This MSc is aimed at students who wish to extend their knowledge and expertise in the eye as an integrated biological system. The programme provides a unique and integrated review of the physiology and biology of the eye, covering molecular and developmental cell biology, complex genetics, immunology and behavioural neuroscience.

Degree summary

The programme offers students the opportunity to develop their knowledge and expertise in ocular cell biology, genetics, visual neuroscience, development and immunology. On completion of the programme, students gain an enhanced knowledge and understanding of scientific communication skills, scientific design and analysis, sophisticated laboratory techniques and valuable research experience.

The UCL Institute of Ophthalmology is one of the premier centres in the world for the study of vision and the mechanisms, diagnosis and therapy of eye disease. We embrace fundamental research, through the entire spectrum of translational medicine to clinical trials.

This MSc programme draws upon the extensive basic and clinical research experience available at the institute and at Moorfields Eye Hospital. Students gain expertise in basic cell biology, genetics, neuroscience and physiology, specialise in the biology of the eye as an integrated biological system and conduct a six-month research project within a world-class research environment.

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, tutorials, problem classes, journal clubs, self-directed studies and laboratory practical courses. Assessment is through long essays, coursework, laboratory practicals, oral examination and the research dissertation.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year
Location: London, Bloomsbury

Students will attend lectures every week during term-time, usually two - three days per week.

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of five core modules (75 credits), one optional module (15 credits) and a research project (90 credits).

CORE MODULES
- Ocular Cell Biology
- Genetics and Epidemiology of Ocular Disease
- Ocular Immunology
- Microvascular Biology
- Visual Neuroscience

OPTIONAL MODULES
- Either Advanced Visual Neuroscience (30 credits)
- Or Microvascular Biology (15 credits) and Visual Neuroscience (15 credits)

DISSERTATION/RESEARCH PROJECT
- All MSc students undertake either a research or informatics project using state-of-the-art techniques and equipment. The project culminates in a dissertation of 15,000–18,000 words.
Your career

This programme provides excellent preparation for a PhD or a successful research career in academia or for positions in the public or commercial sectors. Previous students have also successfully obtained specialist trainee positions in ophthalmology at hospitals across the country.

Recent career destinations* include:

// Doctor, Mile End Hospital (NHS)
// GP (General Practitioner), Barnet Hospital (NHS)
// Research Associate, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
// PG Dip in Clinical Ophthalmology, UCL
// Research Degree, Institute of Ophthalmology, UCL

Employability

The programme aims to train first-class basic and clinical scientists in the field of ophthalmology.

* Careers data is taken from the ‘Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education’ survey undertaken by HESA looking at the destinations of UK and EU students in the 2013–2015 graduating cohorts six months after graduation.
Entry requirements

Applicants must have a minimum of a second-class UK Bachelor’s degree in a relevant subject, or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

English language proficiency level

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency.

The level of English language proficiency for this programme is: Good. Information about the evidence required, acceptable qualifications and test providers is provided at:

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/english-requirements

Your application

Students are advised to apply as early as possible due to competition for places. Those applying for scholarship funding (particularly overseas applicants) should take note of application deadlines.

When we assess your application we would like to learn:

// why you want to study Biology of Vision at graduate level
// why you want to study Biology of Vision at UCL
// what particularly attracts you to this programme
// how your academic and professional background meets the demands of this programme
// where you would like to go professionally with your degree

Together with essential academic requirements, the personal statement is your opportunity to illustrate whether your reasons for applying to this programme match what the programme will deliver.

Application fee: There is an application processing fee for this programme of £75 for online applications and £100 for paper applications. More details about the application fee can be found at

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/application.

FEES AND FUNDING 2018/19 ENTRY

// UK: £10,740 (FT), £N/A (PT)
// EU: £10,740 (FT), £N/A (PT)
// Overseas: £26,250 (FT), £N/A (PT)

The tuition fees shown are for the year indicated above. Fees for subsequent years may increase or otherwise vary. Further information on fee status, fee increases and the fee schedule can be viewed on the UCL Current Students website.

The Institute of Ophthalmology currently offers the following bursaries for successful applicants on our postgraduate taught master’s degrees: One £5,000 Duke Elder bursary for non-clinical courses (available for successful applicants on the Biology of Vision, Applied Immunobiology, Applied and Regenerative Neuroscience, and Vision Research degrees). Duke Elder bursaries are open to home and overseas students and will be received in the form of a fee reduction only.

Full details of funding opportunities can be found on the UCL Scholarships website: www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 27 July 2018

Details on how to apply are available on the website at:

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

Ms Olive Byrne, Education Administrator

Email: msc.ioo@ucl.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7608 6878

EU referendum

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to

www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum

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 www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate