Geophysics BSc /

This broad-based programme provides a complete study of the physics of the solid Earth and its constituent materials, and of its atmosphere, oceans and ice sheets, leading to a firm foundation in geology, geological fieldwork, physics, mathematics and computing. The programme is fully accredited by the Geological Society of London.

**Key information**

**Programme starts**  
September 2019

**Location**  
London, Bloomsbury

**Degree benefits**

- The programme includes up to three months of field classes in the UK and continental Europe, with financial support from the department.
- UCL has state-of-the-art geophysical instruments including the new must-do technique of ground penetrating radar (GPR), a new magnetometer/gradimeter (for archaeological and environmental surveys) and new, modern seismics.
- The programme is fully accredited by the Geological Society of London.
- World-leading research in mineral, ice and rock physics, and in geophysical hazards, is undertaken in the department and is used in the development of our modules.

**Accreditation**  
This programme is accredited by the Geological Society. Undergraduate students may join the Geological Society as a Candidate Fellow and can become a Fellow of the Society upon graduation. A Fellow of the Society with relevant postgraduate experience in the practice of geology has the opportunity to apply for Chartered Geologist (CGeol) status.

**Degree structure**

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 15 or 30 credits, adding up to a total of 120 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 30-credit module is considered equivalent to 15 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

In their first two years all students study a common geophysics syllabus covering the fundamentals of mathematics, mechanics, electricity and magnetism, Earth materials, structural geology and tectonics, global geophysics and Earth processes. Theoretical studies are integrated with a large element of illustrative practical work both in the laboratory and in the field.

In the third year there are more advanced modules in seismology, geodynamics and global tectonics and there is the opportunity to specialise in, for example, the environmental aspects of the subject such as groundwater resources.

We take a modern approach to teaching, with modules based around laboratory practicals and theory workshops. Fieldwork provides a unique opportunity to develop independent and team skills and problem-solving abilities.

The BSc programme is identical to the first three years of the MSci programme.

**YEAR ONE**

**Core or compulsory module(s)**

- Classical Mechanics
- Dynamic Earth
- Earth Materials
- From Petrology to Petrogenesis (including Cornwall fieldwork)
- Mathematical Methods I
- Mathematical Methods II
- Surface Processes (including Dorset/Devon fieldwork)
- The Earth

**Optional modules**

- All first-year modules are compulsory.

**YEAR TWO**

**Core or compulsory module(s)**

- Electricity and Magnetism
- Global Geophysics
- Numerical Methods for Earth Sciences
- Mathematical Methods III
- Structural Geology and Tectonics

**Optional modules**

- You will select 45 credits from the following options:
  - Igneous Petrology
  - Isotope Geology
  - Maps, Images and Structures (including fieldwork)
  - Surface Processes and Structures (including fieldtrip)
  - Principles of Climate
  - Any appropriate modules in Physics, Maths, Statistics, Chemistry or Engineering
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 a Post Offer 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.

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

Together with subject-specific skills, geophysics graduates have a wide range of transferable skills, developed through fieldwork, computer modelling and independent research, which are highly valued by employers in general, offering opportunities for careers in the City, commerce and government.

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) of this programme at UCL include:

// Graduate Geophysicist, RSK Group

// Special Educational Needs (SEN) Worker, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

// Full-time student, MSc in Petroleum Geoscience at Imperial College London

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.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Standard Offer: AAB. Mathematics and Physics required.
Contextual Offer: BBB. Mathematics and Physics required.

GCSE
English Language and 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-requirements

IB DIPLOMA
Standard Offer: 36. A score of 17 points in three higher level subjects including Mathematics and Physics, with no score lower than 5.
Contextual Offer: 32. A score of 15 points in three higher level subjects including Mathematics and Physics, with no score lower than 5.

CONTEXTUAL OFFERS – ACCESS UCL SCHEME
As part of our commitment to increasing participation from underrepresented groups, students may be eligible for a contextual offer as part of the Access UCL scheme. For more information see www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-requirements

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)
UCL 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 2019/20 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. Fees for future years may be subject to an inflationary increase. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2019/20 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK & EU: £9,250 (2019/20)
// Overseas: £26,740 (2019/20)

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

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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/ucl-and-europe

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