EARTH SCIENCES MSci / UCAS CODE: F604
2018 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus/earthsci
Earth Sciences MSci

This four-year programme provides an additional year on top of the Earth Sciences BSc, in which you undertake an independent research project, extend your knowledge with advanced modules related to your specialist pathway, and join in a wide-ranging seminar series on Earth and Planetary System Science.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2018

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// The programme includes up to approximately three months of field classes in the UK and continental Europe, with financial support from the department.

// The holistic nature of the Earth sciences is emphasised. The opportunity to specialise within Earth sciences and, by the appropriate choice of modules, graduate with a degree in Earth Sciences (Palaeobiology) or Earth Sciences (Environment and Policy) is available.

// World-leading research in mineral, ice and rock physics, geophysical hazards and palaeoenvironmental analysis is undertaken in the department and is used in the development of our modules.

// World-class facilities include hosting the UK’s only NASA Regional Planetary Image Facility, use of the UCL University of London Observatory, and collaboration with the Natural History Museum.

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.

// 92% 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).

On entry to the programme, you will select a pathway through the subject (General, Palaeobiology, or Environment and Policy). The programme includes many optional modules across UCL Earth Sciences. Students should normally take at least five half-module credits in UCL Earth Sciences each year. Modules based in other departments may be chosen from those listed for the Environmental Geoscience, Geology and Geophysics degree programmes and the Palaeobiology or Environment and Policy pathways.

The first and second years provide core skills and knowledge in the subject. The third year provides opportunities for specialisation and diversification, with an emphasis on individual initiative and problem-based learning. Fieldwork provides a unique opportunity to develop independent and team skills and problem-solving abilities.

The first three years of the MSci programme are identical to the BSc programme. However, the additional fourth year of the MSci allows for an individual research project and advanced optional modules, providing extra depth and breadth of knowledge.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Dynamic Earth
Earth Materials
From Petrology to Petrogenesis (including Cornwall fieldwork)
Geochemistry
History of Life
Surface Processes (including Dorset/Devon fieldwork)
The Earth

Optional modules

// You will select 0.5 credits of optional modules from Geology, Geophysics and Environmental Geoscience programmes, and the Palaeobiology or Environment and Policy pathways.

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Maps, Images and Structures (including Italy fieldwork)
Structural Geology and Tectonics

Optional modules

// You will select 2.5 credits of optional modules from the Environmental Geoscience, Geology and Geophysics programmes, and the Palaeobiology or Environment and Policy pathways. Options available within the department may include:

Global Geophysics
Igneous Petrology
Isotope Geology
Metamorphism
Vertebrate Palaeontology and Evolution
YEAR THREE

Core or compulsory module(s)

All third-year modules are optional.

Optional modules

- You will select 4.0 credits of optional modules from the Environmental Geoscience, Geology and Geophysics programmes or Palaeobiology or Environment and Policy pathways. Options available within the department may include:
  - Biodiversity and Macroevolutionary Patterns
  - Crustal Dynamics, Mountain Building and Basin Evolution (including Betics fieldwork)
  - Earth Resources and Sustainability
  - Geosciences Report
  - Geotechnical Science
  - Marine Geology
  - Ocean Physics and Climate Change
  - Seismology I
  - Seismology II
  - Geodynamics and Global Tectonics

Please note: the modules listed above relate to the General pathway for Earth Sciences. For specialist pathways, please see the department website.

FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Earth and Planetary System Science (including fieldwork in Germany)
- Independent MSci Project

Optional modules

- You will select 2.0 credits of optional modules from the Environmental Geoscience, Geology and Geophysics programmes or the Palaeobiology or Environment and Policy pathways depending on your programme diet. Options available within the department may include:
  - Earth and Planetary Materials
  - Physical Volcanology and Volcanic Hazards
  - Tectonic Geomorphology
  - Palaeoceanography
  - Earthquake Seismology and Earthquake Hazards
  - Melting and Volcanism
  - Deep Earth and Planetary Modelling

Please note: the modules listed above relate to the General pathway for Earth Sciences. For specialist pathways, please see the department website.

Your learning

We use a mixture of lectures, practical classes, field courses, directed reading, problem-orientated learning, private study and tutorials to enable you to gain the theoretical knowledge and practical skills demanded by the programme, as well as to develop key transferable skills such as critical analysis, report writing, team working and organisational skills.

Assessment

You will be assessed by a combination of written examinations, practical examinations, coursework, independent project reports and sometimes an oral examination.

Your career

You will develop both discipline-based and highly sought after analytical skills, together with practical skills such as planning, conducting and reporting on investigations, collecting, recording and analysing data and the ability to undertake field and laboratory research.

All our students are encouraged and helped towards making informed career choices. We have excellent relationships with many employers in diverse aspects of the Earth and planetary sciences, and students are actively guided towards achieving their potential at UCL in preparation for their future careers.

First destinations of recent graduates (2013-2015) from this programme at UCL include:

- Assistant Geologist, Geotechnical Consulting Group
- Business Analyst in Technology Consulting, Deloitte
- Full-time student, PGCE in Geography at the UCL Institute of Education

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.

We will assess your application on the basis of your performance, or predicted performance academically, but we will also be looking for an indication of how your interest in natural and Earth sciences has developed, what aspects particularly appeal to you, and whether you have undertaken any research or reading to find out about the subject matter you wish to study.

We normally reach a decision on making an offer on the basis of the application alone. If you are resident in the UK and have been made an offer you will be invited to an applicant open day. This visit will include introductory talks on UCL Earth Sciences and our degree programmes, a tour of the department and UCL and a question and answer session.

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 2013-2015 graduating cohorts six months after graduation.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Grades
AAA-ABB

Subjects
Two sciences preferred.

GCSE
English Language and Mathematics at grade C. For UK-based students, a grade C or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs

IB DIPLOMA
Points
34-38 overall.

Subjects
A score of 16-18 points in three higher level subjects, preferably to include two sciences, with no score lower than 5.

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. Fees for 2018 entry will appear here as soon as they are available.

- UK & EU: £9,250 (2017/18 - see below)
- Overseas: £23,710 (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.

Additional costs
Students will be required to pay for transportation to overseas field trips and food. (The department covers accommodation and transport costs in the UK.)

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.

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

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