The Library and Information Studies MA provides the ideal foundation for career progression in library or information work. The one-year programme is accredited by the professional association Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), and offers students a wide range of up-to-date learning opportunities while helping to develop strong networks designed to enhance their employability.

Degree summary

The programme prepares students for professional practice in the field of library and information studies. It equips them with the practical skills required for the identification, location, management and organisation of information and information stores, and fosters an understanding of the processes by which information is produced, disseminated, controlled and recorded.

- This well-established programme is accredited by CILIP (to 2019). It attracts an outstanding team of researchers, teachers, students, practitioners and information industry leaders. It combines an appreciation of the traditional library with the latest developments in internet and digital technologies to develop an understanding of the ever-evolving information environment.

- Networking opportunities include a two-week work placement, regular journal club and speaker events, guest lectures by professionals and career seminars sponsored by industry professionals.

- Students benefit from UCL’s proximity to major libraries and repositories, including the British Library and the Senate House Library of the University of London.

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, computer laboratory and classroom practicals, with a strong emphasis on active learning and the acquisition of practical skills. Assessment is through a mixture of essays, reports, examination and practical assignments such as website design and the creation of indexing tools.

The work placement is only open to full-time students and forms part of the G030 Professional Awareness module. The work placement gives students experience of how the techniques they have learned may be applied in practice. Placements last for two weeks, and are undertaken at the beginning of the third term. We arrange placements individually for each student and do our best to match the placement with their interests and experience.

Accreditation

The Library and Information Studies MA/PG Diploma have been accredited by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) as professional level qualifications for a period of five years from the 2014 student cohort intake.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years; Flexible: up to 5 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).

A Postgraduate Diploma, six core modules (90 credits), two optional modules (30 credits), full-time nine months or flexible study 2-5 years, is offered.

CORE MODULES
- Cataloguing and Classification 1
- Collection Management and Preservation
- Information Sources and Retrieval
- Introduction to Management
- Principles of Computing and Information Technology
- Professional Awareness

OPTIONAL MODULES
- Students choose two of the following:
- Collections Care
- Cataloguing and Classification 2
- Digital Resources in the Humanities
- Electronic Publishing
- Historical Bibliography
- Individual Approved Study
- Information Governance
- Knowledge Representation and Semantic Technologies
- Manuscript Studies
- Web Publishing
- Information Literacy
- Academic and Journals Publishing

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

The programme aims to be broad-based: we are not trying to produce graduates who can work in only one kind of library or information service. The skills we try to impart are, therefore intended to apply in a wide range of different jobs.

Employability

As a vocational Master’s, this programme prepares students for employment in the sector, and, in most cases, for promotion from their pre-library school role as a library assistant to a qualified librarian role, such as senior library assistant, assistant librarian, librarian and library manager. Students occasionally choose careers in information provision, such as taxonomists and web designers. There are specialist employment agencies that place students in both short-term and permanent positions, so if students do not find their ideal post straight away, they usually find suitable employment while continuing to seek their ideal post.
Entry requirements

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. Normally a substantial amount (usually equivalent to about a year) of full-time employment or its equivalent in a recognised library or information service.

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 Library and Information Studies at graduate level
// why you want to study Library and Information Studies 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 and/or academically with your degree

FEES AND FUNDING 2017/18 ENTRY

// UK: £9,290 (FT)
// EU: £9,290 (FT)
// Overseas: £20,005 (FT)

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 Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers offers a scholarship (fees) for a full-time Library and Information Studies MA student under the age of 25 years.

Scottish applicants may be eligible for an award from the Student Awards Agency for Scotland.

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 28 July 2017

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

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

Miss Laura Keshav, Postgraduate Administrator

Email: l.keshav@ucl.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 7204

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

PDF Updated: March 29, 2017