**Professor Jon Butterworth**
Professor of Physics

“UCL is amazingly well connected – which, given that I spend a lot of time in CERN, Geneva, is very important. Also, having the media and political power centres nearby is exciting and sometimes very useful.”

**Dr Stephanie Bird**
Senior Lecturer in German

“I enjoy pursuing interesting research questions and the opportunity of collaborating with colleagues in different disciplines and areas of research. I am currently Chair of the UCL Centre for Multidisciplinary & Intercultural Inquiry and it has been rewarding to see how new multidisciplinary areas of study are growing and flourishing.”
Applying for research at UCL

CHOOSE AN ACADEMIC, DEPARTMENT OR RESEARCH GROUP

Establishing a dialogue with a prospective supervisor is fundamental to the application process. All applicants, except those applying for advertised studentships (see “Studentships”), are encouraged to send an informal research enquiry. This should either be sent directly to the academic you are interested in working with, or to the departmental contact.

Academics at UCL undertake a lot of interdisciplinary research – for this reason it is recommended that you consider a variety of departments, academics and research groups. We advise you to make use of ALL the sources of information mentioned here to help you identify suitable supervisors or groups for you.

Individual academics

There are three ways to identify an appropriate academic supervisor to contact:

• Browse the UCL Graduate Prospectus to find centres of research in your area of interest. You can click through to the relevant department or centre website to find staff profiles.
  www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate
• Look on UCL’s Institutional Research Information System (IRIS), where you can search for academics and centres of research by keyword. Not all academics are listed in IRIS but it’s a good place to start.
  http://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/
• Search our online research repository (UCL Discovery), where all UCL’s research papers are published (subject to approval). If you identify a research paper that interests you it is possible that one of the authors could be a suitable supervisor.
  http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/

Departments and research groups

You can find contact details for academic departments in the right-hand margin of the relevant pages in our Graduate Prospectus www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate. Alternatively, you can find Graduate Tutor information on the UCL Doctoral School website www.grad.ucl.ac.uk/reslive/

CHECK THAT YOU MEET THE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Entry requirements for our research programmes can be found on the Graduate Prospectus www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate, and you can find the equivalent qualifications for your country on our country pages at www.ucl.ac.uk/international. You may also need to provide proof of your English language proficiency if English is not your first language.

INVESTIGATE ACADEMIC AREAS AT UCL

Identify the programme or programmes which interest you. A list of research programmes offered by UCL can be found on our Graduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/research

INVESTIGATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

You can click through to the relevant department or centre website to find staff profiles.

You can find contact details for academic departments in the right-hand margin of the relevant pages in our Graduate Prospectus www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate. Alternatively, you can find Graduate Tutor information on the UCL Doctoral School website www.grad.ucl.ac.uk/reslive/

APPLY FOR A STUDENTSHP

Follow the application guidance of the studentship.

WAIT FOR A DECISION

You will be able to track the progress of your application via the UCL Applicant Portal – details will be sent to you when your application has been received.

COMPLETE AN APPLICATION

An application is the final stage of the process and should only be submitted when requested by the department, or by an academic, or when you have agreed on a research project with your supervisor.

MAKE A RESEARCH ENQUIRY

Academic members of staff are extremely busy people and receive many research enquiries. It is therefore important to research thoroughly your prospective supervisor’s interests before you contact them, and say who you are and what you want to do clearly and concisely.

Your email should answer the following:

• Are you a UK/EU or overseas student? Where are you from?
• What qualifications do you have, from which institution? What were your grades (remember to include the marking scale)?
• Do you have any research experience? If so, what?
• Have you published any research?
• How will you fund your studies? Do you already have funding in place, or are you intending to apply to a funding body for a scholarship?
• What sources or data you will be using
• What the necessary activities are for the completion of your project
• A set timeframe in which you answer your research question
• A description of your theoretical framework and methodological approach
• What sources or data you will be using
• What the necessary activities are for the completion of your project
• What valuable and useful knowledge will come out of your research
• If you hope to publish your research, and where.

Note: If you are interested in research degrees in UCL Engineering you can enquire and apply using the PRISM application system, at www.prism.ucl.ac.uk

STUDENTSHP

A studentship is a defined research project with funding already attached. They are predominantly in science, technology, engineering and medical areas, and are advertised throughout the year on departmental and employment websites, Doctoral Training Centre websites, and listings websites such as www.findaphd.com. There is also a studentship listing on the UCL Graduate Prospectus website. The availability of studentships changes at the time and each one will have advice attached to it on how to apply.

Note that studentships funded by UK Research Councils are not usually available to students from outside the EU. If you are applying for funding from your government check the requirements and deadlines – these can often be earlier than you would expect.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Master of Philosophy/ Doctor of Philosophy – MPhil/PhD

Usually lasts three years full-time, or five years part-time. PhD study is offered across UCL. Students initially register for the MPhil degree and upgrade after one year, although it is possible to register with the intention of graduating with the MPhil degree.

Doctor in Engineering – EngD

A four-year, full-time programme, with an industrial project undertaken as part of your studies.

Professional Doctorates

Offered at UCL within the Faculties of Brain Sciences and Medical Sciences, these programmes include elements of research, project work and taught components.

Master in Philosophical Studies – MPhil Stud

A two-year research degree that is the same way as applications to Master’s programmes – see www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate

Master of Research – MRes

Some research programmes at UCL require you to apply for, and exist on, an MRes degree – a year-long programme that constitutes the first year of your research. Applications to MRes programmes are made in the same way as applications to Master’s programmes – see www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate

A two-year research degree that is the same way as applications to Master’s programmes – see www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate