Encompassing the logical, experimental and mathematical study of our universe, Mathematical and Physical Sciences at UCL consists of departments highly rated for research excellence. The faculty also provides a base for a number of research centres; these facilitate in-depth and interdisciplinary research through collaboration between experts within the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Faculty, and in related areas in Engineering Sciences and Life Sciences. Front-line research feeds directly into our teaching programmes, and our graduate students benefit from access to first-class laboratory facilities and links to professional, industrial and academic networks.

Chemistry 96
Earth Sciences 97
Mathematics 98
Physics and Astronomy 99
Science and Technology Studies 100
Space and Climate Physics 101
Statistical Science 102
CoMPLEX (Centre for Mathematics and Physics in the Life Sciences and Experimental Biology) 103
All graduate students are involved in the department’s daily activities through a comprehensive training programme and attendance at research seminars given by internal and external speakers.

Students develop experience in scientific methods, techniques for reporting science and in the many skills required for a future career.

Our interests and research activities span the whole spectrum of chemistry, from the development of new drugs to the prediction of the structure of new catalytic materials.

Our development has been built on a solid foundation of chemical excellence including Sir William Ramsay’s Nobel prize-winning discovery of five noble gases and Sir Christopher Ingold’s pioneering work on physical organic chemistry.

Departments in UCL, and which maintain strong and coherent links with external institutions:
• The Centre for Computational Science (CCS)
• The Centre for Cosmic Chemistry and Physics
• The Materials Chemistry Centre.

Entry requirements
A UK Master’s degree in Chemistry, or an MSci or MChem with upper second-class Honours, or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

Career prospects
Recent UCL Chemistry PhD graduates have become postdoctoral researchers at a range of institutions in the UK and abroad, including ETH Zurich and NASA, amongst others. Other PhD graduates have followed a wide range of careers, becoming secondary school science teachers, research chemists, working in finance and becoming technical consultants.

Research areas include:
• All aspects of computational chemistry, from materials simulations to quantum dynamics
• Biotechnology
• Chemical biology and medicinal chemistry
• Chemical modification and synthesis of proteins and complex peptides
• Chemical sensors and gas-phase electrochemistry
• Chemistry in interstellar space
• Development of chemical probes for biological systems
• Development of synthetic methodology for organic synthesis
• Gas-phase reactions of ions and molecules related to atmospheric chemistry
• New synthetic methods for inorganic materials
• Thin film growth and analysis
• Total synthesis of pharmacologically active natural products
• Surface solid-state science
• Ultrafast molecular dynamics and coherent control.

The department takes a leading role in the following interdisciplinary research centres, which bring together expertise from various
### Research programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Type</th>
<th>FT</th>
<th>PT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPhil/PhD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering EngD</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research focuses on:**

- **Dynamics and evolution of the crust:** rock mechanics, high-pressure/high-temperature mineralogy and geochemistry
- **Environmental geochemistry:** pollution; hydrogeology; hydrochemistry; water resources
- **Natural hazards:** assessment of hazard and risk posed by geological events

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**Research Assessment 2008**

- 80% rated 4* or 3* (see page 5)

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**Entry requirements**

A minimum of an upper second-class UK Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

**Career prospects**

Recent graduates have chosen either to pursue a career in academia as postdoctoral researchers or seek employment in the oil, gas and mineral extraction industries. These have included positions as micropalaeontologists, geologists, hydrogeologists, stratigraphers, sedimentologists, geophysicists in the public sector (Environment Agency, National Physics Laboratory) and private sector (Badley Ashton Reservoir Geoscience).

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**Contact details**

**Professor Seymour Laxon**

- EMAIL: s.laxon@ucl.ac.uk
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**Tuition fees**

- Up-to-date tuition fee information is available at [www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/money](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/money)

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**Funding**

- Information on pages 26–31

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**Related departments**

- Physics and Astronomy, page 99
- Space and Climate Physics, page 101

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**Marianne Pearson**

Earth Sciences PhD

I completed my undergraduate degree here at UCL and enjoyed working and living in London. The researchers here are fantastic and real leaders in their field and I wanted to work with such scientists. I enjoy the macroevolutionary aspect to my degree. I am interested in the larger picture provided by studying the early evolutionary relationships and biogeographic patterns of Mesozoic salamanders. Hopefully the skills and experience I gain here will help me get a post-doctoral position once I graduate. I am part of two departments at UCL: Earth Sciences and Cell and Developmental Biology. I am also affiliated with the Zoology Department at the Natural History Museum, and I really enjoy the different aspects and approaches to my project provided by the different departments.
UCL's Department of Mathematics is a dynamic research environment: it currently hosts five prestigious career acceleration fellowships funded by EPSRC and the Royal Society.

The department is a member of the UCL Institute of Origins and works closely with the mathematical biology group CoMPLEX. The Clinical Operational Research Unit (CORU) is based in the department.

Students benefit from our leading role in the London Taught Course Centre for PhD students in the Mathematical Sciences, enabling them to study outside the realms of their research degree.

Members of the department edit the highly regarded research journal Mathematika, published by the London Mathematical Society.

**Research programmes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MPhil/PhD</th>
<th>FT3</th>
<th>PT5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Departmental research specialities fall within the two main groupings of pure and applied mathematics described below, and graduate research may be pursued within either field.

- **Applied mathematics**: environmental flows (including vortex dynamics, atmospheric and ocean dynamics and climate modelling); fluid mechanics (e.g. free-surface flows, polymers); industrial mathematics (e.g. inverse models, sound transmission, multi-particle interactions); mathematical biology and medicine (e.g. modelling cerebral and liver blood flow, molecular and cellular dynamics); gravitation, integrable systems; mathematical modelling; applied partial differential equations; numerical analysis and scientific computing; financial mathematics.

- **Pure mathematics**: functional analysis; real and complex analysis; spectral theory; combinatorics; algebraic number theory; geometric topology; discrete and convex geometry; probability theory; geometric group theory; symplectic and contact topology.

**Entry requirements**

A minimum of an upper second-class UK Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

**Career prospects**

Recent graduates have taken up academic posts at universities such as UCL, Sheffield, Kyushu and California State; others have joined the financial services industry at companies such as Barclays Capital, Schroders, Deloitte, ABN Amro and J P Morgan; and others have become mathematics teachers and computer programmers.

**Taught programmes**

| Financial Mathematics MSc | FT1 | PT2 |
| Mathematical Modelling MSc | FT1 | PT2 |

**Entry requirements**

A minimum of an upper second-class UK Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. Candidates should ideally have successfully completed advanced courses in probability, statistics and differential equations.

**Career prospects**

Mathematical Modelling MSc: recent graduates have decided to undertake a research degree at UCL, others have joined the financial services industry at companies such as the Bank of Tokyo, Mitsubishi, C-View, Deloitte, Duff & Phelps Ltd; and others have become mathematics teachers. Careers data for the Financial Mathematics MSc is not yet available.

**Entry requirements**

A minimum of an upper second-class UK Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

**Career prospects**

Recent graduates have joined the financial services industry at companies such as Barclays Capital, Schroders, Deloitte, ABN Amro and J P Morgan; and others have become mathematics teachers.

**Contact details**

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TEL +44 (0)20 7679 2839

Pure Mathematics (Research):
Dr John Talbot
EMAIL talbot@math.ucl.ac.uk

Financial Mathematics MSc
Dr Andrea Macrina
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Mathematical Modelling MSc
Professor Frank Smith
EMAIL frank@math.ucl.ac.uk
TEL +44 (0)20 7679 4102

**Tuition fees**

Up-to-date tuition fee information is available at www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/money

**Funding**

For MPhil/PhD research normally one NERC studentship and one EPSRC doctoral training award are offered. Teaching assistantships may be available. In addition, there are departmental scholarships for which applicants are automatically considered on accepting an offer of a place. Extra funding varies from year to year.

**Related information**

Further information on pages 26–31

**Related departments**

CoMPLEX, page 103
PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

UCL’s Department of Physics and Astronomy is one of the top departments in the UK for graduate study (RAE 2008).

Our international collaborations provide opportunities to work with an international team, including recently the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, the EISCAT radar instruments in Scandinavia and at the Institut Laue-Langevin in Grenoble.

For graduate students whose interests are more theoretical, there is access to national supercomputer facilities, such as the HECToR service, capable of computing speeds up to 100 Teraflops.

In some cases, there are opportunities for students to broaden their experience by spending part of their time overseas.

Entry requirements

A minimum of an upper second-class UK integrated Master’s (MSci or MPhys) degree in a relevant discipline, or an undergraduate degree followed by an MSc in a relevant discipline, or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. An upper second- or first-class UK Bachelor’s or equivalent may be considered in special circumstances.

Career prospects

Recent graduates have continued their studies at the doctoral level at leading universities including UCL, Cambridge, Copenhagen, and Imperial College London, or found employment as researchers at, for example, UCL and Imperial College London. Others have begun work in the financial sector for companies including the Bank of America and Van der Moolen. Some have moved into the interdisciplinary London Centre for Nanotechnology, housed next to the department. In addition, some researchers participate in UCL-wide groupings such as the Thomas Young Centre, the Centre for Materials Research, the Centre for Cosmic Chemistry and Physics, the UCL Institute of Origins and the UCL-Birkbeck Centre for Planetary Science. These networks provide a breadth of opportunity for students to engage in specialised research.

Entry requirements

For entry to the Advanced High Energy Physics MSc an upper second-class MSci or MPhys from a UK university (or overseas equivalent) is required. Applicants with an upper second-class Bachelor of Science (BSc) may be admitted to the 21-month programme undertaking a preparatory Postgraduate Diploma before transferring to the MSc.

For all other MSc programmes: a minimum of an upper second-class UK Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

Career prospects

Recent graduates have often chosen to stay within academia as postdoctoral researchers at institutions such as UCL, Oxford, MIT, Caltech, Vienna and Montreal, or as researchers at organisations such as the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, British Antarctic Survey, and the European Space Astronomy Centre (ESAC). Some have moved into the financial sector for companies such as Deutsche Bank and PricewaterhouseCoopers and some into software research and development.

Taught programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced High Energy</td>
<td>FT1 or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics MSc</td>
<td>FT1m*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astrophysics MSc</td>
<td>FT1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma</td>
<td>FT19m PT2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics MSc</td>
<td>FT1 PT2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma</td>
<td>FT19m PT2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planetary Science MSc</td>
<td>FT1 PT2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma</td>
<td>FT19m PT2</td>
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</table>

Entry requirements

* For entry to the Advanced High Energy Physics MSc an upper second-class MSci or MPhys from a UK university (or overseas equivalent) is required. Applicants with an upper second-class Bachelor of Science (BSc) may be admitted to the 21-month programme undertaking a preparatory Postgraduate Diploma before transferring to the MSc.

For all other MSc programmes: a minimum of an upper second-class UK Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

Contact details

Professor Robert Thorne
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Tuition fees

Up-to-date tuition fee information is available at www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/money

Funding

The department offers dedicated project studentships for particular research fields, as well as studentships from the UK research councils. There are also some trust funds dedicated to support research in particular areas and a limited number of departmental studentships.

Related departments

Chemistry, page 96
Space and Climate Physics, page 101
Yin Au
Science and Technology Studies PhD

I did an MSc in a degree jointly offered by the Department of Space and Climate Physics. It was during this time I became familiar with the resources at UCL and got in contact with people from the Department of Science and Technology Studies. It felt natural for me to turn to one of the lecturers at UCL to develop my PhD plan. I am working on imaging practices and its history in biomedicine, I enjoy the juxtaposition of various things in my study – theoretical and empirical work, history and philosophy, art and science, past and present. My plan after graduation is getting a place where I will make full use of my training and previous backgrounds, which are quite diverse. I will head anywhere that meets this ambition most perfectly. I am partially funded by a governmental scholarship from Taiwan.

Research programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research programmes</th>
<th>MPhil/PhD</th>
<th>FT3</th>
<th>PT5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Research areas include:
- **History of science**: history of physics, of biology, of chemistry and of astronomy
- **Philosophy of science**: philosophy of physics, of chemistry and of medicine
- **Science and the media**: science communication and scientists’ use of the media; public understanding of science; science and journalism
- **Sociology of science and science policy**: policies for biotechnology and genomics;

Entry requirements

A Master’s degree in a relevant discipline from a UK university, or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

Career prospects

Recent graduate students have gone on to pursue academic careers at the postdoctoral level and teaching fellow level in various universities, including the Universities of Cambridge, Sheffield and Westminster, and UCL.

Further information on pages 26–31

Related departments

History, page 131
History of Medicine, page 89
Philosophy, page 50
SPACe and Climate Physics

Our department, incorporating the Mullard Space Science Laboratory, Surrey, is the UK’s largest university space science group and a leader in interdisciplinary space science initiatives.

We offer a unique environment at the forefront of space science research. Scientists, students and engineers design, build and test cutting-edge space-borne instruments and analyse the data they return. We have 15 operating instruments on 10 major space missions.

Our scientists set future science agendas through exploitation of current assets and design of future space missions to advance our knowledge of the Universe. Eight more instruments are being developed with ESA, NASA and ISRO.

Close contact with space agencies such as ESA and NASA and with industrial research teams promotes the development of transferable skills, thereby enhancing job prospects.

Research programmes

MPhil/PhD

FT3 PT5

Research areas include:

- **Astrophysics:** theory of astrophysical processes; active galactic nuclei; galactic structure, dynamics and evolution; gamma-ray bursts; isolated neutron stars and magnetars; accreting black holes

- **Imaging:** automated 3D vision and visualisation techniques for space science and climate physics; mapping climate change; search for life using remote sensing techniques; solar-planetary teleconnections to weather

- **Photon and particle detector development:** particle detectors; charge-coupled devices; sub Kelvin cryo-coolers for space and ground based applications

- **Planetary science:** planetary plasma interaction processes throughout the solar system; giant planet magnetospheres; unmagnetised object and dust-plasma interactions; planetary ionsospheres; plasma environment of planets, moons and comets; planetary surfaces from rovers

- **Solar physics:** physical processes that control solar activity on all timescales and the consequences of this within the Solar System, including the emergence and evolution of solar magnetic fields; solar eruptions; solar wind formation and the Sun-Earth connection

- **Space plasma physics:** local space environment, including the structure and dynamics of the heliosphere and terrestrial magnetosphere; space plasma processes e.g. magnetic reconnection and auroral particle acceleration

- **Theory:** theoretical and computational astrophysics of systems from planets, the Sun, stars and galaxies to the Universe

- **Weather and climate extremes:** monitoring, modelling and predictions for tropical storms worldwide and global drought, climatologies for wind, precipitation and temperature extremes worldwide.

Research training takes place at the Mullard Space Science Laboratory in Surrey.

**Entry requirements**

An upper second-class Bachelor’s degree, or a second-class Bachelor’s degree together with an MSc from a UK university in a relevant subject, or an overseas equivalent qualification.

**Career prospects**

Recent graduates have taken up academic posts at NASA, the Harvard Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Goddard Space Flight Center, European Space Agency and in academia, but others have entered professional occupations, within areas as diverse as IT and finance.

**Taught programmes**

- **Geophysical Hazards MSc**
  - FT1
  - PT2

- **Space Science and Engineering MSc (with specialisations in Space Science or Spacecraft Technology)**
  - FT1

- **Postgraduate Diploma**
  - FT9m

- **Postgraduate Certificate**
  - FT3m

- **Systems Engineering Management MSc**
  - FT1 PT2.5

Natural Hazards for Insurers Postgraduate Certificate (part-time in two 8-week blocks)

Teaching for our taught programmes takes place at UCL’s Bloomsbury campus in central London.

**Entry requirements**

A second-class Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline from a UK university, or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. For the Systems Engineering Management MSc at least two years’ industrial experience is preferred.

**Career prospects**

Graduates have entered engineering positions in the aerospace industry, and professional occupations such as IT and financial consulting and analysis, within multinational organisations. Some of our graduates have entered further academic study and research, at UCL and other institutions.

**Contact details**

Research programmes:
Dr Sarah Matthews
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Taught programmes:
Ms Katrina Walker
EMAIL edu@mssl.ucl.ac.uk
TEL +44 (0)20 7679 4909

**Tuition fees**

Up-to-date tuition fee information is available at www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/money

**Funding**

NERC and STFC studentships may be available.
Further information on pages 26–31

**Related departments**

Earth Sciences, page 97
Electronic and Electrical Engineering, page 78
Physics and Astronomy, page 99
Marianna Demetriou
Statistical Science PhD

I receive an EPSRC Studentship, which covers fees and stipend for the four years of my PhD. The studentship was advertised through the Department of Statistical Science, together with various other funding opportunities.

The department offers a huge variety of training facilities, from departmental seminars, to external conferences and career talks and many others. The UCL Library’s facilities provide a very convenient environment that is conducive to study, as well as a huge collection related to my field of study.

I highly recommend UCL for studying, since apart from the academic and personal development that it offers, it increases employability opportunities. I’m receiving a lot of emails from many firms and companies that invite UCL students to apply for work with them, or provide funding for specific projects in which they ask UCL students to get involved.

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TEL +44 (0)20 7679 8311

Tuition fees
Up-to-date tuition fee information is available at www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/money

Funding
Research Council funding may be available for UK/EU graduate research or graduate taught students. Other funding opportunities may also be available. For details visit www.ucl.ac.uk/statistics/prospective_postgraduates/fellowships

Further information on pages 26–31

Related departments
CoMPLEX, page 103
Computer Science, page 77
Mathematics, page 98

STATISTICAL SCIENCE

Founded by Karl Pearson in 1911, this was the first university department of statistics in the world.

The research interests of staff cover a broad spectrum from foundations, through methodology, to a wide range of applications.

London, as well as being home to the Royal Statistical Society, has a large community of statisticians, both academic and non-academic.

Research programmes

MPhil/PhD

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FT3</th>
<th>PT5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught programme</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Statistics MSc</td>
<td>FT1</td>
<td>PT2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics MSc</td>
<td>FT1</td>
<td>PT2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Entry requirements
A minimum of an upper second-class UK Bachelor’s degree, or a UK Master’s degree in statistics, mathematics, computer science or a related quantitative discipline. Overseas qualifications of an equivalent standard are also acceptable.

Career prospects
Career destinations of recent PhD graduates include lectureships in the Universities of Nottingham Trent and Salerno, Italy, and research posts with the Medical Research Council, Risk Management Solutions, London Business School and UCL Statistical Science.

Entry requirements
A minimum of an upper second-class UK Bachelor’s degree in a quantitative discipline, or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. Knowledge of mathematical methods and linear algebra at university level and familiarity with introductory probability and statistics is required. Relevant professional experience will also be taken into consideration.

Career prospects
Common careers followed by recent MSc students have been in finance, accountancy, banking, the Government Statistical Service, the health sector, teaching, the pharmaceutical and energy industries and the Civil Aviation Authority. A number of graduates go on to further study; recent examples include PhD study at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and UCL.

27 academic staff
30 research students
23 taught graduate students
Research Assessment 2008
50% rated 3* or 4* (see page 5)
CoMPEX
(CENTRE FOR MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS IN THE LIFE SCIENCES AND EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY)

UCL CoMPEX is the UK's leading centre for interdisciplinary research in the biological and medical sciences.

Our innovative MRes teaching methods help to facilitate interdisciplinary research.

We have an outstanding record of transferring mathematicians, engineers, computer scientists and physics graduates into life sciences research. Similarly, we enable students with a biological background to acquire the training in mathematics and the physical sciences required for interdisciplinary research.

The wide choice of PhD projects driven by students is endorsed by the high output and excellent completion rates of our graduates.

Students are involved in a range of interdisciplinary research projects that involve collaborations between supervisors drawn from the UCL departments within the Faculties of Brain Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Medical Sciences, Population Health Sciences and Social and Historical Sciences. Each project has dual supervision, with one supervisor from the mathematical and physical sciences and the other from the life and medical sciences.

The research carried out addresses biological complexity. Research is organised into themes across the biological scales:

- Biomolecular mechanisms
- Cancer biology
- Evolution and dynamics of populations
- Integration of cellular function
- Interdisciplinary cardiovascular research
- Physiological and neural systems
- Synthetic biology
- Systems biology

This diversity exploits the unique breadth of research strength at UCL, which allows us to offer challenging research projects both within and across the scales of biological organisation.

The training experience offered meets the UK need, both in industry and academia, for outstanding graduates able to apply mathematical, computational and physical science techniques to real biological problems. Examples of current PhD projects include: Mathematical modelling of genomic evolution, cellular metabolic signalling, HIV, biology and immunology; Biophysics of vascular fluid mechanics, hearing and ion channels; Imaging, optical and scanning probe approaches to nanoscale bioscience; Spatial ecology.

Entry requirements

A minimum of an upper second-class Bachelor’s degree in any area of the mathematical, physical, computer, engineering or life sciences from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

Progression to the PhD element depends on successfully passing the MRes programme in the first year.

Career prospects

The majority of recent graduates have taken up postdoctoral and fellowship positions in academic and industrial research centres in the UK, Europe and USA. A small number have pursued careers in science policy analysis, statistical and mathematical consultancy, technology consultancy, or in management and the financial sector.

Research programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modelling Biological Complexity</th>
<th>MRes + MPhil/PhD</th>
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<tr>
<td>FT4</td>
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<tr>
<th>Systems Biology</th>
<th>MRes + MPhil/PhD</th>
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<tr>
<td>FT4</td>
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</table>

The MRes and MPhil/PhD together form an integrated four-year programme.

Zena Hadjivasilou
Modelling Biological Complexity MRes + MPhil/PhD

The PhD programme at UCL CoMPEX seemed like a great opportunity to apply my maths skills in biology as a researcher. I am fascinated by the power of mathematics to help us understand the biological and physical world. Following my PhD I would like to carry on with research and pursue an academic career. I really enjoy living and studying in London. I always manage to find interesting shows and happenings which is great.

Contact details

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Tuition fees

Up-to-date tuition fee information is available at www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/money

Funding

BBBSRC, British Heart Foundation, CoMPEX UCL, EPSRC and MRC Studentships available. Doctoral Training Centre Studentships provide full funding for four years (for UK and limited EU places)

Further information on pages 26–31

Related departments

Participating departments can be found in the following faculties: Brain Sciences page 51, Engineering Sciences page 73, Life Sciences page 85, Mathematical and Physical Sciences page 95, Medical Sciences page 105, Population Health Sciences page 115, Social and Historical Sciences page 125