



UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES

Foundation courses
for international students
2019 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/upc



Welcome to UCL: London's Global University

UCL (University College London) is a world-leading multidisciplinary university with an international reputation for high-quality research and teaching, being ranked in the top 10 universities worldwide.*

Based in Bloomsbury, central London, UCL's main campus is within walking distance of outstanding academic, social and cultural resources as well as exceptional sporting facilities and entertainment, giving easy access to the world's number one student city.**

About UCL



60 academic departments in **11** faculties



Number **1** in the UK for research strength in the latest (2014) Research Excellence Framework



18 specialist libraries with more than **two million** books



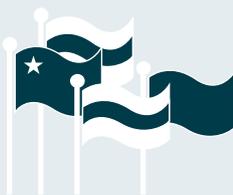
29 Nobel Prize winners



Staff-to-student ratio is **1:10**



41,000 students from more than **150** different countries



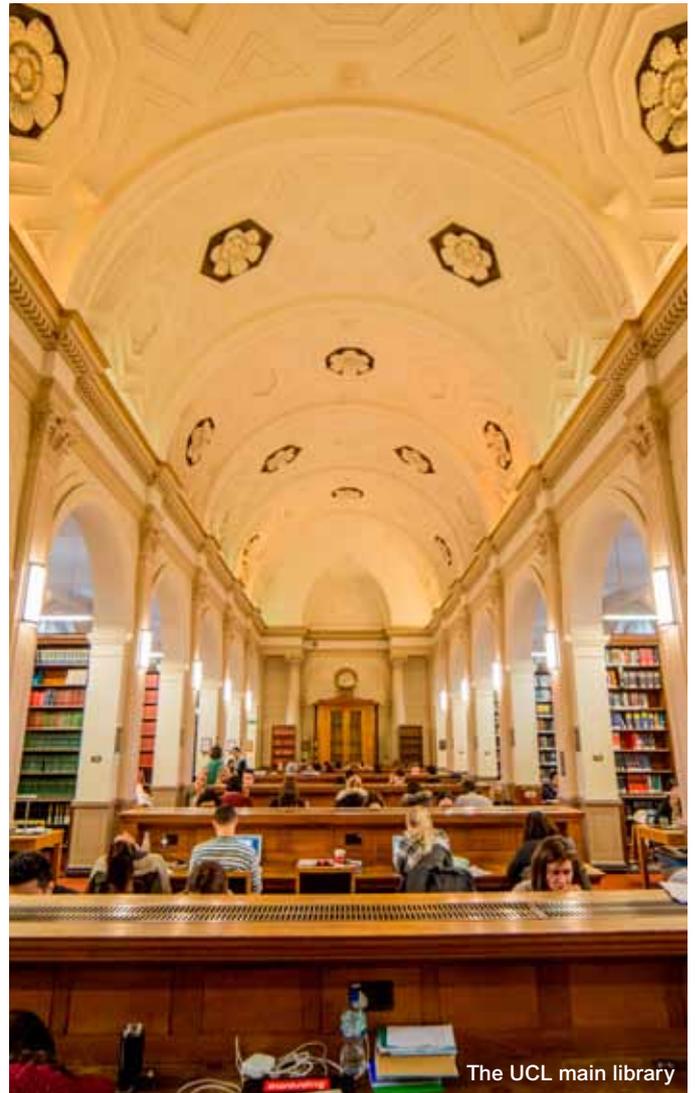
Around **41%** of the student population is from overseas



The Students' Union UCL (SU UCL) has more than **250** clubs and societies

QS World University Rankings 2019

Rank	Institution	Country
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	USA
2	Stanford University	USA
3	Harvard University	USA
4	California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	USA
5	University of Oxford	UK
6	University of Cambridge	UK
7	ETH Zurich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology	Switzerland
8	Imperial College London	UK
9	University of Chicago	USA
10	UCL (University College London)	UK



The UCL main library

* QS World University Rankings 2019

** QS Best Student Cities 2018

UCL Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPC)

Overview

UCL Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPC) are intensive and challenging foundation courses for international students whose home qualifications do not allow direct admission to an undergraduate programme.

The UPC provides you with the essential academic and languages skills, knowledge and support to progress confidently and smoothly onto an undergraduate degree at UCL or other top UK universities.

There are two undergraduate foundation courses at UCL:

- **UCL Undergraduate Preparatory Certificate for Science and Engineering (UPCSE)**
- **UCL Undergraduate Preparatory Certificate for the Humanities (UPCH).**

Over one academic year, the courses provide an intensive preparation for the academic challenges of a top UK degree programme.

Why study the UPC at UCL?

Unique

UCL is the only UK university featured in the top ten of the QS World University Rankings 2019 to offer its own foundation programme, giving you the opportunity to study towards your target degree at one of the world's best universities.

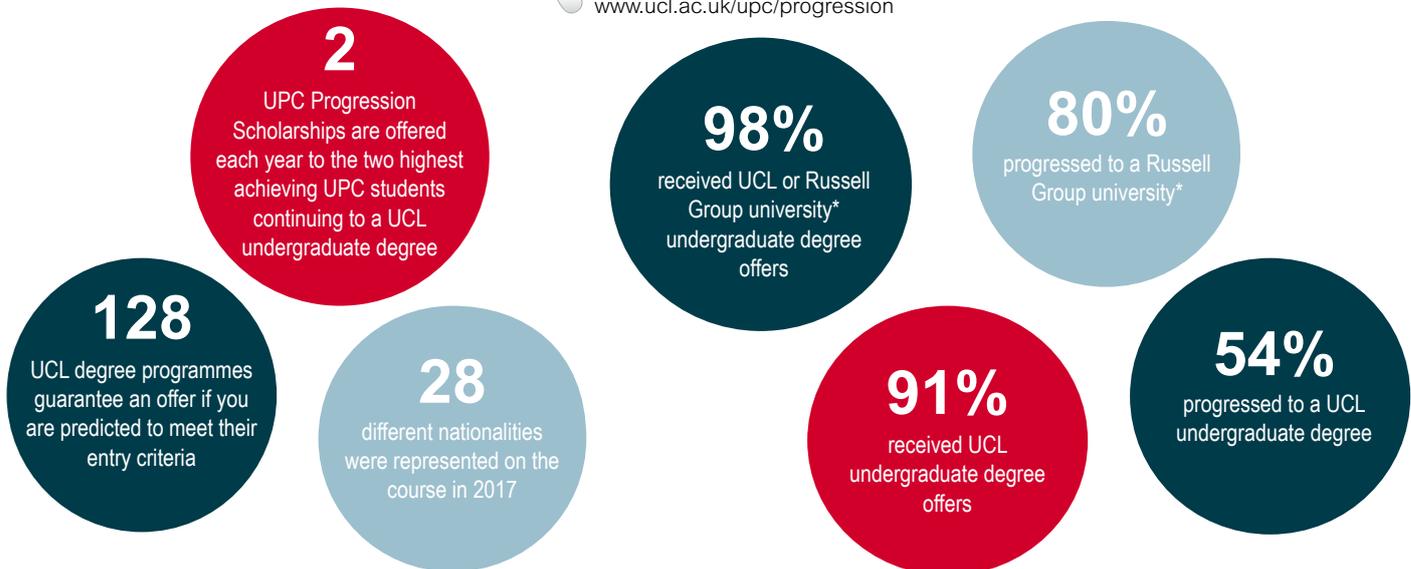
Academic quality & support

You will be taught on campus by highly qualified UCL academic staff with expertise in teaching international students the skills to succeed at undergraduate level. You will receive personalised one-to-one support and have full access to UCL's extensive academic resources.

Immersion

You will gain valuable experience in the British education system and quickly develop an understanding of the learning style required at UCL, including critical thinking and research, complemented by an active social programme.

About the UPC



Academic year: September 2019 – June 2020

Please see website for course dates: www.ucl.ac.uk/upc



*The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK universities. www.russellgroup.ac.uk

Student View



I really like how the subjects are taught on the UPC. The teachers want you to fully understand the material, and not just so you can pass an exam. They are really passionate about their subject.



Name: Arkadiy Serezhkin
Nationality: Russian
Studied: UPCSE (2017)
Progressed to: Engineering (Mechanical with Business Finance) MEng at UCL

UCL Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPC)



Student View

Name: Angie Farfan Garcia
Nationality: Ecuadorian
Studied: UPCH (2015)
Progressed to: Anthropology with a Year Abroad BSc at UCL



The UPC allows international students to adapt to a new environment while advancing their academic knowledge.

The different cultural backgrounds of my classmates, along with my very well-prepared teachers and tutors made the learning environment certainly enjoyable.

I would highly recommend this course to anyone pursuing higher education in the UK. The UPC is a challenge that is definitely worth taking up.



Course details

You will study four modules:

- two compulsory modules
- two optional modules of your choice.

These highly intensive modules rapidly advance your subject knowledge in a range of topics. You will develop critical and analytical skills that are transferable between many disciplines and are vital for successful study at undergraduate degree level.

UPC modules are delivered through lectures, seminars and tutorials, providing an average of 23 UCL class hours* per week, covering:

- practical academic skills
- critical thinking skills
- academic English
- research skills and research projects
- laboratory and practical science skills (UPCSE only)
- LNAT (Law) and STEP (Mathematics) examination preparation (as required)
- design portfolio (UPC for Architecture)
- field trips and personal development opportunities.

You will be continually assessed through regular homework, research projects and exercises, and sit end-of-term exams.

**The UCL class hour is 50 minutes.*

Compulsory modules

You will study two compulsory modules:

- Research and Academic Skills
- Academic English

If you have a near native competence in English you can study a Modern Foreign Language instead of Academic English (see below).

Research and Academic Skills

This module develops your critical thinking and research skills.

UPCSE students take Science & Society, which examines the ethical, social, environmental and technological implications of various scientific issues.

UPCH students take Academic Research: Approaches & Methods, which explores fundamental approaches to knowledge in different disciplines. You will be challenged to reflect critically on how different subject areas and methodologies may relate to and inform one another, and how they apply to your own research.

Individual Research – you will undertake an individual research project in an area which interests and inspires you. This builds your confidence and independence in researching and presenting ideas.

Academic English

The focus is on improving English for academic study. Components include:

- essay writing
- lecture comprehension and effective note-taking
- academic reading
- speaking skills (seminars and presentations).

Or

A Modern Foreign Language

If appropriate, you can study Arabic, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese or Spanish instead of Academic English. The minimum level of English required for this is an IELTS for UKVI (Academic) score of 7.5 or equivalent.



Optional modules

In addition to the compulsory modules, you will select two optional modules. The optional modules are selected according to the requirements of the undergraduate programme you are aiming for. Please see our guide to selecting optional modules.

 www.ucl.ac.uk/upc/modules

UPC applicants wishing to combine UPCH and UPCSE modules should contact the course administrators for advice.

UPCSE

Biology: Biochemistry, genetics and microbiology are covered, as is an awareness of scientific methods, developed with practical laboratory sessions.

Chemistry: Inorganic, organic and physical aspects are all covered, in a way that gives strong emphasis to practical work and is designed to provide a firm foundation for undergraduate study.

Mathematics: Provides a rigorous quantitative analytical basis for degree programmes in numerate disciplines, particularly engineering and the physical sciences.

Physics: This calculus-based course covers both classical and modern physics with a rigorous mathematical approach and an emphasis on experimental and scientific writing skills.

UPCH

Classical Civilisation: Literature,

Philosophy and Politics: Involves the study of some of the most significant and influential drama, philosophy, poetry and historical events of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds, and explores the dialogue between the ancient past and the modern day.

Economics: Examines modern economic activity using conventional principles of micro- and macroeconomics.

Geography and the Built Environment:

Considers how forces such as globalisation, migration and urbanisation are shaping cultures, societies and economies within the contemporary world.

Mathematics: Provides a rigorous quantitative analytical basis for degree programmes in numerate disciplines including economics and statistical sciences.

Modern European Culture: Involves the close analysis of important works of art, film and literature of the modern period to increase the understanding of European culture in its historical, social and political dimensions.

Modern European History and Politics:

Focuses on the history of Western democracy, politics, government and international relations, exploring the concepts of nationalism, globalisation and state sovereignty.

UPC for Architecture

UPC students aiming for the Architecture BSc degree at UCL will study the UPC for Architecture course. In addition to two optional modules and the compulsory academic English module, all UPC for Architecture students will study the compulsory Visual Studies for Architecture and Academic Research: Approaches and Methods (VSAARAM) module.

The Visual Studies for Architecture (VSA) component of this module is delivered at the UCL Bartlett School of Architecture, providing a unique opportunity to experience first-hand what it means to study Architecture at UCL.

Bartlett tutors will support you in developing and refining your portfolios to support your undergraduate degree applications to the UCL Bartlett School of Architecture and other top UK architecture schools.

 www.ucl.ac.uk/upc/architecture



Student View

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The UPC is one of the best foundation year courses in the UK, so I thought there would be a high probability to progress to a top UK university. This was important for me, as I wanted to apply to Oxford or Cambridge.

The UPC also introduced me to the application process and helped me a lot to prepare my university application.

”

Name: Yijie Yin

Nationality: Chinese

Studied: UPCSE (2017)

Progressed to: Psychological and Behaviour Sciences BSc at the University of Cambridge



Entry requirements and application

Am I eligible?

You will:

- be over 16 years old at the start of the course
- typically be a high achiever in a 12-year school system which does not meet the standard required for direct entry to a UCL undergraduate degree.

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus

If you are under the age of 18 at the point of enrolment, you should familiarise yourself with UCL's essential information for under 18s before applying.

www.ucl.ac.uk/upc/under-18

What are the entry requirements?

Academic requirements – you will need to present excellent grades on school transcripts.

Please see our website for a list of suitable country qualifications for entry onto the UPC and minimum grades required.

www.ucl.ac.uk/upc/applications

English language requirements – you must hold an IELTS for UKVI (Academic)

Course	IELTS overall minimum	IELTS subtest minimum
UPC for Science & Engineering (UPCSE)	5.5	5.5
UPC for the Humanities (UPCH)	6.0	6.0
UPC with Modern Foreign Languages (UPCMFL)	7.5	7.5

When can I apply?

Entry onto UCL UPC courses is competitive. Applications for 2019 entry open in November 2018 and should be made as early as possible. Please check the website for relevant application deadlines.

How do I apply?

Applications are made directly to the UCL Centre for Languages & International Education. Applications are made online at:

www.ucl.ac.uk/upc



What documents do I need?

- Fully completed application form – including the personal statement section
- A teacher's reference
- Copies of school transcripts
- An IELTS for UKVI (Academic) – see English language minimum requirements
- Application fee
- A portfolio (for Architecture applicants only) – this should include at least six observational drawings as well as work in other media, such as paintings, collages, 3D and photographs.

Following receipt of a completed application and the application fee, suitable candidates will be contacted regarding UPC entrance tests.

What are the entrance tests?

Suitable applicants will be required to take entrance tests, and, if successful, will be interviewed for the course.

UPCSE: Select two subjects from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics. The choice depends on which optional modules you intend to study.

UPCH: Critical Thinking (and Mathematics for applicants selecting Mathematics as an option).

You should be familiar with the relevant sample test(s) prior to application. Sample tests can be taken online at:

www.ucl.ac.uk/upc/tests

Tuition fees

Tuition fees	
2019 Entry	
UPCSE: £20,550	UPCH: £19,750
UPCSE for Architecture: £21,550	UPCH for Architecture: £20,750

Details of other costs associated with the course (e.g. living expenses, field trips and excursions) can be found online.

www.ucl.ac.uk/upc

Accommodation

www.ucl.ac.uk/accommodation

Accommodation is guaranteed for applicants who have accepted an offer and meet the accommodation application deadline of 31 May 2019.

The fees you pay for your accommodation will vary depending on your needs, the location and facilities. The majority of UCL accommodation is within 10–30 minutes' walk of the main campus.

The following tables show you the range of fees for 2018/19 per week. Fees for 2019/20 will be set in the Spring of 2019.

Self-catered: UCL Student Houses
Twin room: £98 – £149 per week
Single room: £138 – £284 per week
Catered: UCL Halls of Residence
Twin room: £149 – £162 per week
Single room: £181 – £236 per week

For more information scan this QR code or visit our website



Disclaimer

This information is for guidance only. It should not be construed as advice nor relied upon and does not form part of any contract. For more information on UCL Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates, please see our website.

www.ucl.ac.uk/upc

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