UCL CENTRE FOR LANGUAGES
& INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

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What is the Science and Society Module?

Science and Society is situated as bridging the pure scientific content of the four science modules, and the improved communication elements of the Academic English module. This is a compulsory module with 3 hours of classes per week. It consists of lectures, seminar discussion classes and whole group research skills classes. There are three main elements:

1) Presentation of Scientific topics related to Society.
Students are introduced to the ethical, social, economic, environmental and technological implications and applications of science and how scientific ideas may be applied in unfamiliar situations. Information is presented with a series of weekly lectures by UCL academics and guest speakers. Lecture topics are followed up by weekly seminar discussions that students lead themselves. Topics may include: Space Colonisation; Global Warming; Super Bugs; Drugs and the Pharmaceutical Industry; Scientific Method; Nuclear Power and Energy; Science and Crime.

2) Practical Research Skills.
Practical research skills are developed through weekly classes focusing on all aspects of the scientific research process. Students learn how to orient themselves in the UCL Science Library, and conduct searches for relevant books and journals. Computer classes focusing on website evaluation allow students to become more critical of the information available on the internet. The importance of correctly citing original ownership of ideas and information is developed through classes discussing plagiarism and how to avoid it by referencing information appropriately.

3) Research Initiative
Students are expected to become more independent and confident about knowing where to find information, and how to present it appropriately to an academic audience in both oral and written form.

One key concept that the unit involves is training students to be scientifically literate. This involves teaching students how to reflect critically on information that the media reports about matters that involve science, as well as appreciate and understand the impact of science and technology on everyday life.

Assessment
Assessment is designed to reflect the various aims of the course, and the growing ability of the students as the academic year progresses to be more confident in their expression of ideas, and informed about issues relating to University Preparatory Certificate for Science and Engineering science and society. The main assessed piece of work is a Science and Society Research Project of 2,500 - 3,000 words which students submit in Term 3. Students are given an initial mark for their first draft submitted after Reading Week in Term 2 which helps them in the process of formulating and re-formulating their ideas.

Science and Society Assessment Components

Term 1	%	Term 2	%	Term 3	%
Academic Referencing Systems	**5%**	**Presenting & Incorporating Data**	**5%**	**Science and Society Project Final draft 2,500-3,000 words***	**40%**
Evaluating websites	**5%**	**Science and Society Project First draft 2,500-3,000 words**	**10%**	**Oral Presentation using Power point on the Final Project (12-15 minutes)**	**20%**
Scientific Note-taking	**5%**	**Poster Presentation on the First draft (10 minutes)**	**10%**		
				Total	**100%**

***** Included in the Science and Society Project Final draft is a one-page reflective account of the student's experience in writing a researched project. This account allows the student to reflect on the various stages and processes involved with researching a scientific topic.