This programme offers a stimulating and practical training in mental health research. The UCL Division of Psychiatry offers teaching and supervision from leaders in international research in fields from neuroscientific to social and epidemiological, along with a range of relevant options from other leading UCL departments. This diversity of options allows students to tailor a programme that closely fits their needs.

Degree summary

This programme will equip students with the research skills needed to undertake doctoral-level research and/or to collaborate in major research projects. They will produce a piece of original research ready to submit for publication, and will acquire current knowledge of cutting-edge research in mental health.

UCL has a cluster of international research leaders in mental health in fields including genetics, epidemiology, and applied clinical research. Optional modules provide an entrance to other renowned departments at UCL e.g. in neuroscience and epidemiology.

The programme is strongly focused on student participation and acquisition of the practical skills needed to embark on a career in research. The wide range of research interests within our division allows us to offer a programme that integrates biological and psychosocial approaches.

We offer opportunities to get involved in the work of internationally significant research groups in a stimulating, friendly and supportive atmosphere.

This programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars and practical workshops, with considerable use of supporting online learning. Assessment methods include unseen exams, coursework including designing questionnaires and systematic review strategies, developing protocols, analysing data, giving talks and presenting posters. There is a strong emphasis on developing practical research skills.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years; Flexible: 2-5 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury
Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of two core modules (45 credits), five optional modules (75 credits) and a dissertation/report (60 credits).

Core modules

- Core Principles of Mental Health Research (double module)
- Statistical Methods in Mental Health

Optional modules

- Students will select at least 60 credits from the following modules of which at least 30 credits must be from the Division of Psychiatry’s own modules:
  - Division of Psychiatry modules
  - Culture in the Clinic
  - Current Research in Depression and Anxiety
  - Current Research in Dementia
  - Current Research in Learning Disability
  - Current Research in Psychosis
  - Epidemiological and Social Methods in Mental Health (double module)
  - Introduction to Biological Research in Mental Health
  - Mental Health Services – Policy, Design and Evaluation
  - Other approved modules
  - Cellular and Molecular Modules of Disease (Institute of Neurology)
  - Ethnicity, Migration and Health (Department of Epidemiology & Public Health)
  - Health Inequalities across the Lifecourse (Department of Epidemiology and Public Health)
  - Higher Functions of the Brain (Institute of Neurology)

- The final 15 credits may be obtained from any available module at UCL, subject to the Programme Director approving the overall selection for each student.

Final report

- All students undertake a final research project. This is reported as a research paper of 6,000-8,000 words ready for submission to a specified journal, a blog of 1,000 words and a 20-minute talk.
Your career

This new programme will equip graduates with strong practical research skills and understanding of the current status and direction of mental health research in their area of interest, preparing them to pursue doctoral studies, including through applications for nationally funded fellowships. Clinicians will be equipped to participate fully in collaborative studies and to begin to function as independent investigators. For those without clinical qualifications, the programme is likely to assist students in embarking on a career in mental health research by obtaining research posts and opportunities for PhD places.

Employability

Students will be taught by and carry out projects with leading researchers at the cutting-edge of their fields, learning about research directly from experts rather than from textbooks. Previous Division of Psychiatry MSc graduates have had a strong track record of publishing papers based on their research projects in peer-reviewed journals, and of going on to further academic posts and to doctoral studies.
Entry requirements

An upper second-class Bachelor's degree in psychology or a related scientific or social science discipline, or a professional health qualification (medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, social work), or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

Additionally at least six months' full-time work experience (or the equivalent) in a mental health service setting or in clinical mental health research is required.

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 Mental Health Sciences Research at graduate level
- why you want to study Mental Health Sciences Research at UCL
- what particularly attracts you to this programme
- how your personal, academic and professional background meets the demands of this challenging 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.

Entry to the Division of Psychiatry MSc programme is competitive and successful applicants are likely to have obtained qualifications above the minimum, excellent references and a strong personal statement.

FEES AND FUNDING 2017/18 ENTRY

- UK: £10,430 (FT), £TBC (PT)
- EU: £10,430 (FT), £TBC (PT)
- Overseas: £25,490 (FT), £TBC (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.

Fees for flexible, modular study are charged pro-rata to the appropriate full-time Master's fee taken in an academic session.

Division of Psychiatry bursaries to the value of £2,000 for full-time students and £1,000 for part-time students may be applied for on the basis of promise as a future researcher. NOCLOR (North Central London Research Consortium) also funds two awards for staff of trusts in North London.

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 31 August 2017

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

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