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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 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
Browse the UCL Graduate Prospectus to find centres of research in your area of interest. Alternatively, you can find Graduate Tutor information on the www.grad.ucl.ac.uk/essinfo/ . Alternatively, you can find information 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.

STUDENTSHIPS
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 studentships 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.

APPLY FOR A STUDENTSHIP
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.

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?

Your email should also include an outline research proposal. You need to clearly describe the topic, its aims and objectives, and its methodology as concisely as possible; in the first instance it should usually amount to around 500 words. If a prospective supervisor is interested, they can refine and develop your initial outline to produce a final proposal.

A good proposal will include the following:
• A clear and descriptive working title
• Some background and rationale, plus any relevant issues
• Your aims and objectives
• 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

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.

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.

Doctor of Medicine (Research) – MD(Res)
A programme is specifically for clinical practitioners who wish to undertake a place of supervised research associated with their employment.

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 standard route to PhD study in UCL’s Department of Philosophy.

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.