Ancient History BA /

Studying history at UCL gives you opportunities to explore the subject which are probably unrivalled anywhere else in the UK or Europe. This degree focuses on the history of ancient Greece, Rome, the Middle East and Egypt from the third millennium BC to late antiquity.

Key information

Programme starts
Location

Degree benefits

// UCL’s exceptional strength and formidable range of expertise in ancient history means that students on this degree programme are offered great scope for choice.

// Whilst this degree programme has an emphasis on ancient history, students are also encouraged to take advantage of the range of expertise in the department and explore later historical periods.

// Drawing upon UCL History, related UCL departments and relevant University of London colleges, the programme offers a wide variety of courses spanning extraordinary chronological breadth and geographical range.

// Exceptional resources, including the British Museum and British Library, are within walking distance, and other London-based museums and organisations provide unrivalled opportunities for accessing primary source material.

Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014

The Research Excellence Framework, or REF, is the system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. The 2014 REF was carried out by the UK’s higher education funding bodies, and the results used to allocate research funding from 2015/16.

// 82% rated 4* ('world-leading') or 3* ('internationally excellent')

Learn more about the scope of UCL’s research, and browse case studies, on our Research Impact website.

Degree structure

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 0.5 or 1.0 credits, adding up to a total of 4.0 credits for the year. Modules are assessed in the academic year in which they are taken. The balance of compulsory and optional modules varies from programme to programme and year to year. A 1.0 credit is considered equivalent to 15 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

The programme includes three first-year core modules, a further core module and a 5,000-word research project in the second year, a final-year special subject, and options chosen from a range of full-year and half-year modules.

Credits can be chosen from the wide range of modules in ancient history, archaeology and classics as appropriate. Students are strongly encouraged to gain maximum benefit from the chronological range of expertise in the department by choosing at least one course in modern, early modern and medieval history.

Teaching is delivered via lectures, seminars and one-to-one tutorials. All seminar groups are capped at a maximum of 15, final-year dissertation subjects at a maximum of 10.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Concepts, Categories and the Practice of History
- Writing Ancient History

Optional modules

- You will select 2.0 credits of optional modules in ancient history or an ancient language. Options may include:
  - Ancient Greek, Latin, Akkadian or other ancient language (1.0 credit, level dependent upon ability)
  - Ancient and Medieval China
  - The Greek World c.600-386 BC
  - The Hellenistic World
  - The History of Political Thought
  - The Near East 3000-1200 BC
  - The Near East 1200 BC-336 BC: Empires and Pastoralists
  - The Roman Republic
  - The Roman Empire from Augustus to Theodosius I

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Evolving History
- Research Seminar (5,000-word project)

Optional modules

- You will select 3.0 credits of optional modules, including at least 1.0 credit of ancient history options. Options may include:
  - Ancient Youth
  - Aristocracy in Ancient Greece
  - Roman Democracy: Myth or Reality?
  - Slavery in the Classical World
  - The Hellenistic World from Alexander to the End of the Attalid Kingdom
  - The Seleukid Empire, c.312-145 BC
  - Women in Antiquity

- Remaining credits can be selected from a wide range of options in history, ancient languages, or from another approved interdepartmental or intercollegiate module.
**FINAL YEAR**

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Dissertation

Optional modules

- You will select 3.0 credits of optional modules, including at least 1.0 credit of an Ancient History Special Subject. Options may include:
  - Ancient Near Eastern Religion
  - Citizens and Power in the Ancient City States
  - Mechanisms of Power: Running the Roman Empire (c.70 BC-AD 275)
  - The Assyrian Empire
  - The Fall of the Roman Republic
  - The Persian Empire in the 6th-4th Centuries BC
  - War and Society in Ancient Greece, 750-350 BC

- Remaining credits can be selected from a wide range of options in history, ancient languages, or from another approved interdepartmental or intercollegiate module.

**Your learning**

Many of our modules include lectures, but our approach to learning mainly places emphasis on active student participation in seminar discussion (usually in groups of 15). Essays you write will be returned to you in individual face-to-face tutorials to provide constructive, personal feedback.

**Assessment**

Your work will be assessed by a mixture of examinations and written coursework. Significant weight is given to an extended essay based on original sources produced in your final year.

**Your career**

The programme is designed to teach many transferable skills: how to gather and organise evidence; how to analyse it and present a structured argument; how to express yourself clearly, both in writing and orally.

UCL's History graduates have excelled in a wide range of occupations, such as lawyers, financial advisers, stockbrokers, television producers, diplomats, journalists, bankers, teachers, and in the health service, the police and overseas development programmes, as well as in progressing to further study.

First destinations of recent graduates (2012-2014) of this programme include:

- Full-time student, MSt in Roman History at the University of Oxford
- Graduate Intern, MHP Communications
- Full-time student, MA in Ancient History at UCL
- Account Executive, Infectious Media
- Assistance Compliance Officer, DVB Bank

**Your application**

Application for admission should be made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). Applicants currently at school or college will be provided with advice on the process; however, applicants who have left school or who are based outside the United Kingdom may obtain information directly from UCAS.

Each candidate's profile is considered as a complete picture, taking into account your interest in and suitability for the degree, as shown in your personal statement and referee's report, as well as achieved and predicted grades. Your ability to present an argument, evidence of intellectual curiosity and your enthusiasm for and commitment to studying history will also be assessed.

Promising applicants will be asked to supply further information to help us in determining whether to offer a place.

*Data taken from the 'Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education' survey undertaken by HESA looking at the destinations of UK and EU students in the 2012-2014 graduating cohorts six months after graduation.*
**Entry requirements**

**A LEVELS**

**Grades**

A*AA-AAA

**Subjects**

History, Ancient History or Classical Civilisation required.

**GCSE**

English Language and Mathematics at grade C; Ancient European Language at grade B also welcomed. For UK-based students a foreign language at grade B is required.

**IB DIPLOMA**

**Points**

38-39 overall.

**Subjects**

A score of 18-19 points in three higher level subjects including grade 6 in History, with no score lower than 5. A minimum of 5 is required at standard level in a modern or ancient European language.

**OTHER QUALIFICATIONS**

UCL considers a wide range of UK and international qualifications for entry into its undergraduate programmes. Full details are given at: www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals

**UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES**

(International foundation courses)

The Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPCs) are intensive one-year foundation courses for international students of high academic potential who are aiming to gain access to undergraduate degree programmes at UCL and other top UK universities.

Typical UPC students will be high achievers in a 12-year school system which does not meet the standard required for direct entry to UCL.

For more information see: www.ucl.ac.uk/upc.

---

**TUITION FEES**

The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2017/18 academic year and are for the first year of the programme at UCL only.

- **UK & EU**: £9,250 (2017/18)
- **Overseas**: £17,710 (2017/18)

The UK/EU fee quoted above may be subject to increase for the 2018/19 academic year and for each year of study thereafter and UCL reserves the right to increase its fees in line with UK government policy (including on an annual basis for each year of study during a programme). Fees for overseas students may be subject to an annual increase in subsequent years of study by up to 5%.

Please see the full details of UCL’s fees and possible changes on the UCL Current Students website.

**FUNDING**

Various funding options are available, including student loans, scholarships and bursaries. UK students whose household income falls below a certain level may also be eligible for a non-repayable bursary or for certain scholarships. Please see the Fees and funding pages for more details.

**Disclaimer**

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 Undergraduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus