iran from an insider point of view in the form of academic facts and research taught by Iranian lecturers, and more importantly you get first hand access to your field of study by living amongst its friendly people, visiting its historic sights, taking field trips and discovering its social and cultural atmosphere. The University of Tehran is now more than 80 years old. It is one of the first modern universities in the Middle East and currently ranks amongst the top 300 universities in the world according to recognized international rankings. Being one of the key symbols of Tehran, the university hosts many important cultural and political events annually, including those both national and international in scope. The university has the most comprehensive library in Iran providing a rich selection of resources for research to its students and lecturers. The university is Iran's most prestigious and attracts the best lecturers and professors from across the country. Living in Tehran is both challenging and appealing. This busy, vibrant, metropolitan city is one of the most attractive cities in the Middle East, alongside Istanbul, Cairo and Beirut. It might be known for heavy traffic and air pollution, but it can also astonish outsiders with awesome views of the snowy mountain tops of the Alborz range in the north as well as vast desert landscapes in the south. This modern capital provides suitable facilities for a wide range of public and private activities, including cinemas and theatres, sport clubs, parks and museums, cafes and restaurants.
The Institute of North American and European studies was founded in 2004. Following its popularity among students, it became an independent faculty, offering specialization in the study of an increasing number of countries around the world. When it first opened in 2007, the faculty offered programs in eight fields, including courses focusing on North America, Britain, Russia, France, Latin America, India, Germany and Iran (only offered to non-Iranian Students). The faculty has subsequently extended to offer programs for students wishing to specialize in Arab countries such as Egypt, Iraq and Palestine as well as Japan and some African countries. We are the only faculty in Iran that offers post-graduate programs focusing on studying different countries with interdisciplinary approach. The faculty aims to promote the study of various countries and regions and to produce experts with a comprehensive understanding of their subject matter. For more information visit our website at fws.ut.ac.ir

"Pursuing what I love. Loving what I pursue. Thanks to all the Iranian teachers and staff of FWS as well as other Iranians who helped me a lot. You are the friendliest people I met!"

Jin Peng
2015 Entry- China
Head of the Faculty of World Studies

Dr Saied Reza Ameli is a full Professor of Communications at the University of Tehran. His main interests are Society and Culture, Communication and Cyberspace.

Head of the Iranian Studies Department

Dr Mohammad Samiei was appointed as Head of Iranian Studies in July 2016. He specializes in politics, concentrating mainly on Orientalism, the Islamic revolution and Shia studies.

Where are we located?

The University has a number of campuses across Iran as well as several Tehran campuses, the latter mainly located in the city centre. Established in 1934, the main campus is located at the heart of the city on Enqelab Eslami Avenue. Faculty of World Studies is located at the Northern Campus.
What can Iranian Studies offer me?

We are the only faculty in Iran that offers Iranian Studies exclusively to International Students. We know that quality matters! The department of Iranian Studies was established due to growing concerns over politicized programs offered around the world that did not necessarily reflect quality education or an in-depth understanding of Iran. The main purpose of our department is to offer a program that allows students to be directly in touch with their subject of study, to learn about Iran from a multi-disciplinary approach, and to get beyond politicized perspectives.

We will give you access to Iranian Studies experts in a wide range of fields including anthropology, culture, economics, political sciences and history.
Our MA Iranian Studies is offered in both English and Persian at different stages of the program. Your first year of studies is conducted in English, and after completing Farsi classes which are offered in parallel to your MA modules, the second year will be delivered in Persian.

This is an exceptional opportunity to not only learn the Persian language, but also to learn academic writing skills in Persian. Yes! By the time you’re in your last year of studies, you will be proficient enough to be examined in Persian, whether through course work, essays or exams.

What truly sets us apart from the other institutions in the world that offer Iranian Studies, is that you get first-hand experience of living in Iran. At the same time, you have lecturers at hand who understand your points of view and concerns because they have been trained in Europe or the US.
“This program has given me, an American citizen, the opportunity to live in Iran and discover the country on my own terms, which I would not have been able to do otherwise. I feel lucky to be able to study Iran from within, rather than abroad, and to help dispel the rumors about the country for myself and for those in my milieu through my experiences.”

Casey Edgarian
2015 Entry - USA

What do I need to join?
Like all academic institutes, we expect you to meet our entry requirements. However, if you lack relevant qualifications, we do offer foundation courses to bring you up to speed with the program.
If you’re not sure about anything, or you have more questions contact us via is.fws@ut.ac.ir or (+98) 21 88 630 999

Aim
The main focus of this program is to train professionals with knowledge that is unbiased and unprejudiced. Such knowledge will allow them to be able to critically analyse the issues related to contemporary Iran objectively and accurately.
our Courses

**MA Iranian Studies**
Duration: 2-3 years
Awarding Institute: University of Tehran

**Course Description**
Students will be introduced to issues related to contemporary Iran in subjects such as contemporary history, Shi`a studies, politics, culture, literature and economics. They will have access to primary resources that will allow them to pursue their studies in topics of their interest.

**Entry Requirements**
- This program is only offered to non-Iranian students.
- Candidates are required to have a BA, BSc or equivalent undergraduate degree from a recognized higher education institution.
- Students for whom English is not their first language must have at least IELTS 6.5, TOFEL 575 (paper based), TOFEL 231 (computer based) or equivalent qualification.
- You may be required to complete relevant foundation courses if your first degree does not correspond with the program.

**Course Structure**
Students will be completing a total of 32 credits of which 10 are core, 16 are optional and 6 are awarded for your dissertation.

**Core Modules**
- Research Methodology
- International Politics
- Principles of Shia Studies
- Islamic Revolution of Iran
- International Relations, Globalization and Regionalism
Optional Modules
- Politics and Governance in Iran
- Contemporary History of Iran
- Political Geography of Iran
- Iranian Society and Culture
- Advanced Persian (reading, comprehension, and academic writing)
- Iran in Regional and International Organizations
- Iranian Ethnic Groups and their Customs
- Political Economy of Iran
- Economy of Energy and Natural Resources
- Iran and the Middle East
- Iran and the Big Powers
- Contemporary Art and Literature in Iran
- The Role and Development of Media in Iran
- Iranian Studies Seminars

Dissertation
Students will complete their course by submitting a 30,000-35,000 word dissertation on a topic of interest supervised by one the professors during the last semester. The dissertation can be written in either Persian or English.

If you’re not sure about anything, or you have further questions please contact us via is.fws@ut.ac.ir or (+98) 21 88 630 999

MA Foundation Courses
You may be required to complete three of the following modules as your foundation requirement for the MA Iranian Studies:
- Anthropology and Culture of Iran
- History of Iran
- Islam and Iran
- History of Economics in Iran
- Persian (1) and (2)

“I can strongly recommend this program to those who do not just want to seek knowledge, but also want to explore the complexity of contemporary Iran in their own way. For them the Master’s program in Iranian Studies at the University of Tehran would be ideal.”

Ivan Hrivnák
2015 Entry - Slovakia

Visiting Persepolis, May 2015
PhD Iranian Studies
Duration: 4-5 years
Awarding Institution: University of Tehran

Course Description
This PhD program is specifically designed and intended for non-Iranian students and follows a multi-disciplinary approach to Iranian studies. Candidates may choose to follow a “social/cultural” or “political/economic” orientation in taking their modules and later, in writing their theses.

The PhD program at the University of Tehran takes up to four years, with possibility of extension for a fifth year if necessary. During the first two years, students will pass nine modules in total (all taught in Persian). After successfully passing all course requirements as well as a comprehensive exam, students will be required to write an extensive PhD thesis on a subject of their own interest related to Iranian studies. This research project will be supervised by at least two faculty members from University of Tehran, and must be defended before a board of examiners. All PhD students must be fluent in Persian and should write their theses in the Persian Language.

Course Structure
Students will be completing a total of 36 credits: 18 credits for taught modules of which 12 are core and 6 are optional, and the thesis which constitutes 18 credits.

Core Modules
- Advanced Research Methodology
- Critical Analysis of Schools in Iranian Studies
- Political Forces in Contemporary Iran
- Shia Schools of Thought
- Turning Points in the History of Iran
- Ethnography of the Iranian Population

Optional Modules
- The Geopolitics and Political Economy of Iran
- The History of Political Thought in Iran
- Cultural Anthropology of Iran
- Contemporary Historiography in Iran
- Contemporary Foreign Policy of Iran
- The History of Religious Sects in Iran
Faculty of World Studies
University of Tehran

• Ethnology in Contemporary Iran
• Iran and Globalization
• Cyberspace in Iran
• Critical Analysis of Post-Revolution Literature
• Art and Cinema in Contemporary Iran
• Sociology of Women
• Iran’s Political Economy in Post-Revolution Era
• Economic Development of Iran
• Issues surrounding Iran’s Metropolitan Cities

**Entry Requirements**

• This program is only offered to non-Iranian students.
• Candidates are required to have an MA, MSc or equivalent post-graduate degree from a recognized higher education institution.
• Students MUST be proficient in the Persian language, both written and spoken.
• You may be required to complete Farsi language courses if your Farsi is at an intermediate level
• Students for whom English is not their first language must have at least IELTS 7, TOFEL 587 (paper based), TOFEL 240 (computer based) or equivalent qualifications.
• You may be required to complete relevant foundation courses if your existing qualifications do not correspond with the subject matter of the program.

“Finding a new Iranian best friend; engaging with philosophical and theoretical ideas that rarely arise in the course of my Australian day job; sitting with and listening to classmates from all over the world; watching a film each week as part of the Farsi program; hearing the divergent political ideas of various faculty lecturers; getting to know the library and administrative staff; attending public lectures with high-profile guest speakers; being challenged to think creatively about the I.R. Iran’s interconnected geography, history, religion, culture and politics; and writing my first - rather mistake-ridden - essays in Persian.”

Janice Webster
2014 Entry- Australia
If you need further information please contact us via is.fws@ut.ac.ir or (+98) 21 88 630 999

**PhD Foundation Courses**
The faculty advise PhD candidates not from Iranian Studies to complete three modules from the MA program as mentioned above.

You can contact the following list of faculty members to find out more about a thesis idea:

- **Mahdi Ahouie**
  ahouie@ut.ac.ir
  International Relations & Politics

- **Mohammad Samiei**
  m.samiei@ut.ac.ir
  Shia Studies, Islamic Revolution

- **Saied Reza Ameli**
  ssameli@ut.ac.ir
  Communications, Cyberspace

- **Seyed Mohammad Marandi**
  mmarandi@ut.ac.ir
  Post-Colonial Studies

- **Mohammad A. Mousavi**
  mamousavi@ut.ac.ir
  Foreign Policy, Political Economy
Faculty of World Studies
University of Tehran

Persian Language Courses
Duration: 2 years
Awarding Institute: Faculty of World Studies and Iranian World Studies Association

Course Description
In the first years of offering this program, students learnt Persian Language outside the faculty. Due to the increasing number of students, the faculty decided to deliver its own Persian program focusing on the language skills required for postgraduate courses offered at the faculty. Now the faculty delivers on-campus Persian courses for its students to help them enhance their language skills including grammar, reading, writing and conversation. These interactive and dynamic courses are designed using audio visual learning tools that will enable you to read newspapers, watch movies, write essays and even introduce you to Persian handwriting.

Admissions
For admission to our programs, you can contact is.fws@ut.ac.ir or simply download an application form from our website. After the approval of your application by the faculty, an offer letter is produced so you can apply for your Student Visa (Education Visa). You will receive final confirmation after your visa has been approved.

"As a history student, I have broadened my vision and academic knowledge regarding Iranian politics and culture in this program. At the same time, I improved my Farsi in a sufficient level with the help of intensive Farsi courses. In a word, studying the Iranian Studies in the University of Tehran was a unique experience because I have got the chance to incorporate my academic acquisitions into daily life which makes learning enjoyable and studying productive."

Zehra Eviz
2014 Entry- Turkey
Accommodation

Student Dorms
The university has several dorms surrounding its campuses. The largest dorm is located on North Kargar Street. It hosts around 10,000 students and extends to 100 hectares including amenities made available to students. North Kargar dorms are equipped with facilities such as gyms, a swimming pool, movie theatres, restaurants, a counselling centre, libraries and mosques. International students have their own separate dorms. Around the clock free transport is available to students to and from dorms and the university. Subsidized hot meals are provided to students for less than a (US) dollar per meal at the university cafeteria/canteen.

The UT Guest House
The university has its own guest house which is available to foreign students and visiting professors. It is located about two blocks away from the university’s main campus. It provides a safe and peaceful atmosphere for newcomers. You’ll probably be staying here before your student dorms are assigned and your paperwork is complete.
Libraries

We have the largest set of academic libraries in Iran led by the Central Library of the University of Tehran. There are around 50 libraries across the faculties and institutes of the University of Tehran, all of which are available to you. You will also have access to online databases including JSTOR, SAGE, Wiley and Taylor & Francis.

Address

Central Library and Documentation Center,
University of Tehran
Enqelab Eslami Ave
Tehran, Iran.
Tel: +98 (21) 66466179
+98 (21) 61112362
Fax: +98 (21) 66495388
Email: libpublic@ut.ac.ir
Website: http://library.ut.ac.ir/en/home

"I enjoyed my time at the University of Tehran and the Iranian Studies program. The professors were exemplary and helpful, the faculty was very supportive and helped me throughout, and our group was amazing. It was such an interesting experience to learn about Iran in Iran, and still in such a multicultural environment, with students with varied cultural and professional backgrounds. I am very thankful to the faculty for giving me this knowledge and bringing a new dimension into my life."

Adriána Szalánzsi-Kiss
2014 Entry- Hungary
The Iran Experience

While studying at UT you will have the opportunity to travel around Iran. The faculty will arrange sightseeing trips during your course, and the faculty’s student support group can also help you book trips at affordable rates if you’d like to see more of Iran while you’re studying with us.

Fees:

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<th>Program</th>
<th>Fees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MA Iranian Studies</td>
<td>(USD) 6500 per annum (2 semesters)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD Iranian Studies</td>
<td>(USD) 6500 per annum (2 semesters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persian Courses</td>
<td>(USD) 800 per annum</td>
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University of Tehran may grant fee reduction. Visit [http://fws.ut.ac.ir](http://fws.ut.ac.ir) for updates.

Important Dates to Remember:

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Application Deadline</td>
<td>Mid April 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>9th – 13th September 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning of Semester</td>
<td>Classes begin 16th September 2017</td>
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Induction Sessions are offered during the first week of the semester.
“Opportunity knocks the door once not twice. The chance of living in Iran while taking part in the Iranian Studies program at the University of Tehran, Faculty of World Studies has enriched my knowledge and perception on Iran, its people, culture, history, literature and politics. The program provided a comprehensive insight throughout different disciplines and was a chance to stress on particular elements of our interest. It was a unique experience in its kind.”

Heba Morad
2014 Entry- Lebanon

“Whether it is visits to the religious seminaries of Qom or speaking to the farmers of East Azerbaijan, this program allows its students to experience the full diversity of Iran, the knowledge to appreciate its complexity, and the freedom to pursue the academic fields relevant to each individual’s interests.”

Patrick Moran
2015 Entry- USA
Address:

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Email: is.fws@ut.ac.ir