DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

Undergraduate Courses in the Department of Science and Technology Studies at UCL

Welcome to your new department

Science and Technology Studies is an interdisciplinary centre for the integrated study of science. It is unique in combining – in one department – history and philosophy of science with the social studies of science (sociology, science policy and science communication). We also have a strong focus on engagement: interacting with community groups, schools and other public audiences, from the department's home in the heart of London.

Dr Emma Tobin and Prof. Jon Agar - STS Co-heads of Department

Our department is going from strength to strength, winning international awards and receiving high scores for our teaching. While we've offered Masters degrees since our inception in 1921, our undergraduate programme began in 1993. The STS UCL community network has been growing since 1921 and we have sent alumni all over the world, into a wide range of different careers, providing ample networking possibilities for our students. Yet, we often find that applicants don't fully understand what STS involves - which is where this booklet comes in.

We've recently seen some considerable scientific discoveries, with evidence of gravity waves and the Higgs boson, and technology is now part of our every-day life. But science doesn't exist in a vacuum. We look at science from a number of different perspectives - historical, philosophical, and sociological. We explore how science is funded, and for what purpose. We teach you how to communicate complex scientific ideas to the wider public. More than that - we teach you to take a critical approach to science itself, in order to truly understand what happens when science meets the real world.

Teaching is research-led and we pride ourselves in training students to ask the right kind of questions. Does science Improve our health? In a global world, whose science counts? Who should communicate science? Who counts as an expert? How should technology shape our future? Is scientific knowledge progressive? What counts as evidence for a scientific theory? Has data-driven science brought clarity to science and how can scientists cope with data deluge? Are ethics and science in opposition?

Our History of Science courses cover the concept of science from antiquity to the 20th century, but we also look at specific topics in depth such as science and war, science and industry, science and religion and many more. How can evidence from archives, libraries, museums and oral testimonies be used to shed light on these questions? At STS, students are trained with the right critical skills to tackle the problems facing society today. The unique interdisciplinary setting at STS ensures that students develop a solid knowledge of fundamentals in a number of disciplines, while also encouraging a unique perspective for analysis, reflection, curiosity and critique.

In this booklet, you will find the details of our two BSc courses, **BSc in Sociology and Politics of Science** and **BSc in History and Philosophy of Science**. There is also information about other options such as Study Abroad. You can read about some of the module options that we offer, and the careers that can develop from a degree in STS. You can also find out about open days and other chances to visit the department. If you'd like to find out more, we recommend our website at **www.ucl.ac.uk/sts**, our twitter account **@stsucl** and facebook account **facebook.com/STSUCL.** There you can read news from the department, watch videos of some of our recent guest lectures, and find out more about our research and teaching, along with schemes such as the 1Book programme.

We've received a 100% student satisfaction rating three times in recent years, but we're not complacent. We know that every year is a new challenge. STS academics, our professional services team, and fellow students all pitch in to make the department what it is: a friendly, close-knit student and staff community where everyone seeks to fulfil their academic potential.

Dr Emma Tobin & Professor Jon Agar

Contents

Phone - 0207 679 1328
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Find our social media details on the back page

What *is* STS?

Understanding the Past, Present and Future of Science, Technology and Medicine in Society

The BT Tower - visible from the STS common room, and a living example of technology in society.

We work across disciplines to answer the questions of today

Can genetic engineering feed the world? Will automation leave us all unemployed? How have the internet and social media changed the way we communicate? Can we rid the world of weapons of mass destruction?

Developments in science and technology can often promise fresh solutions, but also raise problems. How can subjects such as history, philosophy, sociology and politics, help solve the many challenges that we face in the twenty-first century that involve new science and technology?

The field of Science and Technology Studies tackles these questions and issues through the lens of a number of different disciplines:

History of Science

Historians of science explore the development of science, technology and medicine from its origins to the present, and look critically at the different ways in which past societies understood the world, the body and how it all works. We study the complicated relations between scientific, popular, and religious views of the natural world and our place in it.

History of science teaches students how to critically analyse, interpret and contextualise original sources, including written accounts, images, material objects, and oral histories - but rather than just catalogue these inventions and discoveries, we train students to find the connections between past and present concerns.

Philosophy of Science

Philosophers ask fundamental questions about the nature and foundations of what science means.

Is there a single unique scientific method that makes science different from religion, art or politics?

Does science discover reality, or does it simply make sophisticated models of the world?

What do we mean when we talk about 'evidence', 'cause and effect' or other scientific terms that we use everyday?

How do we address ethical questions raised by science? Should we experiment on animals? Or control the climate of the planet through geo-engineering?

Sociology of Science

Sociologists want to understand how modern societies work. Sociologists of science want to know ***specifically*** about the role of science and technology in modern societies.

This involves looking at how science and technology change the way we live; but also, asks how society influences the type of science and technology that is carried out, and what gets ignored.

Sociology of science asks how social factors such as gender, race and disability influence who gets to “do science”, and what type of science gets done.

Sociology of science also involves science communication - how science is reported in the mass media and, more practically, how to use this knowledge to create your own media such as a blog, news article or podcast about a scientific subject.

Politics of Science

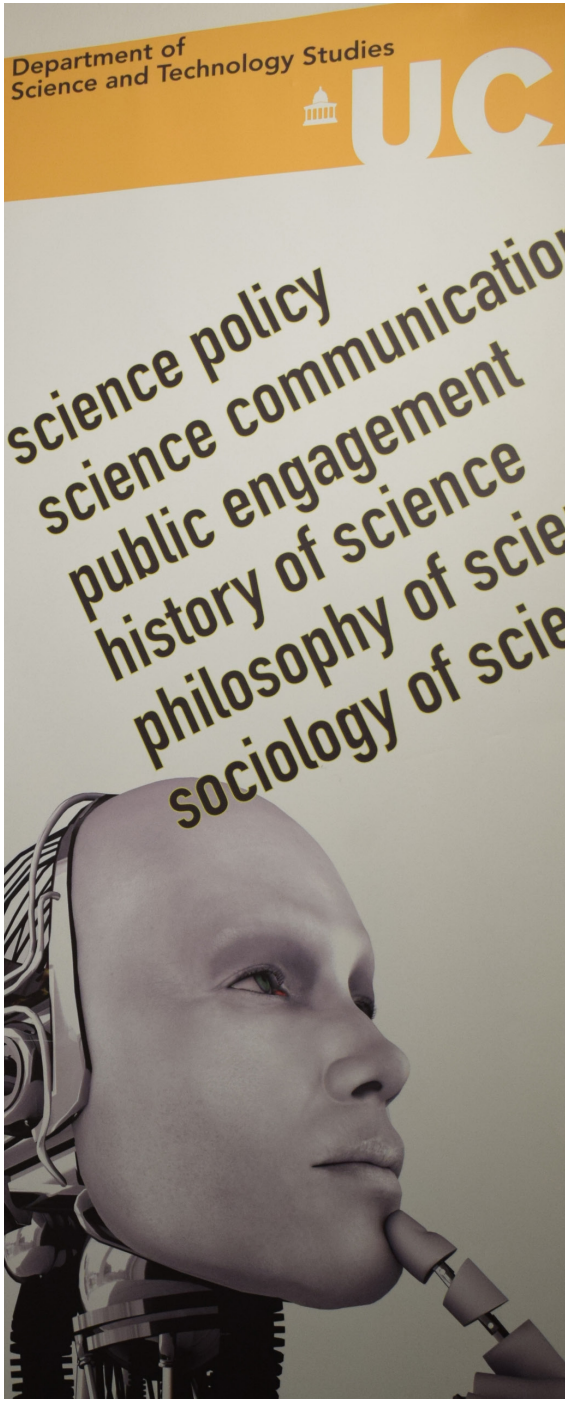
Science and technology are often regarded as separate from the world of politics, but think about, for example, the politics of controlling science-based weapons, or funding new weapons research. Do ordinary people have a say in whether new technologies such as automated cars should be allowed? What are the issues raised when firms access your personal online data to influence elections and referenda?

Addressing these concerns requires a rigourous understanding of how science, technology and politics interact.

The Department

UCL’s Department of Science and Technology Studies (abbreviated to STS) is UCL’s teaching and research centre for the integrated study of history of science, philosophy of science, sociology of science, science communication, and the politics of science. We often use ‘science’ as shorthand for science, technology and medicine although there are important differences between them.

The department was founded in 1921, but expanded from the 1990s when it began offering undergraduate degrees in the field.



Our teaching staff have an international reputation across the whole field of history, philosophy, sociology and politics – all focussing on understanding the past, present and future of science and technology.

We look for students who are curious about the way science has developed in the past, as well as current and future problems and promises raised by science and technology.

We avoid the constraints of single-discipline approaches, and recruit students who want to have a thorough grounding in history, philosophy, sociology and politics as they relate to the role of science in the wider world.

Read the STS 1Book

Each year, we choose the STS 1Book to be read by every student and staff member in the summer before teaching starts. This gives everyone a common starting point for discussions, and helps to integrate the different aspects of the department.

In 2018-19, our chosen book was ‘Inferior: The True Power of Women and the Science That Shows It’ by Angela Saini, which investigates the gender wars in biology, psychology and anthropology. In previous years, 1Books have included Ben Goldacre’s ‘Bad Science’, Mark Henderson’s ‘Geek Manifesto’ and Henry Nicholls’ ‘The Galapagos: A Natural History’. Check the STS Website in summer 2019 for our next 1Book!

Interdisciplinarity

STS covers a wide range of subject areas - but we know that science and understanding spread further than our walls. We pride ourselves on working alongside researchers and students from across the academic community.

As an STS student, you’re encouraged to take modules from other departments to widen your knowledge, and we welcome students from other courses into our modules. You may be discussing human cloning with a medical student, or the viewpoints of Plato with a psychologist. Most of our teaching staff have experience from outside the academic system, and can relate their teaching to real world examples.

As you’ll see from the modules that we offer (see page 13), you’ll be able to take your learning in the direction that interests you. The Department has received a number of awards for teaching, including a 100% satisfaction rating in the National Student Survey in 2014, 2015 and 2017.

In 2019 we’ll also introduce our new Sociology and Politics of Science BSc course (see page 8), which will focus on how science influences, and is influenced by, politics and the society.

The Wider World

We know that degrees have to show their worth. On later pages, you can read profiles of current students and recent alumni, and find details of the varied career paths open to you upon graduation.

Our students can visit the Houses of Parliament, create exhibits for museums, or film documentaries with a professional film-maker. They learn how to analyse complex concepts, and to communicate them to a range of audiences.

If you love science, but want a career away from the lab, STS could be the department for you.

Degrees in STS

As you've read by now, Science and Technology Studies covers a wide range of subject areas, but attempts to bring them all together into an interdisciplinary understanding of the world. To that end, we offer two distinct degree paths, which lead to two separate qualifications – BSc History and Philosophy of Science, and new for 2019, BSc Sociology and Politics of Science.

As both subjects require a breadth of understanding, the two BSc courses share an identical first year, with half of the modules focussed on History and Philosophy of Science (HPS) and half on Sociology and Politics of Science (SPS). This means that students can change between the two paths at any point up until the end of the first year.

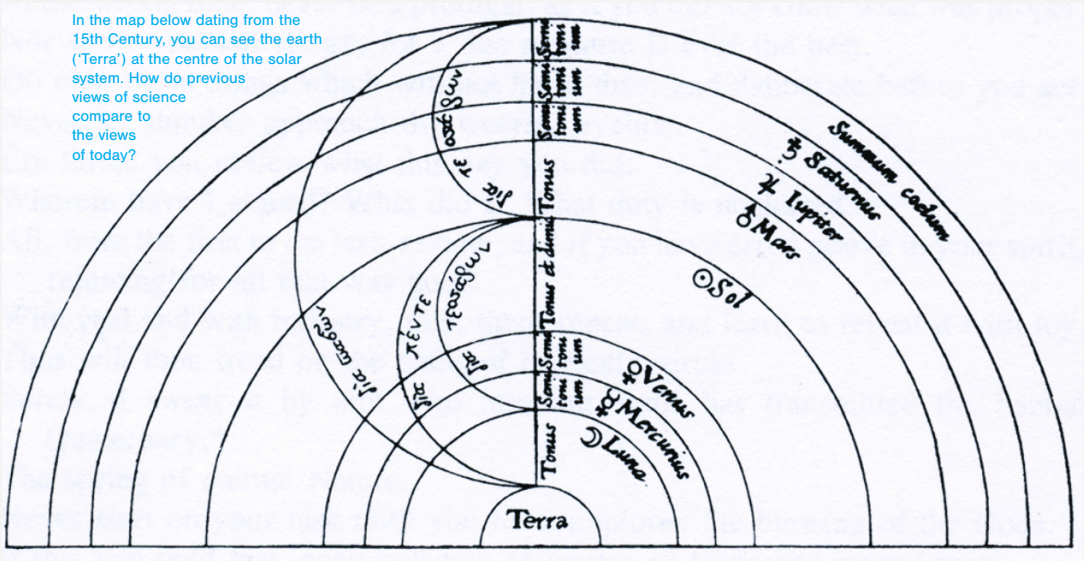
While we ask that students take modules from both areas in years 2 and 3, the degree courses do diverge at that point. You can read more about the specific modules we offer on page 14 – but you may be wondering, what are the differences between the courses? How can I decide which is best for me? Below, we'll try to explain the differences between the two, to help you make sense of it all.

BSc Sociology and Politics of Science

BSc Sociology and Politics of Science (SPS) is a new course title we're introducing for 2019. We previously offered a course titled 'Science and Society', and while the content has remained broadly similar, SPS spends more time on the links between science and the political sphere, as well as between science and the general public.

When we talk about 'science', what do we mean? Public ideas of science usually involve eccentric old men working alone in laboratories – think of Einstein in his patent office, or Doc Brown in the Back to the Future films. However, most of the science that we deal with every day is the result of considerable co-operation.

For example, the iPhone is one of the most successful recent inventions, and we talk at length about the genius of Steve Jobs, or Apple's designer Jony Ive. But what actually goes into making an iPhone? Most of the components are actually made by different companies. For example, iPhone cameras are made by Qualcomm, based in the USA. Their LCD screens are made by Sharp and LG, based in Japan and South Korea. The accelerometer, which senses movement, is made by Bosch Sensortech, based in Germany, and each of these companies has factories around the world. Can we really say that Apple 'makes' the iPhone, or do they just 'assemble' it? What are the differences between those two terms?



In the map below dating from the 15th Century, you can see the earth ('Terra') at the centre of the solar system. How do previous views of science compare to the views of today?

WE OFFER TWO DISTINCT DEGREES: BSc HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE, AND BSc SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICS OF SCIENCE

We all use GPS in order to find our way around, but the Global Positioning System (to give it its' full title) is actually owned by the US government, and operated by the US Air Force. Similar systems are owned and operated by the Russian and Chinese governments. Why do governments create such systems? Initially, GPS was designed for use by the US military, and opened up for civilian use in the 1980s. These days, GPS is used for agriculture, tracking fleets, navigation, surveying, tectonics and many other civilian purposes – yet the US government could, at any time, close it down. How would things differ if this system was owned by a private company?

As you can see, the way science is carried out goes far beyond the idea of one person in a lab. People's understanding of science is also very different to what happens in the scientific community. While scientists may feel that matters around genetically modified organisms or climate change are settled, the attitudes of the public are in less agreement. How can scientists convince the public if the public won't listen to scientific arguments? Might there be times where the scientific approach doesn't have the right answer? If you're interested in how

Student Profile

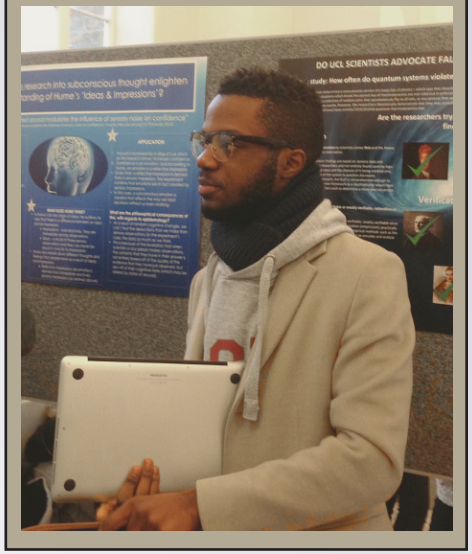
Dylan Kawende

BSc History and Philosophy of Science

Dylan joined the department in 2016 to study HPS, and has since spent a summer as an intern with the prestigious Linklaters law firm in New York. In addition, he holds the position of Events officer for the UCL Law for All society, and chair of the STS Lunar Society.

"What attracted me most to STS was the cross-disciplinary nature of the degree. I imagined that combining subjects like History, Philosophy and Science at university level would make for an enriching and intellectually stimulating experience, and it certainly has. People don't generally think art and science are compatible, but being part of STS has enabled me to see otherwise, which is great because I love them both!

The department is incredibly supportive and encourages you to be as creative as you wish with electives. Since I intend to read law after my undergraduate degree, I hope to focus my dissertation on the notion of scientific proof and how that concept gets applied in court. If you have a broad range of interests surrounding science and you'd like the opportunity to explore then STS is for you."



science interacts with the modern world, and how best to communicate scientific ideas to non-expert audiences, BSc SPS is the choice for you.

SPS covers modules such as 'Science in Popular Culture', 'Science and Ethics', and 'Policy Issues in the Life Sciences' in the second year, and 'Science Journalism', Science Communication in Digital Environments', 'Governing Emerging Technology' and 'Nature, Technology and the Environment' in the third year.

BSc History and Philosophy of Science

Compared to Sociology and Politics, BSc History and Philosophy of Science (HPS) may sound too focussed on the past. This couldn't be further from the truth.

Firstly, looking at the history and philosophy of science is often a great way of looking differently at current developments. For example, the term 'scientist' was not used until the early 19th century. Before then, the closest synonym would be 'Natural Philosopher'. It was thought that knowledge would be found through philosophical thought.

The STS recording studio is available for students to record podcasts, interviews and voiceovers

The entire idea of a scientific method developed from philosophical thinking. In fact, there are many different forms of scientific method, from a philosophical viewpoint. We use terms like 'evidence' regularly in discussions, but what actually counts as 'evidence'?

In historical terms, how have viewpoints about medicine changed? We can draw direct comparisons between today's vaccine scares, and the fear the public had about the very first smallpox vaccines. Computers may be ever present in our lives, but the first computer was build nearly 200 years ago, and many of the thought experiments that drive modern computing come from Alan Turing's work during World War II.

We're told that new developments will change our lives, both for better and for worse - but people were told the same about the invention of the printing press, the telegram and television. What can we learn from these episodes in the past?

Modules in HPS include 'Philosophy of Science', 'Science and Empire', 'Evolution in Science and Culture' and 'History of Natural Sciences' in year two, and 'Science, Warfare and Peace', 'Philosophy of Chemistry', 'Sleep and Dreaming', 'Science, Art and Philosophy' and 'Madness and Society' in year three.

Other Options

These aren't the only ways to study STS at UCL. The Department of Natural Sciences offers two streams in the BSc and MSci programmes. You can choose to study History and Philosophy of Science, or Policy, Communication and Ethics, as half of your course along with any of their other streams. For more details, visit the UCL Natural Sciences website.

Medical School students can also take STS as part of their studies, with the Medical School Integrated BSc (iBSc). Again, more details can be found via the UCL Medical School website.

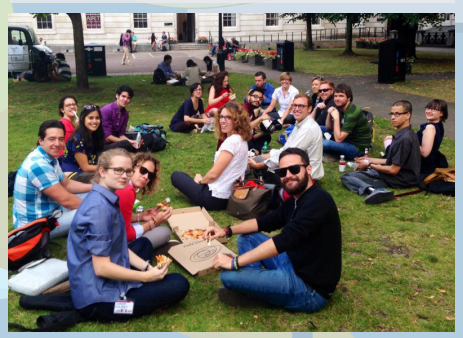
Year Abroad

UCL has long running exchange agreements with over 250 institutions in 40 countries across 5 continents, and from 2020, the Department of STS will be taking part.

BSc with a Year Abroad takes four years, as opposed to the standard three - you take your first two years as normal, while also learning about the language and culture of your host country. Assuming that you maintain sufficiently high grades, your third year is then spent overseas in an exchange department, before you return for your fourth year to complete your degree at UCL.

We don't currently have a list of which institutions will be open to STS students, but you can find examples on the UCL Study Abroad page. From late summer 2019, we hope to have more details on the STS website.

The Department also offers Affiliate study - this is where students from overseas universities visit the department for a semester or two to take our modules. This gives students a chance to bring STS approaches into their degrees, and introduces a wider range of cultures to our home students.



Of course, as well as STS students travelling abroad, we have overseas students coming to STS! The photo above shows students from FSU visiting UCL in the summer of 2014.

Student Profile

Flossie Boyd

BSc History and Philosophy of Science

"I chose HPS because I had quite a lot of trouble deciding what I wanted to do. I did humanities and science at A level and I had strong interests in all areas of my study. I really didn't want to commit to one route! I had no interest in being a professional scientist, so I thought I was more likely to go down the humanities route, but I really wanted to stay in touch with science. A lot of the history and philosophy and ethics interested me, but also the policy and communications side. This course completely ticked all those boxes!

I think it's really important when you're studying a degree to have strong interests elsewhere. Sometimes being in that kind of student environment can be quite toxic because you don't step out of your comfort zone. This course is much more like real life, with the range of people you meet and subjects you cover.

Just before I arrived, I got so scared about living in a big city - all the crime and using public transport worried me so much - but as soon as I arrived and settled into living in student halls, living with people going through the same thing, all of those fears disintegrated!"

STS in the Media

Television, radio and newspapers are always looking for scientists to explain the world to their audience. With their wide range of expertise, and their knowledge of how to successfully communicate scientific ideas, our academics are regularly featured in the media.

On the left you can see examples from recent years. Dr Carina Fearnley appeared on Channel 4 News to discuss the recent volcanic activity in Bali, while Dr Jack Stilgoe and his class were on CBS discussing the history of Frankenstein. Dr Simon Werrett was a main contributor to Lucy Worsley's 'Fireworks for a Tudor Queen' on BBC4, and Prof. Jon Agar explained the awarding of UNESCO status to Porton Down to ITV News.

These appearances aren't just restricted to TV media. Our staff are frequently requested to appear on radio, and often write for the print media, with recent appearances in The Guardian, The Conversation, Nature and many others.

This high regard for the department doesn't stop at our lecturers, with our MSc and PhD students also regularly appearing in specialist publications, podcasts and live shows such as 'Science Showoff' and 'Bright Club'.

We can also prepare students for a media career. Rather than just write essays and sit exams, some modules ask you to record a podcast, write a blog or film a short documentary as part of their teaching process.

Our modules also invite those in the industry to speak to students, including Horizon editor Steve Crabtree and presenters Chris van Tulleken and Jamie Bartlett, and students from our MSc programme were recently commissioned to write scripts for BBC Future's online videos.

Science isn't finished until it's communicated. With the skills you learn at STS, you'll be at the front of the pack.

Department Modules

Teaching at UCL, as at all modern universities, is broken down into a range of separate modules. Each year, you're expected to take 8 modules, which cover a range of different material.

In STS, your first year only consists of compulsory modules - our aim is that students on both SPS (Sociology and Politics of Science) and HPS (History and Philosophy of Science) courses get a thorough grounding in the material we consider to be essential. As the first year is identical for both SPS and HPS, you're able to change between the courses at any point before the beginning of your second year.

Once year 2 begins, you'll start to specialise. Perhaps you'll choose to focus on science in the medieval age, government policy, or emerging technologies? Whichever route you choose, we offer a range of modules for you to customise your learning to fit your needs.

In addition to the compulsory choices, we also ask students to choose some optional modules. Some of these must be taken within the department, but are not restricted to either HPS or STS. Some modules can be taken from anywhere – you may choose to stay within the department, or you may choose a module from elsewhere, say philosophy or physics. You must get agreement from your tutor and the external department that the modules form a coherent study plan, but beyond that, you're free to choose.

Staff and students are always happy to discuss available options - above, at a UCL Open Day

Below are some examples of modules we have offered in previous years. Please note that while we will always offer a wide range, the particular modules offered change from year to year, as we take advantage of new developments and the expertise of new staff members to make sure our teaching is up-to-the-minute.

A full list of all available modules, including syllabi, assessment methods and reading lists, can be found on the STS website – just look for 'HPSC Modules'

First Year Modules

As mentioned above, your first year consists of eight compulsory modules – four in term 1, and four in term 2. These are:

History of Science: Antiquity to Enlightenment – learn about the origins and development of science from the ancient Greeks to 1800.

Philosophy of Science 1 – an introduction to Philosophy of Science. Learn about the epistemology and metaphysics of science.

History of Modern Science – science from 1850 to the present, including new disciplines such as quantum physics, relativity and genetics.

Science Policy – look at the relationships between science and the state. Focus on current case studies, such as geoengineering and biometric technologies.

Investigating Sociology and Politics of Science – an introduction to the academic skills needed for study in STS. Learn how to do basic research, avoid plagiarism, and write a convincing argument.

Science Communication and Public Engagement – learn about the relationships between science and the public sphere, and how to critically analyse the news media, museums and other forms of communication.

Revealing Science – a sampler module, covering a range of concepts and issues in science and technology studies as a foundation for later study.

STS Perspectives on Big Problems - our new module for 2019-20, looking at how STS approaches can help with issues such as climate change, fake news and artificial intelligence.

Second Year Modules

All modules in the department are classed as either SPS or HPS based. In your second year, we ask that you take a minimum of three modules from your chosen stream, one from the opposing stream, and two others of your choice from within the department. We then allow your final two modules to be taken from anywhere at UCL.

We currently offer 11 different second year modules, although this changes from year to year, and over 20 modules have previously been offered. Options include:

Science and Religion – examine the relations between science, religion and progress. What is the relation between science and religion in Islam or in China? What was the role of Christianity in the scientific revolution of the 17th century?

Science and Empire – what was the role of science in navigation, cartography and slavery? How did science make empire possible, and how was it shaped in return?

Engaging the Public with Science – how can scientists share their knowledge through such means as science festivals and museums – and how can public groups such as patients get involved with scientific research?

Science in Government - science is increasingly seen as a source of advice and evidence for policymakers throughout government. But how are ideas converted into law, treaty and regulation, and how are they implemented within government?

Third Year Modules

As with the second year, third year students have to choose three modules from their stream, and two from the opposing stream. Students are also expected to submit a dissertation, which counts for two modules.

The department currently offers a range of 16 different third year modules, although these again change from year to year, and there have been over 40 modules in the past. Options include:

Science Journalism – learn how to write science news and articles, carry out radio interviews, and report to a committee of MPs – practical skills for a future in science communication.

DEVELOP SKILLS YOU CAN USE IN THE REAL WORLD.

Science, Art and Philosophy – studying the interactions between science and art. Can an image count as evidence? What does it mean to call something an 'objective' or 'accurate' representation?

Governing Emerging Technologies - Technology shapes our future in powerful and largely unaccountable ways. Is this inevitable, or can we control the technologies that we get in order to anticipate their implications, prevent hazards and share their benefits?

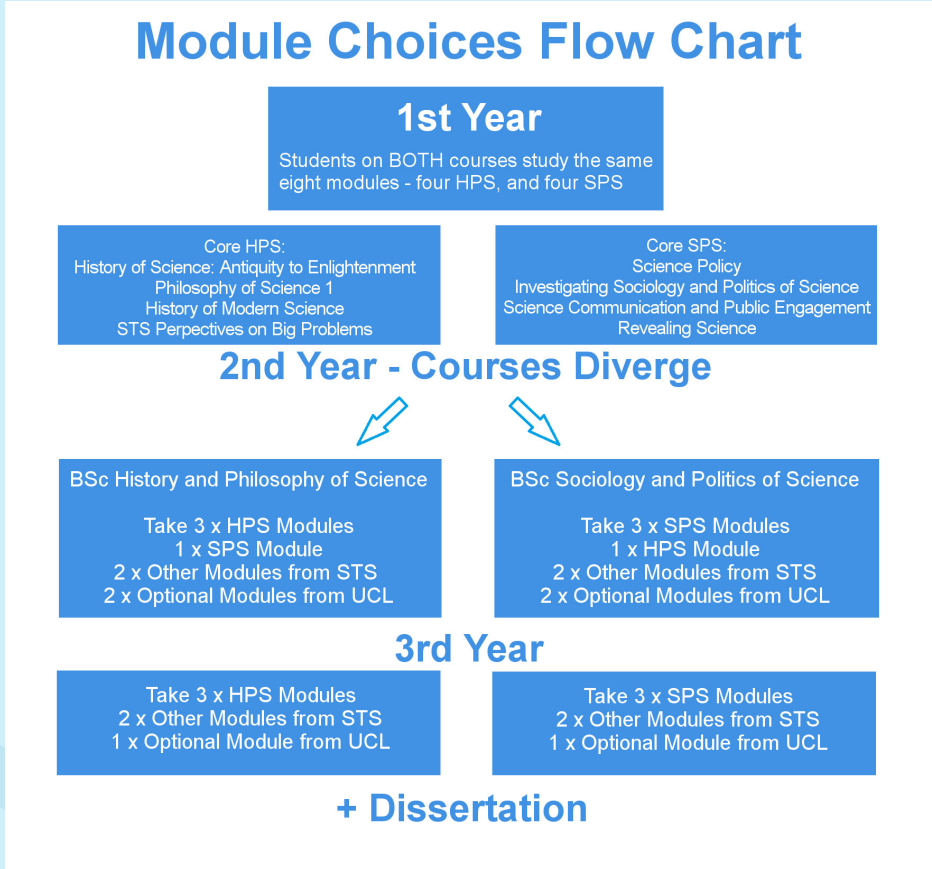
Science and Film Production – combines critical theory of the representation of science in cinema with practical production skills. Students are taught how to create a short documentary film as part of their assessment.

Assessments

While most courses are centred around essays and exams, at STS we try to do something different. assessing many of our modules using practical means.

For example, the Science Journalism module requires you to write a news article and feature article, as if you were submitting to a real publication, and to record a short radio interview or podcast. Students on the Science and Film Production module submit a documentary that they have written, filmed and edited themselves, and students on the Communication of Scientific Ideas module created a public exhibition for the Grant Museum. We also run a series of paid summer studentships, to give you first hand experience of post-graduate research at undergraduate level

Our modules are about more than just grades – we want you to develop skills that you can use in the real world, long after you have graduated.



Careers in STS

Finding a good job after university can be tough, and building a career can be tougher still. Given the expense of university and the financial pressures afterwards, applicants need to know that an STS degree is a smart investment. Our degrees allow people to follow their passions while also preparing for a wide range of careers, and we also build a broad portfolio of the kind of skills sought in today's job market.

As modern careers are constantly changing, overspecialisation can be risky. For two decades, STS degrees have been used as general preparation for a wide range of careers. We know that some students don't have a clear direction in mind, even after graduating. With a degree in STS, you'll be able to adjust to whichever career path you find.

Most STS graduates choose to go straight into work after graduating. Our graduates go in a number of directions, but are frequently found in management, business and finance, journalism (including public relations, and marketing), museums and archives, and the civil service. However, STS graduates have also found employment in as disparate areas as the merchant banking and the Royal Navy!

Many careers now expect a postgraduate degree such as an MSc, and STS students finish our course well prepared for the advanced level of study this entails.

STS follows our students after graduation, and we have a good idea of their career development. With more than twenty years of graduates to follow, we have a strong track record of success.

With all of this in mind, we summarise our philosophy as preparing you for a 'flexible future' - and this involves five key themes:

Image ©2015 Professional Images (UK) Ltd.

Alumni Interviews

STS alumni work in a huge number of fields – from BBC television presenters like Steph McGovern (BSc Science Communication and Policy 2005, left) to working for science charities such as NESTA, and from Civil Servants to Lieutenants in the Royal Navy. We've asked some of our former students to come and discuss how the skills they learned during their studies have helped them in finding and developing their careers. You can find some of these interviews on our Alumni Interviews page, and further recordings on the STS Careers Soundcloud page. Find both via the STS Website.

Substance is supreme

Employers know that if a job applicant can show they've done something hard, they've also shown they can do just about anything. STS degrees cover a huge range of complex areas, providing both breadth and depth of understanding, and how to communicate those complex ideas to others. Employers can spot people who can think for themselves, reason clearly, sift information, and stand on their own two feet, and STS can provide those skills.

More skills = More flexibility

The skills needed for a career can often be found outside of the subjects you might expect. For example, history and philosophy are hugely popular for those going into law. Both subjects require critical thinking, clever researching, and solid communication skills. If law no longer appeals as a career after graduation, those skills learned along the way are still useful for other opportunities.

Mentoring matters

Everyone remembers a great teacher, and we aim to keep our teaching and support at the highest level. We are recognized as outstanding when UCL reviews our quality. STS tutors have won teaching awards, and the department keeps its student-to-tutor ratio low, with one of the lowest ratios at UCL. This means we can provide individual personal and academic mentoring - essential if we want to maintain our high standards and get the most from our students.

Portfolios are proof

Employers want to see results. A strong overall degree, and a solid, diverse portfolio, are the results we seek. STS students create products which show skills at work in real world settings. They publish academic papers and discuss their work at professional conferences. They co-author public policy briefings, submit writing for competitions, publish films and blogs, produce advertising campaigns and lobby public officials. STS students also know how to judge their own success, evaluate effectiveness, and consider how best to improve.

There's more to science than working in labs

Science is an enormous part of the global economy, and it offers many more types of jobs than "scientist". Our degrees are also attractive to students who studied science intensively in school, but who have decided a life at the lab bench is not for them. They seek ways to use their education, and they discover the potential of STS.

If this sounds familiar, perhaps STS is the department for you!

Studying at UCL

Of course, there's more to your choice of degree than just the department - you want to make sure you choose the right university, and the right city, for you.

UCL is world renowned for both its teaching and research, and prides itself on having a diverse student population. We aim to make sure that every student has access to what they need.

Unlike some institutions which focus on a particular academic area such as Science or Performing Arts, UCL covers a wide range of subjects. With 11 different faculties from Arts & Humanities to Laws to Social and Historical Sciences, almost every subject is covered at UCL. This is especially important in an department such as STS, as it means you may be sharing a seminar with historians, physicists, medical students or architects - providing the wide range of views and experiences needed to gain a truly wide-ranging knowledge.

STS Students relaxing in Gordon Square - on the department's doorstep

Outside of lectures, there are currently over 250 different student societies, from Anime, Arabic and Artificial Intelligence to Wing Chun, Water Polo and Women in Finance. In particular, students are encouraged to take part in sport, with Wednesday afternoons left free of lectures to allow students to participate in the sport of their choice. For those who are less physically inclined, you'll almost certainly be able to find a society that fits your preferences - and if you can't, UCL will provide all the help you need to set one up!

Campus isn't just a place for learning - we also have a wide range of cafés and eateries, libraries and study spaces (including the brand-new Student Centre right next to the STS department, due to open winter 2018). There are regular public events including the UCL Lunch Hour Lectures - specifically designed to introduce new subjects during your lunch hour.

WE AIM TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY STUDENT HAS ACCESS TO WHAT THEY NEED.

As well as top class museums and libraries, huge public spaces and parks, London is well regarded as a cultural hotspot. Whether you prefer watching international sports events at Wembley Stadium, world famous pop stars at the O2 Arena, or hearing the next big underground star in a basement in Dalston, London has everything you could want.

As an undergraduate, if you apply in time you're guaranteed accommodation in either UCL halls, UCL Student Houses, or the University of London Intercollegiate halls, where you would stay alongside students from other London Universities.

London is also a centre for business and industry, meaning that opportunities for work experience, internships and placements are high. STS works closely with organisations such as the Wellcome Trust, who are based just metres from our door.

Worried that London will be too busy and polluted for you? Don't forget that London has a wide range of parks and open spaces, many within walking distance of the campus. Added to which, the many transport hubs allow you to visit the countryside within an hour, and reach Paris or Brussels within three!

UCL Open Days

When you apply to one of our courses and are successful, you will also be invited to attend one of our STS Open Days between January and March. STS Open Days provide an opportunity to get to know the department. You'll have a chance to talk with several members of academic staff about how your interests and skills relate to the subjects we study. We also arrange for applicants to meet current students. We want applicants to hear about the programme directly from those involved.

STS Virtual Open Days

Sometimes it's impossible to visit UCL in person. We run a number of online live virtual open days that you are welcome to attend. These events are live streamed and you can join at your convenience from home.

Our admissions tutor, head of department and some of our lecturers give you a flavour of our department and teaching. There is also a chat room where you can chat to students and staff and ask any questions that would like answered. If you miss the live presentation, recordings are available to watch in your own time.

We've also prepared a series of sample presentations. You can find these on the STS Youtube Channel. Visit our STS Open Day playlist and you'll find an introduction to the department, plus introductory lectures on Philosophy of Science, History of Science, and Science & Society.

Drop-in Visits

In general, we discourage individual visits, simply because we want to give applicants our full attention. However, in some circumstances, we're able to make arrangements. If you're unable to attend one of the scheduled open days but would like to find out more about the department, contact our admissions tutors at sts-admissions@ucl.ac.uk.

MAPS Faculty Open Days

The STS department is part of the MAPS (Mathematics and Physical Sciences) faculty. The faculty arrange their own open days where students interested in subjects within the faculty - Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Mathematics, Physics & Astronomy, Space and Climate Physics, and Statistical Science - can learn more about UCL courses. STS takes part in these Open Days too. MAPS open days will be advertised on our website. If you'd like to find out more, visit the MAPS Faculty page.

UCL Open Days

UCL operates large and event-filled open days for programmes across the whole university. General information about open days can be found on the UCL Open Days page. On these open days, STS academics and students are on hand to talk with you and your family about our degrees, careers, and life at UCL. We normally give talks that sample content from our degrees. We'll be happy to take the time to help you understand why we think STS is an exciting place to study.

A UCL-wide open day, taking place in Spring 2017

How To Apply

We do not require students to have qualifications in science, although they are very welcome. Our students often have qualifications in a variety of subjects, including (but by no means limited to) History, Philosophy, Sociology, Economics, Government and Politics, Media Studies, Classics, Modern Languages, and Psychology.

International students should also apply to UCL via UCAS, using the same process as UK/EU students. Please take note of the deadlines for applications so you do not miss any opportunities. Further details on the application process can be found via the UCL Website. The admissions page addresses issues surrounding affiliate students, mature and part-time study, and diversity, access and equality.

You can find our courses on UCAS using the following codes:
History and Philosophy of Science - V550
Sociology and Politics of Science- L391

UK: A-Levels
Grades: AAB (BBB if a contextual offer)
GCSEs: English Language and Mathematics at grade C or 5. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 or equivalent in a foreign language is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs

EU: IB Diploma
Points: 36
Subjects: A score of 17 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5.
Contextual offer: 32 points, with a score of 15 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5 Subjects.

As part of UCL's commitment to increasing participation from under-represented groups, students may be eligible for a contextual offer of up to two grades or points lower than the standard UCL offer for any given degree programme under the Access UCL scheme.

Scholarships

UCL offers a range of financial awards aimed at assisting both prospective and current students with their studies. These range from the Axeinos bursary, for Romanian or Bulgarian nationals, to the Estranged Student bursary, for those studying with no family support. You can explore what financial awards are available via the UCL Prospective Students website.

Questions?

If you have any questions about anything in this booklet, please feel free to contact us by email at sts@ucl.ac.uk, or via one of our social media accounts (see below)

@STSUCL

facebook.com/STSUCL

@UCL_STS

youtube.com/stsucl

email - sts@ucl.ac.uk