STUDENT FINANCE
SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Scholarships are allocated primarily on the basis of academic merit, achievement and potential, although they may take into consideration financial circumstances. A comprehensive overview of funding opportunities, including details of eligibility requirements, value and benefits, application procedures and deadlines, selection criteria and contact information for specific funding schemes for study and research at UCL is provided on the website at www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships.

A significant number of UCL graduate students are in receipt of funding provided by UCL and its academic units, the UK Research Councils, the British Government, various charitable foundations, international governments and organisations, as well as commerce and industry.

Competition for all scholarship funding is intense, and where scholarships are primarily awarded on the basis of academic excellence, applicants are normally required to have or to expect to achieve the equivalent of a first-class UK Bachelor’s degree.

International students should initially contact their local British Council office, British Embassy, British High Commission or their own Ministry of Education for general advice on funding available for study in Britain.

Scholarships for students from any country

UCL Graduate Research Scholarships (15 scholarships)
These scholarships for MPhil/PhD studies cover fees at the standard UK/EU rate and a living allowance for the standard duration of the programme.

UCL Graduate Research Scholarships for Cross-disciplinary Training (four scholarships)
These scholarships provide for an additional year within PhD studies to acquire skills and knowledge from another discipline to be applied to the MPhil/PhD research. Scholarships cover fees and a living allowance for one year.

Frederick Bonnart-Braunthal Scholarships (two scholarships)
These scholarships provide a stipend of £15,000 for up to three years of MPhil/PhD research into the nature of religious, racial and cultural prejudices and ways of combating them.

UCL Global Excellence Scholarships (eight graduate scholarships)
These scholarships provide a one-off award of £5,000 to the academically most outstanding candidates taking up graduate degree studies at UCL.

UCL Alumni Scholarship
This scholarship provides a total of £10,000 toward fees and maintenance for full-time Master’s studies in any UCL subject area to a student who would find it difficult to pursue postgraduate study without financial assistance.

Gay Clifford Fees Awards for Outstanding Women Students (five awards)
These scholarships provide a total of £2,500 towards fees for prospective female Master’s degree students in UCL’s Faculties of Arts and Humanities or Social and Historical Sciences.

Departmental scholarships, studentships and demonstratorships
See entry on page 31.

Scholarships for students from specific countries

Santander Master’s Scholarships (10 scholarships)
These scholarships (funded by Santander Bank through the Santander Universities programme) provide a total of £5,000 for full-time Master’s studies in any UCL department. Candidates must be from specific countries in Latin America or from Spain or Portugal.
SPDC Niger Delta Postgraduate Scholarships (3 awards)

These scholarships enable students from the Niger Delta states to undertake a one-year taught Master’s in certain engineering programmes at UCL. The scholarship provides full tuition fees and a 12-month living allowance, return airfare and additional allowances.

Further awards for students liable to pay fees at the Overseas rate

UCL Overseas Research Student (UCL-ORS) Awards (40 awards)

These awards enable Overseas students to pursue MPhil/PhD studies at UCL and provide fee awards equivalent to overseas tuition fees minus UK/EU fees, for up to three years of a PhD programme. UCL will cover the UK/EU fee element for UCL-ORS recipients who do not have any other fee funding.

Commonwealth Shared Scholarship Scheme (3 awards)

These scholarships enable students from Commonwealth countries to undertake selected one-year taught Master’s programmes. The scholarships provide tuition fees, maintenance stipend, economy return airfare and other agreed allowances.

Temi Ogunye
Legal and Political Theory MA

I chose UCL for three main reasons: having studied for my undergraduate degree in Manchester, I wanted to complete my Master’s back home in London; UCL has a very strong international reputation; and the structure and content of the MA looked excellent.

I’m interested in political theory because I’m interested in argument, and there are few things more worth arguing about than politics. The MA has allowed me to broaden and deepen my interest in and knowledge of issues in political theory, particularly those relating to global justice and methodology. I hope to find a job in politics, perhaps working for a think-tank or NGO, but I am also considering studying for a PhD at some stage.

I received the full AHRC grant for my Master’s, which includes payment of the fees and a maintenance stipend. Applying for it involved providing a more developed account of my research interests in my application form and indicating that I wanted to be considered for funding. I had an interview and luckily was awarded the funding. I am very, very grateful because I wouldn’t have been able to do the course this year without receiving funding.

Further awards for students liable to pay fees at the UK/EU rate

Research Council Studentships

Studentships funded by the UK Research Councils are generally intended for UK/EU students and include payment of tuition fees and, for UK students only, a stipend for living costs. For further information and links to the seven UK Research Council websites go to www.rcuk.ac.uk, or contact the relevant UCL academic unit.
UCL Graduate International Partnership Scholarships

UCL co-operates with numerous UK and international organisations, to offer co-funded scholarships to students from specific countries or regions for graduate study or research at UCL.

Organisations include:
- Center for International Programmes Bolashak scheme (students from Kazakhstan)
- Colfuturo (students from Columbia)
- CONACyT (students from Mexico)
- China Scholarships Council (students from China)
- MBI Al Jaber Foundation (Arab residents of the Middle East/North Africa)
- Petroleum Technology Development Fund (students from Nigeria)
- Said Foundation (students from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine or Syria)
- Royal Thai Government Scholarships (students from Thailand).

Other scholarship schemes

In addition, there are many other schemes such as British Chevening Scholarships, Commonwealth Scholarships for students from Commonwealth countries, Marshall and Fulbright Scholarships for students from the USA, and scholarships funded by organisations such as the European Commission, World Bank and Asian Development Bank. Prospective students are advised to contact these organisations for further details.

Student loans, grants and bursaries

Loans, grants and bursaries are funding sources which normally take account of an applicant’s financial circumstances. Further information is given on the website above. UCL administers applications for Professional and Career Development Loans and Access to Learning Funds (for UK/EU nationals residing in the UK), Federal loans for students from the US and Canada, and also provides certification required for some other student loans.

The desire to study in an academic and research powerhouse of worldwide renown inspired my choice of UCL. I wanted to experience a world-leading, first-class learning environment which I believed would propel me to greater heights in my professional and academic endeavours. Drug discovery is an exciting field of study, providing me with an opportunity to exercise the knowledge and skills I’ve gained in my previous studies in basic chemical and biological sciences. Past, current and emerging diseases are a constant concern, so the need for discovery of drugs and new ways of tackling diseases remains greatly important. After my MSc, I look forward to pursuing a PhD in an area of drug discovery; I have a vision of becoming a distinguished academician and medical researcher.

As a Commonwealth Scholar, the UK Department for International Development pays for my tuition fees and the UCL School of Pharmacy pays for my upkeep, return flight tickets, travel and thesis allowance. The offer is enviable and the experience rewarding; I can never appreciate enough the fact of being granted such an opportunity.

As an international student from Kenya, my experience has been fulfilling. The International Office was very helpful in planning my travel to the UK; they offered advice on where to stay and where to go if I needed help. After settling in – which interestingly takes a very short time, as the environment is very friendly – you even forget that you are an international student.

During my studies, I have had the opportunity to visit some well-respected pharmaceutical companies including MSD and GSK. It was very enlightening to interact with the researchers and scientists in these companies. I also attended a workshop on disclosures of new drugs and chemicals at the National Heart and Lung Centre in South Kensington.
Combining study and work

For some students, combining work and study is an integral part of their degree; for others, it is simply a way of ensuring that they have sufficient financial resources. For example, both the EngD degree and MD(Res) degree are designed to allow participants, if they are currently employed, to continue to work whilst furthering their expertise within their chosen field. The research project for such students will focus respectively on an industrial or medical issue or problem they encounter in their normal line of work.

As noted above, some students secure subject-specific studentships or teaching assistantships which help meet financial needs and provide experience of working in academia. Other students may be able to combine part-time work and study in related, or very different, spheres.

Furthermore, there are opportunities both at UCL and beyond, for part-time, short-term or casual work. JobShop, run by the UCL Students’ Union, maintains a database of such opportunities. Please note that students from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland may be restricted from undertaking employment.

It is important to ensure that your academic studies do not suffer because of your employment commitments. You will need to be certain that you are available for the timetabled elements of your studies, and that you allocate sufficient time each week for any reading, coursework, research or assignments. Your supervisor or tutor will be concerned to ensure that you achieve your best in your academic work, but will also be accustomed to the fact that graduate students may have commitments, such as work and family, which they must also fit into their lives.

Subject-specific scholarships, studentships and demonstratorships

A number of UCL academic units award their own scholarships; these schemes are listed on the UCL scholarships website and further details are available from the relevant unit.

In addition, subject to the availability of funds, some academic units award studentships and teaching assistantships. Subject-specific studentships may range from assistance with fees to full awards equivalent to Research Council studentships. Examples include 100 UCL Grand Challenge PhD Studentships in Biomedicine and 390 UCL PhD places funded through the ESPRC’s doctoral training centres. Teaching assistantships usually cover tuition fees at the UK/EU rate and provide a stipend for living costs, in return for teaching or demonstrating. This can be both a useful source of financial support, and an opportunity to gain some experience of teaching and an insight into an academic career. For further information contact the relevant academic unit at UCL.