“UCL is amazingly well connected – which, given that I spend a lot of time in CERN, Geneva, is very important. Also, having the media and political power centres nearby is exciting and sometimes very useful.”

Professor Jon Butterworth
Professor of Physics

“...pursuing interesting research questions and the opportunity of collaborating with colleagues in different disciplines and areas of research. I am currently Chair of the UCL Centre for Multidisciplinary & Inter-cultural Inquiry and it has been rewarding to see how new multidisciplinary areas of study are growing and flourishing.”

Dr Stephanie Bird
Senior Lecturer in German

2nd
MOST CITED
IN EUROPE
Thomson Scientific Citation Index

5th
IN THE WORLD
QS World University Rankings 2014/15

1st
29
2nd
FOR GRANTS
Highest number of UK Research Council grants
NOBEL LAUREATES
29 Nobel Prizes have been awarded to people who are, or were, students or academics at UCL

UCL GRAND CHALLENGES
Making the world a better place through interdisciplinary research
www.ucl.ac.uk/grand-challenges

UCL DOCTORAL SCHOOL
Provides support, skills training and development for UCL doctoral students
www.ucl.ac.uk/docschool

151 COUNTRIES
represented by UCL staff and students

SOME OF OUR PARTNERS WORLDWIDE
Yale, Cisco, the BBC, the EU, CERN, NASA, the UN, Dyson,
Eisai, Microsoft, Intel, Nike... among others

5th
IN EUROPE
Academic Rankings of World Universities 2014

DISCOVER RESEARCH AT UCL
www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate
Applying for research at UCL

INVESTIGATE ACADEMIC AREAS AT UCL
Identify the programme or programmes which interest you. A list of research programmes offered by UCL can be found on our Graduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/research.

CHECK THAT YOU MEET THE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
Entry requirements for our research programmes can be found on the Graduate Prospectus www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate, and you can find the equivalent qualifications for your country on our country pages at www.ucl.ac.uk/international. You may also need to provide proof of your English language proficiency if English is not your first language.

INVESTIGATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
• Look on UCL’s Institutional Research Information System (IRIS), where you can search for academics and centres of research by keyword.
• Browse the UCL Graduate Prospectus to find centres of research in your area of interest.
• Visit the UCL Library’s Guide to University of London Databases and find out how to search for research publications.

CHOOSE AN ACADEMIC, DEPARTMENT OR RESEARCH GROUP
Establishing a dialogue with a prospective supervisor is fundamental to the application process. All applicants, except those applying for advertised scholarships (see “Scholarships”), are encouraged to send an informal enquiry. This should either be sent directly to the academic you are interested in working with, or to the departmental contact.

Academics at UCL undertake a lot of interdisciplinary research – for this reason it is recommended that you consider a variety of departments, academics and research groups. We advise you to make use of ALL the sources of information mentioned here to help you identify suitable supervisors or groups for you.

Individual academics
There are three ways to identify an appropriate academic supervisor to contact:
• Browse the UCL Graduate Prospectus to find centres of research in your area of interest. You can click through to the relevant department or centre website to find staff profiles. www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate
• Look on UCL’s Institutional Research Information System (IRIS), where you can search for academics and centres of research by keyword. Not all academics are listed in IRIS but it’s a good place to start. http://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/
• Search our online research repository (UCL Discovery), where all UCL’s research papers are published (subject to approval). If you identify a research paper that interests you it is possible that one of the authors could be a suitable supervisor. http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/

Departments and research groups
You can find contact details for academic departments in the right-hand margin of the relevant pages in our Graduate Prospectus www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate. Alternatively, you can find Graduate Tutor information on the UCL Doctoral School website www.grad.ucl.ac.uk/research.

STUDENTSHIPS
A studentship is a defined research project with funding already attached. They are predominantly in science, technology, engineering and medical areas, and are advertised throughout the year on departmental and employment websites, Doctoral Training Centre websites, and listings websites such as www.findaphd.com. There is also a studentships listing on the UCL Graduate Prospectus website. The availability of studentships changes at the time and each one will have advice attached to it on how to apply.

Note: that studentships funded by UK Research Councils are not usually available to students from outside the EU. If you are applying for funding from your government check the requirements and deadlines – these can often be earlier than you would expect.

ASSISTANTSHIP
An assistantship is an employment position that involves either paid or non-paid work on research projects. These positions are paid according to the level of the post. An assistantship can involve research or teaching-related work.

APPLY FOR A STUDENTSHIP
Follow the application guidance of the studentship.

WAIT FOR A DECISION
You will be able to track the progress of your application via the UCL Applicant Portal – details will be sent to you when your application has been received.

COMPLETE AN APPLICATION
An application is the final stage of the process and should only be submitted when requested by the department, or by an academic, or when you have agreed on a research project with your supervisor.

MAKE A RESEARCH ENQUIRY
Academic members of staff are extremely busy people and receive many research enquiries. It is therefore important to research thoroughly your prospective supervisor’s interests before you contact them, and say who you are and what you want to do clearly and concisely.

Your email should answer the following:
• Are you a UK/EU or overseas student? Where are you from?
• What qualifications do you have, from which institution? What were your grades (remember to include the marking scale)?
• Do you have any research experience? If so, what?
• Have you published any research?
• What sources or data will you be using?
• How will you fund your studies? Do you already have funding in place, or are you intending to apply to a funding body for a scholarship?
• What is the topic, its aims and objectives, and its methodology as concisely as possible in the first instance? It should usually amount to around 500 words. If a prospective supervisor is interested, then you can refine and develop your initial outline to produce a final proposal.

A good proposal will include the following:
• A clear and descriptive working title
• Some background and rationale, plus any relevant issues
• Your aims and objectives
• A set timeframe in which you answer your research question
• A description of your theoretical framework and methodological approach
• What sources or data you will be using
• What the necessary activities are for the completion of your project
• What valuable and useful knowledge will come out of your research
• If you hope to publish your research, and where.

Note: If you are interested in research degrees in UCL Engineering you can enquire and apply using the PRISM application system, at www.prism.ucl.ac.uk

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES
Master of Philosophy/Doctor of Philosophy – MPhil/PhD
Usually lasts three years full-time, or five years part-time. PhD study is offered across UCL. Students initially register for the MPhil degree and upgrade after one year, although it is possible to register with the intention of graduating with the MPhil degree.

Doctor in Engineering – EngD
A four-year, full-time programme, with an industrial project undertaken as part of your studies.

Professional Doctorates
Offered at UCL within the Faculties of Brain Sciences and Medical Sciences, these programmes include elements of research, project work and taught components.

Master of Philosophy – MPhil
A two-year research degree that is the equivalent to a PhD study in UCL’s Department of Philosophy.

Master of Research – MRes
Some research programmes at UCL require you to apply for, and exist on, an MRes degree. A one-year research programme that constitutes the first year of your research. Applications to MRes programmes are made in the same way as applications to Master’s programmes – see www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate.