INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Education and research are activities which transcend national borders, cultures and languages. By choosing UCL you are opting not just for one of the world’s top universities, but for an institution with a distinct ethos and mission in which teaching, learning and research are informed by the global context in which we operate. UCL is an institution which strives for international excellence in all areas of academic activity; an institution which, in accordance with its founding principles, aims to share this experience with those who can most benefit from it, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Nearly 50% of UCL’s graduate students come from outside the UK, and our academic staff come from more than 100 different countries. UCL has international research links, collaborations and strategic partnerships with universities, governmental bodies, funding agencies and the commercial sector that contribute to a unique global network of knowledge provision and opportunity.

By studying or conducting research at UCL, you will not only be part of this vibrant, cosmopolitan and challenging environment, but also actively contributing to the further development of UCL’s vision to be a truly global university.

Applications

The International Office is here to assist you with any advice or information you may need about applying to and studying at UCL. Members of UCL staff regularly attend events overseas to provide information and advice about UCL and you can find out if we will be visiting your part of the world at www.ucl.ac.uk/international.

Country specific information can also be found by following ‘Country Information’ links from the same website; these pages contain an overview of entry requirements for each country as well as relevant funding opportunities, student societies, in-country contacts and other relevant information.

UCL’s Student Centre is also able to give guidance on the Points-Based Immigration System (PBIS) and any visa issues, as well as the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS), which applies to international students from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) who hold offers to read for research and some Master’s degrees in specific subjects (see Admission information, pages 34–37).

English language support

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency. Details of acceptable qualifications and the standards required are given on page 35.

The UCL Centre for Languages & International Education (CLIE) offers a range of approved English language courses, including pre-sessional courses of varying length and a one-year Diploma. CLIE also runs part-time in-sessional English language courses for students enrolled at UCL. Courses available include the two-term in-sessional EAP course for broader academic English support as well as separate courses specialising in academic speaking, pronunciation, academic reading or separate academic writing skills courses for students on graduate taught or research programmes.

Further information can be found at www.ucl.ac.uk/clie.

Ying Zhang
Statistics MPhil/PhD

UCL’s Department of Statistical Science has had a strong reputation for research since its establishment in 1911. It produces research that has strong connections to a wide range of fields such as the environment, medical research, operational research, and finance. I am studying multivariate calibration for the near infrared spectrum. I like the logic and the consistency inside the statistics. It is interesting to see how statistical science is used in various fields and how it can help solve problems in practice. I am planning to be a researcher after I complete the PhD.

UCL provides excellent library and IT services. As a research student, I need to gather a large amount of information and to read journal articles. The online library service is a powerful tool that provides easy access to electronic resources and databases, and it is convenient to use no matter where I am.

Studying and living in London brings great opportunities to participate in all kinds of events. I enjoy exploring the brilliant international cultures. I meet friends from all over the world here and we exchange ideas and share experiences. Life in London has broadened my horizons and helps keep me up-to-date with developments across the globe. In my spare time, I go to museums and galleries to see exhibitions. The Natural History Museum is one of my favourites. I enjoy watching world-class performances in the Royal Opera House and Royal Albert Hall. I also enjoy going on picnics or countryside walks at the weekend with my friends.

As an international student, I’ve found the UCL environment to be friendly and helpful. In 2009, I applied for the UK Student Visa under the batch scheme of the International Office with the help of the UCLU Rights and Advice Centre. With their professional service, my visa was successful and I appreciated it.
Fees and funding
UCL offers a range of scholarships and awards for which international students can apply. Further information is available on page 28 and also on the website at www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships. UCL also attracts students who have received funding from their own government or other external sources, so prospective students are advised to check with the Ministry of Education in their own country or from the British Council for information about other potential funding opportunities.

General tuition fee information is provided on page 26 of this Prospectus.

Support before and after your arrival
Embarking on a graduate degree programme is both an exciting and challenging experience. There are extra challenges in travelling to another country to do this. We aim to make the transition as smooth as possible for you and the International website is a comprehensive source of information on matters such as visas, entry clearance, enrolment, tuition fees and other practical advice to help you prepare for your time in the UK.

A free orientation programme, held immediately prior to the start of the academic year, is designed to help introduce you to UCL and London and the comprehensive range of support services available. A similar welcome event is held a few days later for all students, to provide information about the facilities offered by the Graduate School, the Skills Development Programme, the Postgraduate Association of the UCL Students’ Union, and related graduate activities, social events and clubs.

During your time as a student you will have access to all of the academic and welfare support services described in this Prospectus. This includes the National Health Service (NHS), under which international students on programmes lasting more than six months qualify for free treatment. The Student Centre remains available as a source of support and advice throughout your stay at UCL, providing help on a wide range of issues like opening a bank account, working in the UK during your studies and visa renewal.

The UCL Careers Service offers dedicated support for international students, including advice and guidance on employment in your home country and routes into employment in the UK. You can find out more on pages 24–25 or at: www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/international.

For more information please visit our website www.ucl.ac.uk/international.