Applying for research at UCL

Investigate academic areas at UCL

Check you meet the requirements

Choose an academic department or research group

Enquire make a research enquiry

Apply complete an application

Apply for a studentship

Funded research opportunities

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 one or more of the following sites:

- UCL Doctoral Training Centre and programmes: ucl.ac.uk/tdtts or UCL Studentships: ucl.ac.uk/studentships
- Faculty and department sites: www.ucl.ac.uk/about/how/faculties
- Listings sites like: www.findaphd.com or www.jobs.ac.uk

Availability of studentships is ad hoc in nature, and each one will have specific advice on how to apply.

Note that studentships funded by UK Research Councils, including most Doctoral Training opportunities, 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.

You should usually amount to around 500 words. If a prospective supervisor is interested, then you can refine and develop your initial outline to produce a final proposal.

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?
- Do you have any research experience? If so, what?
- Have you published any research?
- How will you fund your studies?

Research proposal

Research proposals are more common in arts and social sciences areas. They are not usually required in science, technology, engineering and medical areas, where research is usually done in research groups. If applicable, 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, then you 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, rationale and any relevant issues
- Your aims and objectives
- A description of your theoretical framework and methodological approach
- What sources or data you will be using
- What valuable and useful knowledge will come out of your research.

Your school 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.
Why UCL?

£476m
Research grant income
UCL annual report and financial statement 2017/18

29
Nobel Laureates
29 Nobel Prizes have been awarded to people who are, or were, students or academics at UCL

8th
in the world
QS World University Rankings 2020

1st
for research strength in the UK
UCL is the top-rated university in the UK for research strength (REF 2014)

155
countries represented by UCL staff and students
UCL attracts the best and the brightest staff and students from all over the world

Partners
UCL's ongoing links with industry:
Arup, Cisco, BBC, EU, CERN, NASA, UK Parliament, UN, Dyson, British Museum, Eisai, Microsoft, and Intel, among others.

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's degree programmes please see the UCL Graduate Prospectus at ucl.ac.uk/graduate
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