



Questions and Answers from the February 2021

MAsc Creative Health launch event

Applying for the MAsc in Creative Health

What is the application process for the programme?

You are advised to apply as early as possible due to competition for places. Those applying for scholarship funding (particularly overseas applicants) should also take note of application deadlines.

This programme requires two references. Further information regarding references can be found in our [How to apply](#) section. The application deadline is 30 July 2021.

Candidates whose qualifications vary from UCL standards may be admitted if evidence of an adequate academic background and work experience in an appropriate field can be shown.

Is a background in sciences like biology/medicine required for entry into the program?

No, please see this link for our [entry requirements](#). You can have either a background (e.g. a primary degree) in a science, social science or a humanities subject. But you need to be open to engage with topics and materials of both a quantitative and qualitative nature. We would especially like to encourage applicants who have professional (or voluntary) experience in the fields of arts, culture and health, or social prescribing.

How many places are available on the course?

We will be offering 25 places for the first year (2021/22). Thereafter, the number of places will expand to 35 for 2022/23 and 50 from 2023/24 onwards. It will remain at 50 in a steady state.

What would the structure of the programme be for a part-time course?

You would split the 180 credits of the programme over two academic years. There are some limitations in that the first term core modules, Arts, Nature & Wellbeing and Research Methods in Arts & Sciences need to be taken during the first year. You will complete the dissertation at the end of the second year.

Will there be PhD program in this major?

The Department does not currently offer a PhD programme but is developing one in the near future. However, a PhD might be possible taken through another department with BAsc staff involvement.

Do you need to have a science background? Would work experience in an arts and health field - project delivery and project management / evaluation be enough?

Is the course suitable from a social science background? Or solely from a bio-scientific approach

Can you come from an arts background? Moving from work as an artist to a course like this without a science degree under one's belt.

Is there any alternative entry routes if you do not have a degree but have extensive health based experience and relevant quals?

No, you do not need to have a science background – applicants are welcome to apply from any background, and we especially encourage applicants with a professional background in the fields of arts, culture and health, or social prescribing.

Normally a minimum of an upper second-class UK Bachelor's degree or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard is required (relevant degrees include: psychology, medicine/biomedicine, nursing and other allied health professions, sciences, arts, liberal arts, humanities and social sciences).

An applicant whose qualifications vary from UCL standards may be admitted if evidence of an adequate academic background and work experience in an appropriate field can be shown. Normally this would include some evidence of professional training (such as NVQ Health and Social Care; allied health professional CPD or other allied professional training), plus relevant professional experience (minimum 2 years). Applicants without an undergraduate degree are encouraged to discuss your application with a member of the MASc Team before you apply.

About the programme

Is this a distanced- learning course? Or is there scope for it to be?/ Is there an option for elements of this course to be taken via distance learning? Does this course, on a part-time level, require to be in the UK or would it allow to travel to London from abroad, given all restrictions ease? Is there a way to be involved living in another country?

The course is currently only offered as a campus-based course – on the Bloomsbury campus in 2021/22 and from the new UCL East campus from 2022/23. We are looking into the possibility of offering this programme via the Distance Learning route but it would be from 2022/23 at the earliest.

As all teaching is expected to be on campus, in-person attendance would be required for both full-time and part-time study. As such, it will not be possible to study this programme if you are not able to travel to the UCL campus.

Could you speak a little about each of the compulsory modules, what they entail, how they are taught etc.?

Click here for the [MASc Creative Health Degree Structure](#) and details of the compulsory modules.

Does the course run September to September? What are the term dates for the programme?

Yes, the course runs from September to September. Click here for the [UCL term calendar](#). Please note that the MASc may sometimes schedule classes outside term time. We publish

the MAsc modules timetable for the upcoming academic year in June-July. Please check our website then for the timetable.

Seeing as there is an emphasis on collaborative learning, will there be more seminars/workshops than lectures?

Yes there is an appropriately equal balance of lectures (most of which are seminar in style – with Q&A sessions with the speakers) and practice-based workshops.

How long sessions/lectures are there to each module? / In order to negotiate this with work I will need to tell them how many contact hours/week I will have as a PT student. Will an estimate timetable be available?

We don't have a set timetable as yet, but here is a synopsis of each module's structure:

Approaches to Interdisciplinarity (Term 1)

- The module will have four weekly contact hours (40 contact hours in total).
- A two-hour seminar with a guest speaker.
- A two-hour study group.

Research Methods in Arts and Sciences (Term 1)

- The module will have four weekly contact hours (40 contact hours in total).
- A two hour PBL (Problem-Based Learning) seminars per week.
- A two hour lecture per week.

Dissertation Project (Terms 1, 2 and 3)

- The module will have a total of 24 contact hours.
- Six two-hour briefings and seminars
- Six two-hour discussion groups

Public Engagement with Research (Terms 2 and 3)

- The module will have two contact hours, plus attendance at one all day public engagement conferences (37 contact hours in total).
- A two-hour seminar per week during terms 2 and 3.
- An all-day public engagement conference during term 3.

Your optional modules will be taught in term 1, 2 or 3 and have 2-3 contact hours per week.

Is it possible to do this part-time?/What does the course structure look like if you take it part time, is the dissertation still started in the first year?

The programme can be studied part-time over two calendar years. You will take the following modules in your first year:

1. BASC0030 Arts, Nature and Wellbeing: Non-Clinical Interventions in Health
2. BASC0050 Dissertation Project – to be started in year 1 with submission in year 2.
3. BASC0052 Research Methods in Arts and Sciences
4. One optional 15 credit module

You will take the following modules in your second year:

1. BASC0050 Dissertation Project – to be continued and submitted in year 2.
2. BASC0051 Public Engagement with Research
3. BASC0053 Approaches to Interdisciplinarity
4. One optional 15 credit module

Please note that EU and Overseas students who will require a visa to study in the UK are not eligible for the part-time programme as UCL will not sponsor part-time study visas.

Is it possible to start the course full-time and switch to part-time later if you needed to balance working alongside studying?

A switch to part-time study from full-time is usually only permitted in exceptional circumstances and will depend on how far into the degree you are. For example, if you are already midway through a module that would be taken in the second year of the part-time programme, then it wouldn't be possible to switch to part-time study.

You would also not be able to switch to part-time study if you are an EU or Overseas student who requires a visa as UCL will not sponsor part-time study visas.

Is there a main building that the MASc will be based in on campus?

MASc students will have access to the Arts and Sciences Common Room which is in [1-4 Malet Place](#). Your teaching will take place across the UCL campus and at community partner venues.

Are there opportunities to focus the course/modules on working with children?

There are not any child-focussed modules listed as options, but they are offered by other departments at UCL. As such, acceptance onto those modules would be dependent on that department having space for you so would not be guaranteed. However, you can write your dissertation project on working with children and it may also be possible to work with a community partner who works with children (e.g. one of our partners is Hackney Playbus), and many of our partners are running programmes for children and families (e.g. City of London Open Spaces; Clitterhouse Farm Project).

Is there the opportunity for artistic practice during this masters or is it solely academic? Eg., could a dissertation be in part an artistic piece/project?

A dissertation could include an artistic output but the final dissertation is a written piece of coursework; artistic practice can also be incorporated into the project through the community partner who may wish to draw upon your artistic skills and experiences.

Could you please say a little about the community partner organisations with whom you work and how the research placements are organised? Examples of the community partners.

Are the organisations we will be working with broad, so will we be able to bring our own interests in?

We work with a range of small, medium and large community partners, from small volunteer run or local organisations (such as community farms (e.g. Clitterhouse Community Farm), festivals (Carneval del Pueblo), artists, arts organisations and charities (e.g. Culture &, Holy Cross Trust), through to larger regional or national organisations (such a Museums (e.g. Wallace Collection), Arts Council England, the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance). We are continuing to build a portfolio of partners and are actively recruiting new partners who wish to work with us; students can also recommend partners if they already have links with a particular organisation.

Are the placements allocated or could students choose which community partner we would like to work with in line with our interests/ career ambitions?

See above – you can choose.

Would you be open to non-London community organisations? Full disclosure I support Health:Pitch which has no specific geographical location for interventions.

Yes absolutely.

Do the community based dissertation partners have to be linked only with London organisations, or could they be outside of London?

They can be anywhere - so long as the student is prepared to travel if this is required by the partner (hence why we target London based partners)

Is there scope to take more than just 2 optional modules in other departments at UCL?

Unfortunately not as all of the other modules that are part of the MAsc programme are compulsory.

Are all the optional module all hosted by different departments? Are there any optional modules run solely by the creative health course?

Currently, all of the optional modules are run by other departments across UCL which gives you the advantage of working with others student and across the disciplines.

Are there opportunities for to work and study women's health (other than the one optional module on legal aspects of women's health)?

Students are welcome to seek out other modules and we can assess if they are suitable for inclusion as an option and host Departments are willing to accept you on their module; we are always seeking out additional optional modules if/when they become available.

Will there be scope to collaborate with other art, social sciences, and medical programme students (e.g. MSc Speech and Language Therapists) at UCL?

Yes we encourage this and there will be opportunities to invite students from other Programmes to attend events/seminars etc.

How closely will students be working with the creative arts departments for example the Slade?

There will not be any opportunity to take modules in the Slade School of Fine Art as their modules are not open to external students. However, there may be opportunities to explore dissertation projects within the Slade.

I took Arts Nature and Wellbeing in my final year as undergraduate in BASc but it's one of the core modules for this MAsc. Would I have to retake the module?

No you wouldn't and so we would discuss a suitable alternative module to replace that.

Will you also be focusing on advocacy work e.g. shaping pitches to budget holders in NHS, social care and elsewhere to deliver quality creative practice?

Yes we are partnering with a range of organisations to embed and link policy, practice and research including:

- The National Centre for Creative Health
- Arts Council England
- The National Academy for Social Prescribing and NHS Personalised Care
- Lived Experience Network
- Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance
- Social Prescribing Network

Will you be teaching with a focus on outcome measures to assess intervention results? E.g. the Impact and Insight toolkit.

The Programme will focus on mixed methods of research and evaluation and you will receive training in: quantitative, qualitative and arts-based research methodologies.

Can we access a list of available elective courses for the Creative Health masters?

Optional Modules - take two of the following:

1. Art in the Public Sphere
2. Designing Inclusive Places
3. Ethnicity, Migration and Health
4. Feminism and the Medical Self
5. Health and Wellbeing
6. Health and Wellbeing in Cities: Theory and Practice
7. Health Inequalities over the Lifecourse
8. Illness
9. Legal and Ethical Perspectives of Women's Health
10. Madness
11. Mental Health in a Social and Global Context
12. Philosophy, Politics and Economics of Health
13. Promoting Health and Wellbeing: Planning, Practice and Participation
14. Wellbeing in Buildings: Theory and Practice
15. Urban Health
16. Homeless and Inclusion Health
17. Aspects of Applied Medical Anthropology

Please note that the list of optional modules given here is indicative. This information is published a long time in advance of enrolment and module content and availability is subject to change.

Does the course also engage with histories of participation and community-based methods in arts practices?

Yes this will be integral to all modules especially: Research Methods (e.g. Participatory Action Research) and Public Engagement with Research, and through the Dissertation.

How can we connect with artists, animators etc. to actualise some of our project ideas?

This is achieved through the Dissertation and artists/creatives who contribute to the various modules.

Could you describe some of the types of interdisciplinary projects undertaken within this course?

Students will work with a range of partners who design projects according to their needs, this can include: programme/activity design and/or evaluation; connecting with new audiences; co-production; drafting policy or strategy documents, or grant applications.

Is this programme for practitioners or researcher/facilitators?

All of the above – it will appeal to people who are interested in the links between research-policy-practice.

If people with lived experience are to be at the heart of this, to what extent are the tutors and students going to be qualified in this way?

People with lived experience are involved in several modules (including: Arts, Nature and Wellbeing and Public Engagement with Research) and through the Dissertations projects.

Policy seems to be largely impacted by demonstrating cost savings. Will relevant methods be used to help demonstrate this, alongside usual wellbeing approaches?

Yes we will consider approaches such as cost-benefit analyses, SROI and QUALYs

What support is given if research/statistics is a bit scary?

The Research Methods module is design to be accessible to individuals who have never done stats, or other quantitative/qualitative methods.

Is there any opportunity to audit the course!?

Due to engagement with community partners and the compulsory modules complementing the final dissertation project, it will not be possible to audit this course.

What is the balance between theory and practice in this degree? Does it allow for individuals to also continue into PhD study as well?

There will be a mix of theory, practice, research/evaluation, policy, lived experience – we are currently developing a PhD programme but this is unlikely to start until 2022/23 or 2023/24.

Are the module leaders mainly from a clinical background, an arts background, or a combination of the two?

Module leaders comes from mixed and interdisciplinary backgrounds.

Can this course support private practice/enterprise?

It could though we do not currently have any commercial partners.

Covid Related

In the event of further Coronavirus lockdowns, how would the course be structured?

We would offer a mix of online and in person where possible.

How will the placement aspect of the course go ahead given the pandemic? Will they be virtual, face-to-face or will this depend on the nature of placement?

If there are further lockdowns once this programme begins, the work with community partners will be virtual as we will not expect students to travel against government guidelines.

Due to restrictions this year, will this course be flexible in terms of location? Do placement strictly have to be centred in London?

No dissertations do not have to be undertaken in London.

Are you thinking differently about 'creative health' now, in an age of Covid and social distancing etc.?

Yes – our focus now is even more on inequalities as you can see from our current research.

Other

Do you imagine the course to be internationally recognised and applicable / how strictly does it follow NHS England's social prescribing policies?

We are working closely with, and informed by our work with The National Academy for Social Prescribing and NHS Personalised Care.

What funding, if any, is available for this course? I notice that the fees will not be completely covered by the post-graduate loan. What support is there in place to assist with remaining costs?

There is no specific funding for the MAsc programme other than the UCL scholarships listed on the UCL Scholarships Finder webpage. Further information on funding for graduate taught programmes, including external scholarships, can be found on the Funding for Postgraduate Taught Courses webpage.

Do you offer screening for Dyslexia?

Unfortunately, no. However, any student who can provide evidence of a long-term condition such as dyslexia is strongly encouraged to register with Student Support and Wellbeing so that additional support and reasonable adjustments can be put in place for you whilst you're studying at UCL.

In the academic field of creative health, are most researchers artists/practitioners?

As far as we know this has not been quantified but we suspect practitioner numbers outweigh researchers – but note many practitioners are engaged in research and evaluation.

Could you please explain the main differences between Master's in Creative Health and Health Humanities?

Creative Health is defined as: creating the conditions and opportunities for arts, creativity and culture to be embedded in the health of the public. It is concerned with how community assets and resources, and other non-clinical approaches to health (such as social prescribing) can support health and wellbeing. See also the [National Centre for Creative Health](#).

Health Humanities: seeks novel ways of understanding health and illness in society, and how methods from the humanities and social studies may be brought to bear on biomedicine, clinical practice, and the politics of healthcare. Experiences and portrayals of health and illness in literature, film and contemporary culture are also studied. [MA Health Humanities at UCL](#).

What sort of professions do you believe this masters naturally lead onto? Could this masters lead onto professions in music or art therapy etc.? What career outcomes/pathways are there following this Masters?

Graduates are likely to progress into a career in arts and health research or professional practice including, arts/nature/community health, public health work such as link worker/community navigator roles, or policy work within the NHS, local authorities, and other local, regional or national organisations working at the interface of community public health.

UCL has its own [Careers](#) department and runs its own job fairs, as do other colleges within the University of London. London is one of the world's hubs for health related programmes and research, and many of your instructors have (had) professional careers outside academia, and can provide advice.

Is there extra support in place for students to help them, since the course is brand new and straddles science and arts?

The programme will be supported by weekly tutorials and each student will have a Personal Tutor.

How do you see careers in this to develop over the next 10 years, & do you think government(s) will support this (through funded roles) or left to 3rd sector?

Graduates are likely to progress into a career in arts and health research or professional practice including, arts/nature/community health, public health work such as link worker/community navigator roles, or policy work within the NHS, local authorities, and other local, regional or national organisations working at the interface of community public health. There are increasing opportunities for employment in this area though it's unlikely the government will fund specific role beyond Link Workers in the near future; non-link worker roles are likely to be funded through existing streams (ACE, Paul Hamlyn etc.).

How do you see Socially Engaged Practice and Arte Útil (Useful art) fitting with creative health?

These are integral to Creative Health approaches.

**What are the downsides and dangers of personalised medicine & social prescribing?
Is it driving the privatisation of health services & further inequalities?**

Accessibility and barriers to access (e.g. digital poverty) are a key area of focus for this programme.

**Can creative health solutions draw on the recent announcements from the treasury
about how we must measure success/wellbeing in a more diverse way than GDP?**

Definitely; the programme will benefit from being linked to ongoing discussions with key Government departments, policy organisations and networks interested in this question, including:

- The National Centre for Creative Health
- Arts Council England
- The National Academy for Social Prescribing and NHS Personalised Care
- DCMS
- UKRI