



UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES

Foundation courses
for international students
2018 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.

Based in the heart of London, UCL is centrally located in the cosmopolitan university district of Bloomsbury. The main campus is within easy reach of outstanding academic, social and cultural resources, such as the British Library and the British Museum.

About UCL



60 academic departments in **11** faculties



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



The highest number of professors in any UK university



29 Nobel Prize winners



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



39,000 students from **156** different countries



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 2018

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 Cambridge	UK
6	University of Oxford	UK
7	UCL (University College London)	UK
8	Imperial College London	UK
9	University of Chicago	USA
10	ETH Zurich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology	Switzerland



The UCL main quad

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 leading UK university featured in the top ten of the QS World University Rankings 2018 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.

Progression – Over the past 10 years, UPC students have entered over 70 different UCL undergraduate degree programmes.

 www.ucl.ac.uk/upc/progression

91%
of UPC students received UCL undergraduate degree offers in 2016/17

98%
received UCL or Russell Group university* undergraduate degree offers in 2016/17

61%
progressed to a UCL undergraduate degree last year

123
UCL degree programmes guarantee an offer if you are predicted to meet their entry criteria

84%
progressed to a Russell Group university* last year

2
UPC Progression Scholarships are offered each year to the two highest achieving UPC students continuing to a UCL undergraduate degree



Academic View



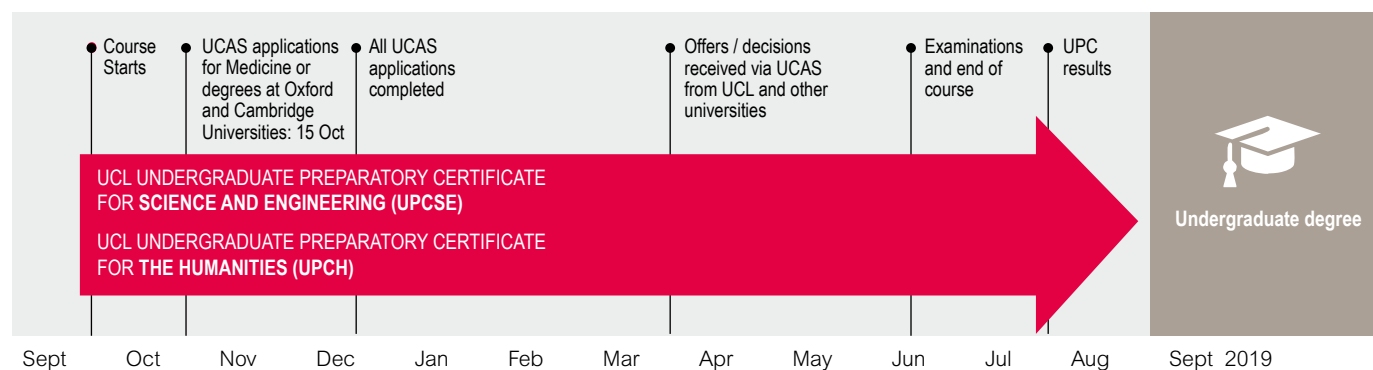
The UPCH course provides ideal preparation for an economics degree. Over recent years, some of our best students have come from there.



Dr Malcolm Pemberton, Undergraduate Admissions Tutor, Economics BSc (Econ), UCL

Academic Year: September 2018 – June 2019

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



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

UCL Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPC)



Student View

Angie Farfan Garcia,
UCL Anthropology with a Year
Abroad BSc, Former UCL UPCH student



The UPC programme is one of the most challenging and competitive foundation courses in the UK. It 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)
- BMAT (Medicine), 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 European 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 European Language

If appropriate, you can study French, German, Italian 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 Academic English, all UPC for Architecture students will study the compulsory Visual Studies for Architecture and Academic Research: Approaches and Methods (VSAARAM) module, 50% of which is taught at the UCL Bartlett School of Architecture, providing the 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



Why did you choose to study at UCL? During my last year at senior school, I wanted to experience something different at university; the UPC gave me the opportunity to get into a highly ranked university and helped with the transition between two education systems.

UCL is also in the centre of London and is a big global university, so we have the chance to meet students from different backgrounds.

How did the UPC help you in your degree? The UPC was taught on campus, so I could get insight into what university is like in the UK.

One important skill I learned was how to write academic essays. It was hard for me at first, as I didn't know what structure to use. After the weekly classes, I got a good grasp of writing and it helped a lot in my studies now.

What did you do when you were not studying the UPC? We went on trips to the countryside through the UPC social activities programme and were encouraged to explore London events such as musicals and clubs. Those were wonderful experiences and we were opened up to the big UCL community.

What advice would you give to a prospective student? Maybe London is quite scary when you first come here but don't be shy; be open to this new environment. This beautiful city functions the same as others in the world. However, it has its own beauty and atmosphere. Just study hard, enjoy your life and live up to your own expectations.



Xianya Qiu is a former UPCSE student, now in her second year of Statistics, Economics & Finance BSc at UCL.



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 European Languages (UPCMel)	7.5	7.5


 www.ucl.ac.uk/upc/english

When can I apply?

Entry onto UCL UPC courses is competitive. Applications for 2018 entry open in November 2017 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


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

Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates UCL Centre for Languages & International Education

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26 Bedford Way
London WC1H 0AP

 +44 (0)20 7679 8664

 upc@ucl.ac.uk

 www.ucl.ac.uk/upc



What documents do I need?

- Fully completed application form – including a personal statement
- 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, Maths or Physics. The choice depends on which optional modules you take.

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  www.ucl.ac.uk/upc/fees	
2018 Entry	
UPCSE: £19,950	UPCH: £18,450
UPCSE for Architecture: £20,950	UPCH for Architecture: £19,450

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 2018.

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 2017/18 per week. Fees for 2018/19 will be set in the Spring of 2018.

Self-catered: UCL Student Houses
Twin room: £102 – £125 per week
Single room: £135 – £235 per week

Catered: UCL Halls of Residence
Twin room: £154 – £166 per week
Single room: £185 – £222 per week

For more information
scan this QR code or
visit our website

