LEARNING
PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

- UCL is in the top three UK universities for the volume of its research assessed as ‘world-leading’ (4*) in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise and has also been independently ranked as the most productive research university in Europe (SIR World Report 2011).

- UCL is a principal UK hub for doctoral training in engineering and physical sciences, with support for many new doctoral studentships each year.

- Our students benefit from the lowest student to staff ratio (10:1) of any public UK university, enabling small class sizes and outstanding individual support (The Times, 2012) and no other UK university has more professors.

- We have initiated an elite PhD training programme offering a total of 100 Grand Challenge Studentships in Biomedicine.
RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

UCL offers a number of programmes of study which include the opportunity to undertake substantial, in-depth research leading to one of the qualifications outlined below. Most research students begin their programme of study at the start of the academic year in September, although it is possible to enrol at any time.

Doctor of Philosophy – PhD
Master of Philosophy – MPhil

Study for the MPhil and PhD, whereby students undertake a supervised research project, is offered in all UCL academic units. PhD students at UCL are required to register initially for the MPhil qualification; the upgrade procedure from MPhil to PhD registration is an important step in your programme. The MPhil/PhD is normally designed to extend over three years full-time or five years part-time. However, certain PhD degrees are offered on a four-year full-time basis; please see departmental entries for details. It is also possible to register with the intention of graduating with the MPhil degree.

The PhD is assessed by a written thesis of no more than 100,000 words. This thesis must demonstrate the candidate’s capacity to pursue original research in their field of study and represent a distinct and significant contribution to the subject, whether through the discovery of new knowledge, the connection of previously unrelated facts, the development of new theory or the revision of older views. It should show the exercise of critical judgement with regard to both the candidate’s own work and that of other scholars in the field.

The MPhil is assessed by a written thesis of no more than 60,000 words. This thesis must represent a contribution to the subject either through a record of the candidate’s original work or a critical and ordered exposition of existing knowledge.

Research students can be registered on a full- or part-time basis. Dependent on specific circumstances, sponsorship and research programmes it is also possible for a student to be registered as Studying at an Approved (partner) Institution and not resident in the UK.

Doctoral Training Centres

UCL has the largest allocation of prestigious doctoral training centres of any UK university. These multi-disciplinary centres bring together various areas of expertise and offer unique opportunities and a dynamic environment for PhD student training. UCL has nine centres funded by the EPSRC in:

- Bioprocessing Engineering Leadership
- Energy Demand Reduction and the Built Environment
- Financial Computing
- Mathematics and Physics in the Life Sciences and Experimental Biology
- Molecular Modelling and Materials Science
- Photonic Systems Development
- Security Science
- Urban Sustainability and Resilience
- Virtual Environments, Imaging and Visualisation

and one centre funded by the ESRC in:

- Social Sciences.

Further details of UCL’s EPSRC doctoral training centres can be found at: www.ucl.ac.uk/beams/phd/centres and UCL’s ESRC doctoral training centre at: www.ucl.ac.uk/shs/esrc

Doctor in Engineering – EngD

The EngD has a duration of four years full-time. It has been developed to provide business and technical expertise to complement doctoral-level research skills. About three-quarters of the programme is in the form of an industrial research project carried out within a company. The remainder of the programme involves taught courses in technical, business, managerial and personal skills.

Doctor of Medicine (Research) – MD(Res)

The MD(Res) is aimed specifically at individuals in clinical practice who wish to undertake a piece of supervised research associated with their employment. Students must be registered for a minimum of two calendar years either full-time or part-time before submitting a thesis for examination. The thesis, of no more than 50,000 words, may deal with any branch of medicine, surgery or medical or dental science. It must form a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject and afford evidence of originality by the discovery of new facts and/or by the exercise of independent critical thought.
Master in Philosophical Studies – MPhil Stud
This two-year research degree, offered in the Department of Philosophy, includes a significant taught component and represents the standard route for entry to a PhD in the department. It is examined by a thesis of 25,000 to 30,000 words plus three essays of 2,500 words each.

The right research project, the best supervision
Choosing to undertake graduate research is a big decision and it is extremely important that you identify a research project that really excites you. Identifying the right supervisor is also critical to your success, and provides you with invaluable support and guidance from a leading academic in your field.

Before making an application you should:
- thoroughly research the options available through this Prospectus and online at www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate-research
- make contact with either the Graduate Tutor, or a specific academic member of staff in your chosen department, to explore the opportunities in more depth.

This process helps define your interests and aspirations, contributes to making your application successful, and also serves to ensure the identification of the best possible principal supervisor for your needs. You will also be assigned a subsidiary supervisor to offer you additional guidance. How often you meet your supervisors will depend on your area of study and the nature of your research.

The UCL Graduate School has developed guidelines and procedures to make clear the responsibilities in these relationships. Great care is taken to support you throughout your research degree programme.

Details of the application process are given on page 36.

How will you be supported in your research study?
UCL is deeply committed to the quality and relevance of the graduate education we offer. The UCL Graduate School is responsible for ensuring that graduate students enrolled at UCL are provided with enhanced opportunities, support and facilities that will enable them to achieve their potential. A number of initiatives, described below, have been developed by the Graduate School, and these are continuously reviewed and refined. For further information see www.grad.ucl.ac.uk.

Code of Practice for Graduate Research Degrees
The UCL Code of Practice for Graduate Research Degrees outlines what you can expect from your supervisor and department, as well as your responsibilities as a research student. For details visit www.grad.ucl.ac.uk/codes.

Research Student Log
This is an online resource provided to all research students. It enables you and your supervisor to document your academic progress and skills development training. The Research Student Log is intended to be used in a flexible manner, to allow for appropriate research processes for different disciplines. Induction in its use is provided.
Skills Development Programme

The purpose of the Skills Development Programme, which is open to all research students at UCL, is to give you the opportunity to expand your generic research skills and personal transferable skills. These skills are intended to help in your research and also to enhance your employability. The courses are offered free-of-charge and are in addition to specific training offered by academic units and faculties.

The areas covered in the skills programme have been informed by the Researcher Development Framework (RDF) which sets out the knowledge, behaviours and attitudes of effective and highly skilled researchers appropriate for a wide range of careers. The skills programme provides courses from all areas of the RDF:

Knowledge and intellectual abilities
• Knowledge base
• Cognitive abilities
• Creativity

Personal effectiveness
• Personal qualities
• Self-management
• Professional and career development

Research organisation and governance
• Professional conduct
• Research management
• Finance, funding and resources

Communication, influence and impact
• Working with others
• Communication and dissemination
• Engagement and impact.

The training programme is regularly reviewed and updated to meet changing needs and new developments. Full details can be found on the Graduate School’s website at www.grad.ucl.ac.uk/skills.

Financial support

Research Projects and Conference Funds are awarded by the Graduate School to enable students to take up special opportunities to enhance their research. These have included, for example, presenting research at international conferences, and visiting archives or laboratories elsewhere.

Research Scholarships are offered to outstanding research students. See pages 28–31 for further details of scholarships and funding.

Competitions

The Research Poster Competition, Review Competition and Research Images Competition enable graduate students to exercise their skills by presenting their work to panels of academic judges, their peers and the public, as well as offering the chance to win generous prizes.

Facilities, academic societies and events

The Graduate School plays an important role in providing intellectual and social contacts between graduate students, enabling you to meet fellow students from different disciplines, countries and backgrounds. One element of this is provision of a dedicated Graduate Computer Cluster Area and a separate Graduate Common Room. You may also join one of the supported academic societies, which organise graduate seminars and social events. Welcome events for new graduate students provide an excellent introduction to the services and facilities on offer, and to the activities of the Postgraduate Association of the UCL Students’ Union.

Pei-Sze Chow
Scandinavian Studies MPhil/PhD

I chose UCL because I wanted to work with my supervisor, who has an interdisciplinary research profile and an excellent network of colleagues and fellow researchers across Europe. Being at the centre of a city with multiple research institutions also means I have access to an exceptional calendar of academic events. Furthermore, the emphasis on public engagement here at UCL is wonderful – there is a strong culture of ensuring that interesting ideas don’t only reside within an ivory tower of academia, but are communicated to the wider public in innovative and engaging ways.

I intend to develop a career in academia, in the field of film and visual culture. This is a field which is interdisciplinary in nature and with many opportunities for collaboration with researchers in different fields. In less than a year, I have already shared my research with urban planners, architects, geographers, artists, Scandinavian specialists, linguists and fellow film studies researchers.

There is so much research activity both within and outside of the university context. Londoners are very passionate about their urban spaces, and there are lots of events and debates about the way people experience the city. As my research is focused on the cinematic representations of lived experience in transnational places, such events are particularly useful for me to speak with people from different backgrounds about their experience of cities, architecture, and film.

I’ve visited Denmark and Berlin on research trips, where I’ve initiated exchanges with researchers in the respective universities. I’ve also had the opportunity to be engaged with Public Engagement events, presenting my thoughts about architecture in a popular Scandinavian crime series on television.
TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

UCL’s taught graduate programmes are designed to meet a range of needs. Some, for example, may lead to professionally recognised qualifications fulfilling the requirements of particular career paths – either in continuation from a first degree or as a conversion programme. Others form a foundation for research degree study. All provide an opportunity for advanced study in your chosen field. Many programmes have been designed to offer flexibility, with part-time or flexible/modular learning options allowing you to combine your degree with professional or personal commitments.

Master’s programmes

Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MSc), Master of Architecture (MArch), Master of Clinical Dentistry (MClinDent), Master of Fine Art (MFA), Master of Laws (LLM)

These programmes normally extend full-time over 12 months, or part-time over two years. An increasing number are offered on a flexible learning basis over three to five years. Please see individual departmental entries for details. The programmes normally consist of taught elements between September and March, plus a research project or dissertation submitted at the end of the programme in September.

Postgraduate Diplomas

Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip) programmes usually share an identical syllabus with the taught component of a corresponding Master’s programme, and extend over nine months full-time. This may extend over two years if taken part-time, or, longer, up to five years, if flexible study is offered.

Postgraduate Certificates

UCL’s Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert) programmes provide an opportunity to undertake study leading to a certificated qualification over a shorter period, usually equating to 15 weeks of full-time study which may be undertaken on a full-time basis, or spread over one or two years if taken flexibly. The syllabus often consists of selected components of a corresponding Master’s or Postgraduate Diploma programme.

Graduate Diplomas

For details of free-standing Graduate Diploma programmes in Archaeology (page 128) and Civil Engineering (page 76) please contact the relevant departments.

Short courses and continuing professional development

Academic units may offer courses from taught programmes and/or short courses and workshops to support continuing professional development. Please see page 14.

How will you be taught?

Taught programmes normally begin at the start of the academic year in September. As outlined above, the programmes will comprise taught elements, which will usually include some compulsory courses and a range of specialist options from which you make your selection. Assessment of the taught components is normally by unseen written examination and may also include assessment of coursework. Master’s programmes also usually include a research component which contributes significantly to your final result and is examined by report or dissertation.

Whilst our taught programmes undoubtedly involve intense, in-depth study, they are well supported and teaching is usually carried out in small groups, meeting frequently with academic tutors. You will have opportunities to analyse important issues, theories and approaches in seminar discussions with staff and fellow students, and individually with your tutor. Advice on the selection of options and, where relevant, the subject of your dissertation or research project, is readily available from your programme tutor.

Distance learning

A small number of UCL graduate programmes can be studied on a distance learning basis, whereby all teaching is delivered online. Further details can be found at: www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate-distance.
How will you be supported?
Your programme tutor will provide essential support throughout your studies, including academic advice and, where appropriate, direct you to other support services available at UCL.

In addition, the UCL Graduate School aims to ensure that your studies are enhanced through access to a range of opportunities which enable you to gain maximum benefit from your time at UCL. For details please see www.grad.ucl.ac.uk.

Code of Practice for Graduate Taught Degrees
The UCL Code of Practice for Graduate Taught Degrees establishes high standards for your experience as a graduate student at UCL. The code outlines what you can expect from your programme director, project supervisor and departmental graduate tutor, as well as the responsibilities you will be expected to fulfil. For details visit www.grad.ucl.ac.uk/codes.

Financial support
For details of funding available to taught graduate students see pages 28–31.

Skills Development Programme
The Graduate School’s extensive Skills Development Programme brings together a wide variety of workshops, training courses and online opportunities designed to help expand your generic research skills and personal transferable skills.

Courses available to taught graduate students cover areas such as IT skills, library skills, and career management and employability skills. Full details can be found on the Graduate School’s website at www.grad.ucl.ac.uk/skills.

Facilities, academic societies and events
The Graduate School plays an important role in providing intellectual and social contacts between graduate students, enabling you to meet fellow students from different disciplines, countries and backgrounds. One element of this is provision of a dedicated Graduate Computer Cluster Area and a separate Graduate Common Room. You may also join one of the supported academic societies, which organise graduate seminars and social events. Welcome events for new graduate students provide an excellent introduction to the services and facilities on offer, and to the activities of the Postgraduate Association of the UCL Students’ Union.