

University of Tehran  
Faculty of World Studies  
**Iranian Studies**



Prospectus 2024-25  
MA Iranian Studies  
PhD Iranian Studies





### Contact Details

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## Where are we?

The University of Tehran has several campuses throughout Iran. Its Tehran campuses are located in the heart of the capital. Our faculty is part of the Northern Campus on North Kargar Street, which is located about 4km north of the Central Campus on Engelab Eslami Street.

### Contents

Contact Details .....	2
Introduction .....	4
University of Tehran .....	5
Faculty of World Studies .....	6
Iranian Studies .....	8
MA Iranian Studies .....	10
Persian Language Courses.....	12
Guest Student Option .....	13
PhD Iranian Studies .....	14
Foundation Courses .....	16
Course Fees .....	16
Key Dates .....	17
Student Life .....	18
Accommodation.....	19



## Introduction

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. While living a modern lifestyle, Iranians are very much committed to preserving their long-lasting traditions and culture.

Iran's culture has been heavily influenced by Islamic teachings, and at the same time, Iran's cultural and scientific heritage has contributed magnificently to the formation of the

Islamic civilization. Therefore, by studying contemporary Iran, students will be introduced to a vivid and progressive society in one of the most important parts of the world, as well as understand Islam as a constructive religion and civilization. "Iranian Studies" is a well-recognized academic discipline throughout the world. Many universities offer courses

related to the study of Iran, including its ancient history, literature and religion. However, a true understanding of Iran can only be gained through an interdisciplinary academic approach coupled with first-hand experience.

The University of Tehran in the heart of the Iranian capital provides the ideal opportunity for students to gain a comprehensive understanding of Iran's rich culture and civilization including its historical experience, belief systems, customs, language, as well as contemporary everyday life. The benefits of studying Iran at the Faculty of World Studies are twofold: students learn about Iran from an insider perspective in the form of academic knowledge taught by Iranian lecturers, and at the same time gain first-hand access to their field of study by living amongst its friendly people, visiting its historic and cultural sights, and discovering its social and cultural atmosphere.





## University of Tehran

The University of Tehran (UT) was founded in 1934. It was one of the first modern universities to be established in the Middle East and currently ranks amongst the top 300 universities in the world according to international rankings. As one of the main symbols of Tehran, the

university hosts many important cultural and political events of both national and international significance each year. The University of Tehran known as the most prestigious university in Iran, is particularly highly regarded in the humanities fields, and attracts the best students, lecturers and professors from around the country. The university has the most

comprehensive set of academic libraries in Iran, which in addition to the nearby National Library of Iran and UT subscriptions to national and international online databases (including JSTOR, SAGE, Wiley and Taylor & Francis), ensure our students and lecturers have access to the richest possible selection of academic resources.





## Faculty of World Studies

The Faculty of World Studies takes an interdisciplinary approach to area studies by promoting the theoretical, strategic and applied study of foreign countries. The main mission of the faculty is to foster expertise, understanding and cooperation from the individual to the institutional level.

The faculty was initiated as the Institute of North American and European studies in 2004, and later became an independent faculty as its course offerings expanded. It now offers two year MA programs in British Studies, French Studies, German Studies, Indian Studies, North American Studies, Russian Studies, Latin American Studies, Japanese Studies and Arab World Studies (with a focus on Iraq, Egypt and Palestine). The Faculty of World Studies has offered an MA program in Iranian Studies, specifically designed for non-Iranian students, since 2011. It continued to grow and currently we offer an even wider selection of specializations to MA and PhD students.

For more information please visit our website at <https://fws.ut.ac.ir/en/>



### Dean of the Faculty of World Studies

Dr Saeidreza Ameli ([ssameli@ut.ac.ir](mailto:ssameli@ut.ac.ir)) is a full professor in communications at University of Tehran. His main interests are society and culture, commutation and cyberspace.



### Head of the Department

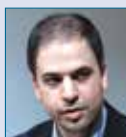
Dr Mohammad Samiei ([m.samiei@ut.ac.ir](mailto:m.samiei@ut.ac.ir)) is an associate professor in Iranian Studies. He specialisez in politics, the Islamic Revolution and Shi'a Studies.





■ Dr Ebrahim Mohseni  
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Key interests: Public Opinion Research,  
International Security and Economics



■ Dr Mahdi Ahoie  
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Key Interests: International  
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■ Dr Mohammad Javad Zarif  
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Key Interests: International Law,  
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■ Dr Shaho Sabbar  
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■ Dr Ehsan Rasouli Nejad  
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Key Interests: Global Economy,  
International Trade, Political Economy  
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■ Dr Jahangir Karami  
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Key Interests: Iran & International  
Relations, Iran & Eurasia, Iran &  
Strategic Studies

#### Did you know?

Our professors have lived, studied and taught in Iran and overseas. They have first-hand experience of international student life and are familiar with the perspectives of foreign students.



The course of Iranian Studies is a great opportunity to experience a unique perspective of this region's history, culture and politics. A student with any desire to truly experience Iran will be well served by undertaking this course. As a British citizen and Iranian historian this is one of the few ways to gain a rounded education in a field that is all too often overly politicised.

Robert MacConney  
2016 Entry, from Britain

## Iranian Studies

### What can Iranian Studies offer me?

The Faculty of World Studies is the only faculty in Iran that offers Iranian Studies exclusively to and specifically for international students. We welcome both long-term students wishing to attain a formal qualification from the University of Tehran and short-term guest students wishing to experience Iran first-hand during the course of their relevant post-graduate studies outside Iran.

The main purpose of the Iranian and Global Studies Department is to allow international students to be directly in touch with their subject of interest and to learn about Iran from a multidisciplinary approach. Our program offers a quality and in-depth educational experience that extends students beyond the politicized

perspective offered by some overseas institutions. Our students are introduced to a wide range of subjects including anthropology, cultural and religious studies, economics, political science and history as related to Iran.

Our courses also provide an exceptional opportunity for students to learn and practice Persian speaking, listening and reading skills every day, as well as develop an academic writing ability in Persian in the later stages of the program. First-year MA Iranian Studies modules are taught in English, while students are enrolled in concurrent Persian language classes. In their second year of studies, students undertake their course work, essays and exams in Persian.

What truly sets us apart from the other Iranian Studies institutions throughout the world is that our students gain first-hand experience of living in Iran.



## Aim

The main focus of this program is to train and equip professionals with unbiased academic and personal knowledge of Iran. This knowledge will allow them to be able to critically analyze the issues related to contemporary Iran objectively and accurately.

## What options are available?

- Students wishing to obtain a formal qualification from the University of Tehran may enrol in our MA Iranian Studies or PhD Iranian Studies.
- Students enrolled in relevant post-graduate studies outside Iran may apply to join our MA program as guest students for up to two semesters.



Emphasising the political, cultural, and social characteristics, MA Iranian Studies in University of Tehran opens a window onto deep knowledge of Iran. The meticulously-designed courses are beneficial for both those who want to continue academic career in Iran-related fields and those who deal with affairs concerning Iran. Exploring this land without limitation during the program, I realized my Iranophilia and found the unduplicatable experience for my future research on Persian language.

Na Shaoqian  
2017 Entry, from China





I had the pleasure to join the program of Iranian studies for a semester exchange from Canada. This exceptional opportunity has been a full-enriching experience to me, both on a academic as well as human side. Those 6 months taught me a lot on the Iranian culture, its people and customs, while having multiple opportunities to visit the country and make great friends. I would recommend it to any curious, open-minded, interested, or adventurous person that wish to discover about this welcoming and vivid culture that Iran possesses!

Lorene de Govion

2017 Entry, from France

## MA Iranian Studies

**Duration:** 2-3 years

**Awarding Institute:** University of Tehran

### Course Description

Students will be introduced to issues related to contemporary Iran through subjects such as contemporary history, Shi'a studies, politics, culture, literature and economics. They will have access to primary resources to 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 BA, BSc or an equivalent undergraduate degree from a recognized higher education institute.

- Students for whom English is not their first language must have at least IELTS 6.5, TOFEL 575 (paper based) or TOFEL 232 (computer based) or equivalent qualifications.
- Students whose first degree does not correspond with the program may be required to complete relevant foundation courses (see page 16).

### Course Structure

Students must complete a total of 32 credits, including 10 from core classes and 16 from optional modules. The MA dissertation is worth 6 credits.

### Core Modules (each equals 2 credits)

- Research Methodology
- International Politics
- Principles of Shia Studies
- Islamic Revolution of Iran
- International Relations, Globalization and Regionalism



- Politics and Governance in Iran
- Contemporary History of Iran
- Political Geography of Iran
- Iranian Society and Culture

#### Optional Modules (each equals 2 credits)

- Iran in Regional & International Organizations
- Iranian Ethnic Groups
- 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 Seminar
- Advanced Persian (reading, comprehension, and academic writing)

#### Dissertation

Students must submit a 30,000-35,000 word dissertation on a topic of their interest supervised by a professor from the University of Tehran (usually a FWS faculty member) during the final semester of their studies. The dissertation can be written in either Persian or English and must be defended before an independent examiner.



This MA course at Tehran University, combined with our chosen fieldwork and our freedom to explore, give us access to the inside story of Iran. I can't imagine this would be possible in universities based elsewhere.

Sophia Tillie  
2015 Entry, from UK





**Iranian Studies Fellowship** equipped me to understand the subject matter of the Iranian Studies with an in-depth understanding on Iran's political, social and economic aspects, foreign policy issues involved in the Middle East, and helped me to study Persian language. I am really thankful towards the Faculty of World Studies for this incredible experience. I am sure this intellectual journey will remain with me in the future too.

**Abhishek Chapanerkar**  
2017Entry, from India

## Persian Language Courses

**Duration:** 2 years

**Awarding Institute:** Faculty of World Studies and Iranian Association for World Studies

### Course Description

The Faculty of World Studies has its own Persian program that aims to develop the language skills required for the postgraduate courses offered by the faculty. All MA students including guest students must participate in the Persian program unless their language skills already exceed our advanced level class.

These interactive and dynamic workshops

are facilitated by skilled teachers and supported by a variety of texts and audio-visual learning tools. Students will develop skills in the four learning areas (reading, writing, speaking and listening), and throughout their studies will read newspapers, watch films, write essays and be introduced to Persian handwriting.

### Course Modules

- Persian 1
- Persian 2
- Advanced Persian (reading, comprehension, and academic writing)





## Guest Student Option

Duration: 1-2 semesters

### Course Description

Guest students are invited to join our MA program and take part in foundation, core, elective and Persian language classes as appropriate. They will be introduced to issues related to contemporary Iran through subjects such as contemporary history, Shi'a studies, politics, culture, literature and economics. They will have access to primary resources to allow them to pursue their studies in topics of their interest.

### Entry Requirements

- This option is only available to non-Iranian students.
- Candidates are required to be enrolled in relevant post-graduate studies at a recognized higher education institute outside Iran. Relevant fields of study include Iranian Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Islamic Studies and International Relations. If you are unsure about whether your course qualifies, please contact us at [is.fws@ut.ac.ir](mailto:is.fws@ut.ac.ir).
- Students for whom English is not their first language must have at least IELTS 6.5, TOFEL 575 (paper based) or TOFEL 232 (computer based) or equivalent qualifications.

### Course Structure

Students may spend either one or two semesters at the Faculty of World Studies. Depending on the requirements of their home institution, students are free to enrol in 4-7 modules per semester.





Starting the PhD program at FWS as a foreign student is both an immense privilege and a huge challenge. The best part is being back at the faculty and seeing the familiar faces of the lecturers, staff and students who I met and who helped me during my MA. It's also great to be in a classroom with Iranian students and to be more connected to the local student life and culture. Trying to produce several thousand words in Farsi every week to satisfy the continuous assessment requirements of the first 1.5 years of the program is a learning curve steeper than the telecabin line at Touchal and even though at times it's hard to see through the layer of pollution produced by my language and other errors, I hope that with the patience and help of my professors and classmates at FWS the day will come when I emerge into the sunshine of competent academic Farsi and a better understanding of contemporary Iran.

Janice Webster  
2018 Entry, from Australia

## PhD Iranian Studies

**Duration:** 4-5 years

**Awarding Body:** 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 both in choosing class modules and 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 must pass nine modules in total. After successfully passing these

modules and a comprehensive exam, students will be required to write an extensive PhD thesis on a subject of their own interest related to Iranian studies.

### Entry Requirements

- Candidates are required to have MA, MSc or an equivalent post-graduate degree from a recognized higher education institute
- Students are required to be proficient in both written and spoken Persian
- Students for whom English is not their first language must have at least IELTS 7, TOFEL 600 (paper based) or TOFEL 250 (computer based) or equivalent qualifications
- Students whose MA degree does



not correspond with the program or whose Persian language level is insufficient for academic study may be required to complete relevant foundation courses (see page 16)

### Course Structure

Students must complete a total of 36 credits: 18 from taught modules of which 12 comprise core classes and 6 comprise optional modules. The PhD dissertation itself is worth 18 credits.

### Core Modules (each equals 2 credits)

- Advanced Research Methodology
- A Critical Study on the Schools of Orientalism & Iranian Studies
- Political Changes in Contemporary Iran
- Theological, Political and Social Changes of Shi'ite Islam in Iran
- Cultural Studies of Iran
- Seminar on Iranian Issues

### Optional Modules (each equals 2 credits)

- Iran and Globalization
- Cyberspace and Iran
- Sociology of Women
- Ethnology in Contemporary Iran
- Iranian Cinema
- Contemporary History of Iran
- Iran's Foreign Policy in Contemporary Era
- Iranian Political Economy After the Islamic Revolution
- Economic Development of Iran
- The History of Iranian Political Thought
- Political Geography and Geopolitics of Iran

### Dissertation

Students must complete a major research project supervised by at least two faculty members from University of Tehran, and defended before a board of examiners. All PhD candidates are required to be fluent in Persian language and write their theses in Persian.





The Iranian Studies master program has given me a unique opportunity to have deep insights into Iranian society and culture. By attending the program, I have learned a tremendous amount, preparing me to be able to work in an Iranian environment.

Tim Rettig  
2016 Entry, from Germany

## Foundation Courses

### MA Foundation Courses

Students may be required to complete three of the following modules as part of the MA Iranian Studies:

- Anthropology and Culture of Iran
- History of Iran
- Iran and Islam
- History of Economics in Iran

### PhD Foundation Courses

PhD candidates from disciplines other than Iranian Studies are advised to complete three modules from the MA program (see pages 10-11) to ensure they have pre-requisite knowledge for the PhD program.

Students whose Persian language level is not sufficient for the requirements of the course will need to complete the following Persian language modules before commencing their PhD modules. (see page 12)

## Course Fees

### MA Iranian Studies

3600 USD per annum

### PhD Iranian Studies

3600 USD per annum

### Persian Language Courses

1000 USD per annum





## Key Dates

- Application deadline  
Guest students for Autumn Semester mid-April 2024  
Guest students for Spring Semester mid-October 2024
- Registration 2nd week of September
- Classes commence 3rd week of September
- Induction Sessions are offered during the first week of the semester.
- Additional key dates can be found on the website.





My mission (by my company) in Iran was to acquire “regional expertise”

so that I could work better in the future in relation to Iran and the Middle East.

With the classes, caring professors and ambitious young minds from other parts of the World, I could learn and understand Iran much better than I had expected.

And I am certain this “MA in Iranian Studies” will stand out among credentials of my resume down the career.

YoungGyun Kim

2016 Entry, from South Korea

## Student Life

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 the awesome views of the snowy mountain tops of the Alborz range in the north as well as vast desert landscapes in the south astonish Iranians and foreigners alike. Tehran is a modern capital serviced by an international and domestic airport, hotels and conference facilities and its residents enjoy access to cinemas, theatres, sporting clubs, parks, museums, shopping centres and restaurants.

The University of Tehran has a young and active student population living in dormitories close to the city centre served by nearby bookshops, cinemas, restaurants and cafes. Each faculty has its own gym, canteen, photocopying services, library and mosque. The university swimming pool (available to men and women separately on designated days) is located very close to the Faculty of World Studies. Subsidized hot meals are available to students for less than a dollar per meal at faculty canteens.



## Accommodation

### 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 from the university's main campus, and provides a safe and peaceful atmosphere. New students can stay at the guest house upon arrival before their paperwork is complete and their student dorm is assigned.

### Student Dorms

The university has several dorms surrounding its campuses, the largest of which are located on North Kargar Street, close to the Faculty of World Studies. Together, these dormitories host around 10,000 students and extend to over 100 hectares including amenities such as gyms, theatres, restaurants, grocery and fruit and vegetable shops, counseling

centers, libraries and mosques. Regular and free buses transport students to and from dorms and the university and between university campuses.

### Travel Opportunities

Staying in Iran for two years provides Iranian Studies students with an ideal base from which to travel around Iran during holidays and on weekends. The Faculty of World Studies can help students book group trips at affordable rates.





**University of Tehran**  
**Faculty of World Studies**

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