Contemporary security research and policy-making focus heavily on the causes and consequences of violent and non-violent political conflict. This MSc trains students to apply empirical methods to explore the causes of terrorism, civil, and international conflict, the application of military force, humanitarian intervention, and the provision of global public goods.

### Degree summary

Students develop an understanding of theoretical approaches and debates in security studies, and the ability to analyse how forms of violent and non-violent political conflict emerge, diffuse, are managed, and are resolved. They gain the qualitative and quantitative research skills required to collect and analyse empirical evidence in a selective and systematic way.

- UCL Political Science is recognised as a centre of excellence in the field and offers a uniquely stimulating environment for the study of all fields of politics.
- Students benefit from weekly seminars featuring distinguished external speakers, and regular high-profile events for policymakers and others.
- The research preparation and tailor-made interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary training students receive is one of the highest available in the world, in one of the world’s top universities, as reflected in its performance in a range of rankings and tables.

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures and seminars, and is taught by scholars who have subject-specific knowledge and have carried out theoretical and empirical research in the field. Students will be assessed by a variety of methods: unseen examinations, long essays 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 three core modules (60 credits), optional modules (60 credits) and a research dissertation (60 credits).

#### CORE MODULES
- International Peace and Security (30)
- Introduction to Qualitative Methods or Advanced Qualitative Methods (15)
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods or Advanced Quantitative Methods (15)

#### OPTIONAL MODULES
- Choose two of the following 15-credit modules (the others remain available as options):
  - Rebellion (15)
  - Conflict Resolution and Post-War Development (15)
  - Governing Divided Societies (15)
  - Terrorism (15)
  - War and International Law (15)
  - Foreign Policy Analysis (15)
- Choose further modules up to a value of 30 credits in total from a list available on the departmental website

- The following are suggestions:
  - NGO, Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Policy and Management (15)
  - Theories of International Relations (15)
  - International Political Economy (15)
  - The Political Economy of Development (15)
  - Globalisation (15)

#### DISSERTATION/REPORT
- All MSc students undertake an individual research project which culminates in a dissertation of 10,000 words.
Graduates of the programme are ideally placed to develop careers in the field of international relations, public policy and political analysis. Many graduates go on to further research study at UCL or other universities in the UK or overseas.

Recent career destinations* include:

- Data Journalist, The Economist
- Intelligence Analyst, NCA (National Crime Agency)
- Policy Adviser, Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC)
- Resettlement Case Officer, United Nations (UN)
- Anti Money Laundering Analyst, Citibank

**Employability**

The Security Studies MSc is designed with the intention of endowing students with an advanced set of methodological skills that enable them to collect and analyse real-world data to test theoretically-informed hypotheses about the sources, impacts, and resolution of various forms of non-violent and violent political conflict. These analytical skills have enabled prior students to gain employment across the sectors, including positions on the civil service fast stream, at private sector political risk firms and banks, and in niche area NGOs and charitable organisations helping to tackle poverty and unrest at home and abroad.

* 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

As a minimum, an upper second-class Bachelor’s degree from a UK university; a CGPA of 3.3; or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. Relevant practical or work experience in a related field may also be taken into account.

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: Advanced

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 Security Studies at graduate level
// why you want to study Security Studies at UCL
// what particularly attracts you to this programme
// how your personal, academic and professional background meets the demands of a challenging and truly international academic environment
// 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: £12,950 (FT), £6,415 (PT)
// EU: £12,950 (FT), £6,415 (PT)
// Overseas: £21,160 (FT), £10,740 (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

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

Political Science Admissions Administrator
Email: polsci.admissions@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 4982/4950

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

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