GEOPHYSICAL HAZARDS
MSc /
2018/19 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/earthsci
This MSc provides a broad introduction to geohazards, together with advanced courses in seismology, volcanology, hydrogeological hazards and meteorology. A key goal is to provide an essential grounding in quantitative modelling that can be widely applied to several fields, from pure research to the commercial sector.

Degree summary

The programme provides an introduction to the spectrum and impact of geophysical hazards, and a focus on quantitative models for hazard forecasting and assessment. Selected case studies illustrate how these models are essential for improving decision-making during emergencies, for raising the awareness of vulnerable populations, and for evaluating and implementing mitigation strategies.

UCL Earth Sciences is engaged in world-class research into the processes at work on and within the Earth and planets.

Graduate students benefit from our lively and welcoming environment and world-class facilities. The department hosts UCL Hazard Centre, Europe’s leading multidisciplinary hazard research centre, and engages in extensive collaborative work with the Royal Institution and the Natural History Museum.

This MSc aims to include a short field trip to locations that illustrate the impact of natural hazards. Previous trips have included the Neapolitan volcanic district, the Italian Alps and the Po Delta, and the Cádiz region in south-western Spain.

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, directed reading and practical exercises. There are excellent opportunities for field investigations in the UK and abroad. Assessment is through unseen written examinations, practical problem-solving exercises and essays. The independent research report is assessed through the dissertation and an oral presentation.

Field sites for field trips are normally in Italy. The department pays for accommodation and transport in the field. Students pay to get to the field and subsistence.

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 (120 credits) and a research dissertation (60 credits).

CORE MODULES

- Geological and Geotechnical Hazards
- Meteorological Hazards
- Research Methods
- Earthquake Seismology and Earthquake Hazard
- Physical Volcanology and Volcanic Hazard
- Meteorological, Climate and Hydrogeological Hazard

OPTIONAL MODULES

- There are no optional modules for this programme.

DISSERTATION/REPORT

- All students undertake an independent research project in geophysical hazards, which culminates in a dissertation of 15,000 words.
On graduation from this programme about one-third of students have followed careers in global insurance and re-insurance and another third have pursued research with a PhD in hazard-related studies. The remaining third have developed careers in a wide range of sectors, from non-governmental organisations, through teaching, to the fields of emergency planning and environmental management.

Recent career destinations* include:
- Aggregate and Catastrophe Modeller, Advent
- Catastrophe Analyst, Taibol Underwriting
- Graduate Trainee Reinsurance Broker, Aon
- Catastrophe Model Analyst, Aon Benfield
- Policy Adviser, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Employability

The MSc in Geophysical Hazards will provide essential training for careers in hazard assessment and risk evaluation, including: industry, from engineering to insurance; academic research; civil protection agencies and government organisations; and NGOs related to aid and development.

* 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 in a relevant discipline from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. Applicants whose qualifications are of a lower standard may be admitted if evidence of an adequate academic background and appropriate field experience can be shown.

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: Standard.

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 Geophysical Hazards at graduate level
- why you want to study Geophysical Hazards at UCL
- what particularly attracts you to Geophysical Hazards programme
- how your academic and professional background meets the demands of this programme
- where you would like to go professionally with your degree; for example, are you interested in pursuing a career in research, or in applying your knowledge to the commercial or humanitarian sectors?

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: £10,140 (FT), £5,120 (PT)
- EU: £10,140 (FT), £5,120 (PT)
- Overseas: £28,370 (FT), £14,180 (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.

UCL offers a selection of scholarships for supporting postgraduate studies.

Please refer to http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/scholarships for further information.

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

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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