



Applying to UCL LLB LAW from UPCH

The Undergraduate Preparatory Certificate for the Humanities (UPCH) is UCL's one-year foundation programme for international students. It enables students whose high school qualifications are not recognised by UCL for direct entry to progress to undergraduate courses in humanities, social and historical sciences, built environment, education, management sciences and law. Application and progression from the course to UK undergraduate degree programmes is through the UCAS system.

Students on the UPCH course have **two possible strategies to apply to Law:**

1. Direct progression to LLB undergraduate degrees

In practice, the vast majority of UPCH students applying to LLB Law programmes progress directly to an undergraduate degree in law. Over the past 5 years, 90% of UPCH LLB applicants applying through UCAS progressed to LLB Law degrees including at UCL, KCL, Queen Mary, Durham, Bristol, Manchester and other leading Russell Group and University of London law schools.

Applications to UCL LLB Law are intensely competitive: the Law Faculty receives approximately 2500 applications each year, for around 175 places. Students apply through UCAS and are required to take the Law National Aptitude Test (LNAT) in late December/early January. There is no interview for LLB Law M100 at UCL as a rule. However, if you apply to one of the UCL LLB Law with a European Legal System degree programmes (M141, M142, M144 and M146) programmes, you will normally be invited to attend an interview in order to assess your competence in the language of your programme.

2. Applying to Law as a postgraduate

There are a number of undergraduate courses at UCL that are suitable for students with an interest in Law and from which they could progress to a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL). Many British students actually study a classic humanities discipline at undergraduate level, such as English or History, before starting the study of Law.

There are many advantages in this: it allows students to gain maturity, excellent English writing skills and to develop an expertise in the discipline they are studying which will be important in their later career.

Recommended pre-GDL undergraduate degrees at UCL include: English, History, Philosophy, Classics, European Social and Political Studies, Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Economics and Business, Politics and Sociology.

For further information on applying to LLB as a postgraduate, you should research the Graduate Diploma for Law ([GDL](#)).

What are the specific challenges for applying to LLB?

If you wish to apply for an undergraduate degree in Law, you should understand that the application process for progression to the Faculty of Laws is highly competitive. You will have to demonstrate academic excellence, and take a specific test, the Law National Aptitude Test (LNAT):

1. Academic excellence

You will have to demonstrate:

An advanced English level

You will be required to show that your command of the English language, both spoken and written, is adequate to meet the demands of the degree programme. UCL LLB Law demands that applicants should be able to demonstrate an advanced level of English. Requirements for the IELTS qualification are: overall grade of 7.5 with a minimum of 6.5 in each of the subtests;

An interest in the world of ideas, contemporary topics, moral, political and social issues

You will have to show evidence of the interests that are expected of a successful applicant to the Law undergraduate programmes. Your knowledge of the law will not be assessed at this stage, but you will need to demonstrate that you are able to reason about abstract topics, discuss contemporary affairs, and are motivated to engage in the study of law;

Relevant previous experience (both personal and through work experience or volunteering)

UCL Laws has a very active student community, so your general accomplishments may be taken into account in considering the contribution you could make to the extra-curricular life of UCL Laws and UCL overall. Other interests, for example music, travel, sports, or any activities that are considered to broaden your general education, evidence of teamwork, leadership and communication skills will also be taken into account;

In addition, you should be able to show on your application form excellent marks in your past school(s), excellent predicted and final grades on the UPCH, and a strong recommendation from your UPC tutors

You will be considered if you have had excellent marks in high school, have high predicted grades when you apply (A, A*) and if you are awarded the certificate with an overall mark of 70%, plus 76% (A*) in one subject module, and 70% (A) in a second subject module. A strong performance in the two UPCH subject modules is advantageous. You should have a strong recommendation from their referee relating to your academic ability, study skills, motivation for law and personal qualities.

2. The LNAT and the UPCH LNAT SUMMER AND TERM 1 PREPARATION CLASSES

Applicants to UCL Law and some other UK universities are required to take an additional test called the LNAT before their application is finalised. It is a national

test. It is a two-hour exam and consists of two sections: a multiple-choice section and an essay section. The multiple-choice score and the essay are used in different ways by different universities. For UCL, the essay is critical and needs to be very strong.

Visit the website www.lnat.ac.uk for more information on the test and how to prepare.

There are a number of challenges in only applying to universities that require the LNAT:

- The LNAT test has to be taken by mid January, which leaves students only 3 months to prepare. We recommend students take it after the Christmas holidays.
- Students need to have an advanced level of English at the start of the course. This is particularly important for the essay element of the LNAT where a very good level of English needs to be demonstrated as well as a confident knowledge of contemporary issues and affairs. Students should therefore consider also applying to universities that do not require the LNAT (the full list can be found online).

The UPCH LNAT Preparation Classes

Because the LNAT test must be taken early in the academic year (in December or January), students will only have Term 1 to complete preparations for it.

We therefore require future UPCH students to start preparing as soon as their application is being processed and continually over the spring and summer.

Students having accepted their offer will be asked to take part in our Summer LNAT Preparation online module over the summer. During Term 1 they will have to take an additional LNAT preparation class with a dedicated tutor.

Commitment to, and successful completion of the LNAT preparation classes will be specifically mentioned in the UCAS reference.

For more information on these classes, please contact the UPCH Admissions Tutor.

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