



University of
St Andrews



The British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS) is delighted to announce an intensive, Persian language training programme for intermediate and advanced levels.

BIPS, with the generous financial support of the British Academy, has chosen three British universities renowned for their expertise and resources in Iranian and Persian studies as hosting institutions. The programme is offered consecutively at the universities of St Andrews, Exeter and the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS) University of London. The first of these programmes was held in St Andrews last January with the second to take place in Exeter 31st March to 5th April (inclusive) 2014, hosted by the Centre for Persian and Iranian Studies at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter.

The programme is a residential course and aims to create an environment as close to local immersion as possible. Targeted language acquisition classes are complemented with a number of special seminars and workshops focused on Iranian history, literature and the arts. The quality of the programme is further strengthened by drawing on additional expertise of BIPS Council members as well as highly regarded scholars of Iranian and Persian Studies resident in the United Kingdom or Europe, and, whenever possible, from Iran, Afghanistan or Tajikistan, to contribute to the teaching.

The course offers daily general language classes for all participants that comply with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. This will be followed by smaller sessions that focus on particular areas of language need, such as required for history, literature, politics, anthropology, study of religions, media etc.

Students and early career academics will be financially subsidised at variable rates and a limited number of places will be available on a full cost basis. Student eligibility requires that the student be enrolled on a PG degree at a British or an EU member state university or that they be enrolled on a Masters or PhD programme in the UK (or are about to take up an offer of a place). Students who graduated in the past 2 years can also apply, but should note that priority will be given to current staff and students.

Professionals such as journalists, employees of NGOs and others, with an interest in learning Persian, are also welcome to apply for non-subsidized places.

The next programme of courses will take place in England at the University of Exeter from Monday 31st March to Saturday 5th April 2014 inclusive.

Registration will take place at 12 noon on Monday 31st March 2014.

Candidates will be selected on the basis of an application form. This allows BIPS to gauge the focus and extent of the language needs of the applicants.

After an initial assessment during registration for the course, the applicants will be grouped according to linguistic aptitude and needs.

The format for each day (except Monday) is as follows:

Morning sessions: 9am-1pm (including break)

Note: On Monday 31st March, registration will take place at 12noon, followed by an afternoon language session. There will be no morning session on that day.

- Group teaching using study packs (text based and CDs), on-line resources and the Language Centre/Library resources of the host university.

Afternoon: 2:30-5:00pm

The afternoon session offers the chance for smaller tutorial sessions, where the focus of language tuition will be on facilitating the understanding of complex texts or audio/visual/web-based material. These shall cover both concrete and abstract topics related directly to the individual's field of specialization and research. Main features include:

- Focus on language beyond classroom: Developing and maintaining advanced linguistic proficiency directed at a range of disciplines;
- Preparing questionnaires and material in Persian for data-collection and field trips;
- Study of literary (poetry and prose), religious, historical, legal and polemical texts;
- Culture of language;
- Bridging activities linking classroom learning to non-formal, student-led, student-centred learning;
- Pair and group-work and supervised peer tutoring to emphasis transferrable and interpersonal skills;
- Oral and aural language work;
- Supervised drills to consolidate the day's learning;
- At least two learned lectures by the staff of the Centre for Persian and Iranian Studies at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter focused on modern and medieval Iran.
- Film screenings and other social activities will be organised in the evenings
- Language of communication throughout the course will be strictly Persian.

There will be a reception and closing dinner on Saturday 5th April.

On completion of the course attendees will be given a Certificate of Attendance.

Places are limited to 25 so early application is advised.

The deadline for applications is Friday 24 January 2014

Lunch and evening meals will be provided free of charge for all registered participants.

Participants must cover their own travel costs to the University of Exeter.

The registration fees are as follows:

(1) Participants registered at or employed by higher education institution within the EU:
Current Students (Masters or Doctoral level) - £150; Current academic staff and Postdoctoral researchers - £200; There is no accommodation cost for EU students and academic staff.

(2) Participants registered at or employed by higher education institution outside of the EU:
Current Students (Masters or Doctoral level) - £150; Current academic staff - £200;
Postdoctoral researchers - £200 plus accommodation costs;

(3) External participants:
£300 plus accommodation cost.

Recent graduates, should they be accepted for registration, will pay the current students registration fees, with a reduced accommodation rate. The cost of accommodation for all students and current academic staff who are European Union citizens and accepted onto the course will be covered by the British Institute of Persian Studies. Accommodation costs for all others is a fixed price of £300 (6 nights accommodation).

For further information please contact: o.a.cook@exeter.ac.uk



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For more information on the sponsoring organisations:

British Academy – www.britac.ac.uk

British Institute of Persian Studies: www.bips.ac.uk

Centre for Iranian Studies, University of St Andrews - <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~iranian/>

School of Oriental and African Studies – www.soas.ac.uk

Centre for Persian and Iranian Studies, IAIS, University of Exeter - <http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/iais/research/centres/cpis/>