EUROPEAN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES BA
UCAS CODE: R990
2018 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus/esps
European Social and Political Studies BA /

This challenging, flexible and diverse programme offers specialisation in any one of ten humanities and social science subjects, combined with a broad base in European history, law, philosophy and politics, and fluency in a European language. Year three is spent at a European university.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2018

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// Benefit from UCL’s world-class teaching system and the insights of its renowned humanities, language and social sciences scholars, and from the expertise of their European counterparts.

// A year abroad at a continental university - exchange places with partner universities include Berlin, Bordeaux, Brussels, Hamburg, Madrid, Milan, Paris, Seville and Rome.

// Undertake a dissertation on an independently chosen research topic, with specialist supervision.

// Wide-ranging employability: 15% of ESPS graduates have gone into European, international or British politics, 20% into law, business and commerce.

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.

// Interdisciplinary programme: see contributing departments

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).

Introductory modules in the first year allow you to develop your interests and identify an area of specialism for later years. Your modules then fall into three groupings: common core, language (and culture), and a specialism in the humanities or social sciences.

The European common core involves working in a multidisciplinary environment, gaining insights into a range of academic disciplines and engaging critically with competing analytical perspectives.

You will undertake language study throughout the programme, selecting one language, or in some cases two, on which to concentrate.

Your third year is spent abroad, in a country where your choice of major European language is spoken. In your final year you return to UCL to continue with advanced modules in your language(s) and your humanities/social science subject, and also write your dissertation under the supervision of a member of staff.

The major European languages that you can study include: Danish, Dutch, French, German, Icelandic, Italian, Norwegian, Russian, Spanish and Swedish.

You may also take a second language as a minor language from those listed above, as well as from a wide range of other languages, including Arabic, Czech, Finnish, Hebrew, Mandarin, Polish, Serbian, Yiddish, Classical Greek or Latin.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Language-based modules

Introduction to European History, Law, Philosophy and Politics

// If you are taking the full Economics specialism you will also take 1.5 credits from UCL Economics, and will take no optional modules, or minor language.

Optional modules

// You will select 1.0 credit in a humanities or social sciences subject, or in a minor language.

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

// 1.5 credits in the department of your major language. (For students taking Danish, Dutch, French, German, Icelandic, Italian, Norwegian, Spanish or Swedish as a major language, this can include a 0.5 credit ELCS optional module in the School of European Languages, Culture & Society.)

Optional modules

// You will select 2.5 credits in your chosen area of specialisation.

YEAR THREE

// Year abroad

FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Dissertation

Language-based modules

Optional modules

// You will select 2.0 credits in your chosen area of specialisation.
Your learning

Your formal timetable will involve a programme of lectures, seminars and workshops. As well as the core modules, and modules designed specifically for ESPS students, you will choose options in other departments according to your area of specialisation. This gives you access to a range of UCL's successful teaching approaches.

Assessment

Your work will be assessed by written examination, assessed essay and presentation.

Your career

ESPS gives you the wide-ranging employability of graduates in PPE or international relations, but with the added maturity of a year abroad, and the advantage of fluency in a European language – essential for anyone seeking a career in a European context, and increasingly valuable for the financial sector or media posts.

ESPS graduates combine specialised knowledge of a humanities or social science with a broad foundation in European philosophy, law, history and politics and, importantly, proficiency in another language or languages. On top of this, they have the independence gained from a year studying abroad. In particular, students are able to demonstrate their aptitude for research by writing a dissertation.

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

// Full-time student, MSc in Conflict Studies, LSE (The London School of Economics and Political Science)
// Financial Analyst, Perella Weinberg
// Associate, Deloitte
// Policy Executive, Civil Service Singapore Government
// Full-time student, Master's in European Affairs at Sciences Po

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.

When we assess your application, we will be looking for a firm interest in social and political issues, including a demonstration of your ability to grasp theoretical concepts and analyse social trends. Your achievement in examinations is crucial but we also pay careful attention to your motivation and interests as expressed in your personal statement, and your referee’s report.

If you live in Europe and you meet (or are expected to meet) our selection criteria, you will be invited to an assessment day. This will involve sitting the Thinking Skills Assessment Test (at UCL) and taking part in a discussion group chaired by ESPS staff.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS

Grades
A*AA

Subjects
A humanities or social science subject (or Mathematics) preferred. Mathematics at A* required for full Economics specialism if chosen. French or Spanish required if one of these is to be studied as major language.

GCSE

English Language at grade B or 6, plus Mathematics at grade C or 5. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 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
39 overall.

Subjects
A score of 19 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5. Higher level subjects to include French B, or Spanish B at grade 6 if either of these is to be studied as a major language. A humanities or social science subject (or Mathematics) at higher level is normally a requirement. Mathematics at grade 7 at higher level is required for the full Economics specialism, if chosen.

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 2018/19 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2018/19 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK & EU: £9,250 (2018/19)
// Overseas: £19,390 (2018/19)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the UCL 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.

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