Teaching and learning

UCL degree programmes draw you into cutting-edge research to stretch you intellectually and equip you to think critically and creatively in preparation for your future career.

Which degree is right for you?

Depending on what you decide to study, your degree programme at UCL will be classified as follows:

**Single-subject Honours degrees**

(e.g. History BA, Physics BSc), are those where most of the programme you study will be within that subject area.

**Combined-studies Honours degrees**

are those in which two specific subject areas are studied. Programmes with ‘and’ in their title, for example Mathematics and Physics BSc, mean your module load will be split 50/50 between the two subjects. Programmes including ‘with’ in their title, for example Chemistry with Management Studies BSc, mean that about one quarter of your module load will be in the minor subject area.

**An Interdisciplinary degree**

(e.g. Arts and Sciences BASc), is one where you take a combination of modules from different departments or faculties that together build up to a degree programme.

**A Foundation degree** is a qualification in its own right, and the equivalent of the first two years of an Honours degree.

Three years or four?

Many science and engineering departments offer their programmes as a three-year BSc or BEng, or a four-year MSci or MEng. The programme content is generally the same for the first three years, with the extra year spent on more advanced or specialist modules including an additional research project. A four-year degree may also qualify you for accreditation from a professional body or chartered status.

**How your study is structured**

The academic year begins in September and is divided into three terms. Most of your teaching will take place in terms one and two, with most of term three set aside for revision and examinations.

Your degree programme will be made up of individual modules. Each module carries a certain amount of credit, or ‘course-unit’ value (known as CU). You are expected to complete four CU each year, which will usually mean taking up to eight modules. If you haven’t met our modern language requirement, one of your first-year modules may be in a language (see page 31).

**Term dates 2017/18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONE</td>
<td>Mon 25 Sep 2017</td>
<td>Fri 15 Dec 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TERM</td>
<td>Mon 8 Jan 2018</td>
<td>Fri 23 Mar 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THREE</td>
<td>Mon 23 Apr 2018</td>
<td>Fri 8 Jun 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more about the structure of individual degree programmes see the subject entries in this Prospectus or go to:

[www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus)

**Assessment, examinations and degree classification**

You will usually be assessed at the end of each year, on every module that you have taken during that year. Assessment may be continuous (in the form of essays, assignments and laboratory practicals), carried out by examination, or by a combination of these.

Degrees at UCL are classified into first, second (upper and lower), and third-class Honours.
UCL undergraduate degrees

Foundation degree (FdA)

Bachelor of:
- Arts (BA)
- Arts and Sciences (BASc)
- Education (BEd)
- Engineering (BEng)
- Fine Art (BFA)
- Laws (LLB)
- Medicine and Surgery (MBBS)
  (a duration of six years and also providing
  for the award of an integrated BSc degree)

Science (BSc)
- Science (Economics) BSc (Econ)

Master in:
- Science (MSc)

Master of:
- Engineering (MEng)
- Pharmacy (MPharm)

The recently refurbished Professional Skills Lab at the UCL School of Pharmacy provides an ideal environment for practicals

A Physics MSci student undertaking the final-year research project, which forms a substantial component of the additional fourth year of study

At 1:10, UCL has the lowest staff to student ratio of any public UK university

The UCL graduate

UCL is world-famous for its academic excellence, its breadth of expertise and the role it plays in helping to solve the world’s problems.

Our graduates are sought after by employers for their critical thinking skills, their global perspective and their ability to make connections across subjects. Our students and alumni take their social, ethical and political responsibilities seriously and look beyond individual, local and national interests to change the world for the better.

UCL is one of the most international and diverse universities in the world with more than a third of our students coming from overseas, but we have also managed to retain a strong sense of community where we are based, in the heart of historic London.

Teaching and learning

Shawn Goh, Fourth Year, Civil Engineering MEng

I was drawn to the multinational make-up of UCL and the scenario-based learning approach, which promised a practical, hands-on experience that allowed for opportunities to work with students from various backgrounds. It is also fascinating how London blends the old and new into its landscape and I thought this would be the perfect place to study civil engineering.

My favourite parts of the programme have been the Lampeter field trip and Constructionarium! Both activities, held at the end of year one and two respectively, provided many practical lessons in areas like surveying and concrete mixing which was really helpful in enhancing my understanding of them. While those weeks were tough, the bonds forged with my fellow coursemates were invaluable and this is something which I feel distinguishes Civil Engineering at UCL from programmes at other universities.

Scenario-based learning; structured around a series of real-world engineering problems, provides practical, hands-on experience for civil engineering students

Teaching and learning: Shawn Goh, Fourth Year, Civil Engineering MEng

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UCL undergraduates can develop workplace skills by undertaking their own research.
Research-based learning: a UCL education

At UCL, your learning is enhanced by staff who are actively engaged in pushing the boundaries of knowledge and overcoming some of the major challenges facing the world today.

As a UCL student you will contribute to this exciting process of knowledge creation. Through your programme, you’ll have the opportunity to conduct your own research projects, and develop the ability to solve unfamiliar problems head-on. You’ll learn what research means for your discipline, and how research skills can extend your learning and give you the edge in the workplace. Many departments participate in our Connected Curriculum initiative, which gives you the chance to make connections between your programme, other disciplines and the world beyond UCL.

Some departments (particularly in sciences and engineering) offer undergraduate research placements over the summer vacation. Bursaries are usually available.

Teaching excellence

UCL is committed to promoting teaching excellence and supporting innovation. Every year, the best staff are recognised with Provost’s Teaching Awards and Student Choice Teaching Awards, and we invest in technologies that stimulate interactive and engaging classroom learning.

Our online learning environment enables you to access class materials, communicate with fellow students and tutors, watch lectures online and access study resources.

www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning

Empowering you with research, study and life skills

Integral to your learning is the development of skills that will serve you well during your degree and beyond graduation. These include research skills (such as sourcing, sifting and analysing information), communication skills, collaborating with others on projects, time management, motivational and leadership skills, as well as social and cultural awareness.

We also offer formal training in IT and Writing in Academic Contexts, plus the opportunity to learn a language.

Preparation for the working world

Many of our degrees, especially those in the Faculties of the Built Environment, Engineering Sciences, Laws and Medical Sciences include teaching by practising professionals. These degrees also offer work placement and/or sandwich-year opportunities. Some degrees will lead to accreditation or part-accreditation from a professional body, or to chartered status (for engineering degrees).

Many of our departments encourage participation in the Year in Industry scheme which organises work placements for young people to spend a year out, either before or during their degree.

www.yini.org.uk

Global citizenship

Xiyu Cheng, Second Year, History with a European Language BA

UCL had always been my first choice. First I think it is great that UCL is built on values of equality and diversity, being the first university in the UK to admit women students on equal terms with men. Then I attended a couple of masterclasses and conferences at UCL that made me certain that I wanted to come here.

I participated in the UCL Global Citizenship Programme at the end of my first year; it was fantastic. We had great fun during the two weeks and had a blast on the last day. This year, I hope to be able to get a place on the Summer Internship programme which is designed to help students develop career skills through 8-12 week internships at small and medium-sized enterprises.

Taking part in the UCL Global Citizenship Programme will enrich your time at UCL, and provide a boost to your career.
Support to shape the learning environment

At UCL, you are encouraged to take an active role in the decision-making that affects your learning experience. You might stand for office as a Student Academic Representative (a StAR) to represent the interests of your fellow students to the academic staff who teach you. Alternatively, you might decide to lead a UCL ChangeMaker project, where you’ll receive funding to collaborate with staff to investigate issues that are important to you and make recommendations about the ways UCL can support you in your studies.

www.ucl.ac.uk/student-academic-representatives-stars
www.ucl.ac.uk/changemakers

Global citizenship: helping you to make an impact on the world

The UCL Global Citizenship Programme takes place over a two-week period after summer examinations have finished. During the programme, you’ll tackle some of the key global questions that occupy UCL’s world-leading researchers, in areas such as Global Health, Sustainable Cities, Human Wellbeing and Intercultural Interaction. You’ll work alongside students from other disciplines, approaching these questions from different perspectives, and come up with sustainable solutions as part of a multidisciplinary project team.

The programme takes the form of an academic course in your first year. You can continue to pursue this route in your second year, or take the opportunity to participate in practical, real-world projects in enterprise, volunteering, employability and active citizenship. These more vocational strands remain open to you throughout your undergraduate studies.

www.ucl.ac.uk/global-citizenship/programme

Get an international perspective

Study Abroad is an exciting and rewarding opportunity; a unique experience that counts towards your degree programme and gives you the chance to learn life skills not taught in the lecture theatre. UCL has around 200 international partners, including many of the world’s most prestigious universities. With many partners in Europe, UCL is proud to be part of the Erasmus+ programme.

This opportunity is offered by a large number of UCL departments.

www.erasmusplus.org.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/studyabroad

Financial support is available (see page 38) and you will also be supported by a network of Departmental Study Abroad Tutors, Peer Advisers and the UCL Study Abroad Team. They will provide you with information and the knowledge of their first-hand experience, as well as academic support before, during and after your placement.

The UCL Centre for Languages & International Education provides linguistic support if you are not studying a language as part of your degree.

www.ucl.ac.uk/studyabroad

Study abroad

Sophia Palmer, Fourth Year, Spanish and Latin American Studies BA

I chose Spanish and Latin American Studies because I wanted to learn more about Latin American culture particularly, and not just about Spain. This also gave me the opportunity to study Portuguese, which I was thrilled about. I chose UCL because it has a reputation for being brilliant, and global – two things which I strive for myself in terms of my character and aims in life. UCL also offered a more literature- and culture-based degree in comparison to other, more language-focused, programmes at other universities.

I returned from my year abroad in Mexico this year and I can easily say that it was the best year of my life. My Spanish skills have greatly improved as I was really thrown into the Spanish-speaking university life, where I had to deliver many presentations in Spanish along with socialising with my Mexican classmates. My year abroad also gave me the opportunity to take modules from other degrees such as business and advertising, which is now helping me in my post-university job search.