COGNITIVE AND DECISION SCIENCES MSc / 2018/19 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/pls
The Cognitive and Decision Sciences MSc at UCL studies the cognitive processes and representations underlying human thought, knowledge and decision-making. It integrates a wide range of disciplines and methodologies, with the core assumption that human cognition and choice are computational processes, implemented in neural hardware.

**Degree summary**

Key topics include the nature of computational explanation; the general principles of cognition; the scope of rational choice explanation; probabilistic models of the mind; learning and memory; and applications to economics and business. The programme involves training in experimental design and methodology, building computational models and undertaking original research.

- The programme draws on an outstanding academic staff, ranging across many disciplines, including internationally renowned researchers in psychology, computational modelling, neuroscience and economics.
- London is one of the global hotspots for research in cognition, decision-making, and neuroscience; and it is an intellectual hub with a high density of research seminars and scientific meetings that attract leading international researchers.
- London is also one of the world’s foremost commercial and political centres, with consequent opportunities for high-level applied research; and it is a vibrant, culturally diverse and international city, with world-class music, theatre and galleries.

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, class presentations, and practical, statistical, computational and experimental class work. Student performance is assessed through online tests, coursework, essays, practical experimental and computational mini-projects, and the dissertation.

**Degree structure**

Mode: Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of six core modules (90 credits), two optional modules (30 credits), and a research dissertation (60 credits).

### CORE MODULES
- Introduction to Cognitive Science
- Principles of Cognition
- Research Statistics
- Research Skills and Programming for Cognitive Science
- Judgement and Decision Making
- Knowledge, Learning and Inference

### OPTIONAL MODULES
- Applied Decision-making
- Human Learning and Memory
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Social Cognition: Research Methods
- The Brain in Action
- Neural Computation: Models of Brain Function
- Consumer Behaviour
- Understanding Individuals and Groups
- Social Neuroscience
- Social Cognition, Affect and Motivation
- Current Issues in Attitude Research
- Talent Management
- Business Psychology Seminars
- Interpretation of Forensic Evidence

### DISSERTATION/REPORT
- All students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a dissertation of approximately 10,000–12,000 words.
Your career

Students have gone on to find employment in the following areas: research, teaching, lecturing, consultancy, finance, and marketing.

For more detailed careers information please visit the department website.

Recent career destinations* include:
- Change Management Consultant, HCL AXON
- Project Research Officer, Government Office for Science
- Research Assistant, Imperial College London / University of Oxford
- PhD in Financial Computing
- Assistant Policy Adviser, Cabinet Office Behavioural Insights Team

Employability

On completion of the programme, students will have acquired theoretical and empirical knowledge in cognition science and decision-making, and a broad range of practical research skills. They will have made original contributions to this field in their research projects, and will understand how to apply their knowledge to real-world decision problems. They will also have developed various analytical and logical reasoning skills which can be applied to many domains of research and non-academic work. They will, in addition, have an understanding of the philosophical issues underlying cognitive science and neuroscience.

* 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**

Normally a minimum of an upper second-class Bachelor’s degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. A student peer group will often contain a broad mix of undergraduate degrees. Most common backgrounds include psychology, economics, philosophy, computer science, cognitive science, linguistics and law. An undergraduate degree not listed here should not, however, deter a potential applicant who can demonstrate an understanding of the focus of the course and enthusiasm for cognitive science and decision making, although they should be prepared for the mathematical component contained in the MSc-level Research Statistics module.

**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](http://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 Cognitive and Decision Sciences at graduate level
- why you want to study Cognitive and Decision Sciences at UCL
- what particularly attracts you to this programme
- how your academic and professional background meets the demands of this rigorous 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/taught/application](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/taught/application).

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**FEES AND FUNDING 2018/19 ENTRY**

- UK: £10,140 (FT), £4,785 (PT)
- EU: £10,140 (FT), £4,785 (PT)
- Overseas: £24,420 (FT), £12,150 (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.

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

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

All applicants: 2 March 2018

Details on how to apply are available on the website at: [www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply)

**CONTACT**

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**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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum)