History and Philosophy of Science BSc

This degree investigates the history of science from antiquity to the present and globally. The goal is to better understand science's many methods, fundamental concepts, logic, and ethics. Another goal is to build a broad perspective on the origins of science and its role in our modern world.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2019

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// Explore the history of science from antiquity to the present and across the world. This includes following changes as scientific knowledge moves between different cultures.

// Investigate how scientific knowledge is intertwined with culture and society, and how historians and sociologists understand the past based on evidence from archives, libraries, museums and oral testimonies

// Investigate science as a way of knowing, including its many methods, fundamental concepts, logic, and ethics, and use science to develop expertise in areas of philosophy from aesthetics to metaphysics

// Learn how to use history and philosophy to access, understand, and challenge positions in contemporary debates about science and technology

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).

This degree aims to produce graduates ready to use deep historical and philosophical perspectives to interpret science's influence on modern society.

With our focus on key skills, practical methods, and broader perspectives, we also aim to create versatile thinkers ready to engage with emerging issues.

The real strength of the degree is its flexibility and breadth across a wide range of themes in history and philosophy, underpinned by strong interdisciplinary connections.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

// History of Modern Science
// History of Science: from Antiquity to the Enlightenment
// Investigating Science and Society
// Philosophy of Science I
// Revealing Science
// Science Policy
// Science Communication and Public Engagement

Optional modules

// There are no optional modules in year one.

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

// There are no compulsory modules in year two.

Optional modules

// Students select modules from a wide range offered by the department and more widely across UCL, including:
  Engaging the Public with Science
  Evolution in Science and Culture
  Philosophy of Science II
  Policy Issues in the Life Sciences
  Science and Ethics
  Science and Religion
  Science in Popular Culture
  Sociology of Science and Technology
  Thinking about Technology
  Science and Empire
  Applied Medicine and Society
// Science in Government
// Special Topics in SPS
// Special Topics in HPS
// Note: our intermediate-year optional modules vary from year to year to reflect current practice and the latest academic research. Students may also select options from a wide range of optional and elective modules offered by the department and throughout UCL.
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.

FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Dissertation

Optional modules

// Advanced Philosophy of Medicine
Communication of Scientific Ideas
Disease in History
Governing Emerging Technologies
History of Astronomy and Cosmology
History of Medicine
Medical Ethics
Nature, Technology and the Environment
Philosophy of Information
Philosophy of Natural Science
Science and Film Production
Science in the Age of Newton
Science, Art and Philosophy
Science, Politics, and the State in Russia and the Soviet Union
Sleep and Dreaming
Globalisation in Theory and Practice
Science Communication in Digital Environments
Philosophy of Natural Sciences

// Zoos in Science and Culture

Note: our final-year optional modules vary from year to year to reflect current practice and the latest academic research. Students may also select options from a wide range of optional and elective modules offered by the department and throughout UCL.

Your learning

We consistently excel in student evaluations, obtaining 100% student satisfaction for the STS degrees from the National Student Survey in 2017, 2016, 2014, and 2013. Our teaching methods adapt to specific needs of students. Many modules include small-group discussions and active participation. The student-to-tutor ratio is approximately 10:1.

Assessment

Coursework ranges from short position pieces to significant research papers. In addition to essays, we assess using posters, blogs, and multimedia projects. Practical work includes mock parliamentary reports, radio programmes, film production, oral presentations, and internet projects. Group work sometimes is used, as are unseen examinations.

Your career

The programme is designed to enable you both to gain understanding of the discipline, and to develop intellectual, practical and transferable skills, such as critical thinking; retrieving, researching and analysing material, time and project management and working effectively both independently and as part of a team.

In this scientific and technological world, this programme provides an excellent foundation for many careers, especially those at the interface of professional science and the wider culture transnationally.

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

// Business Development Executive, SoftwareONE

// Graduate Community and Co-Design Partner, British Government

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.

Your application will be assessed on your prior and predicted academic achievement, and we will be seeking evidence of your interest in historical and contemporary issues in science, technology and medicine. You should also be able to demonstrate your ability to construct a reasoned argument and to participate in debate.
Entry requirements

**A LEVELS**
Standard Offer: AAB. No specific subjects.

Contextual Offer: BBB. No specific subjects.

**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, with no score lower than 5.

Contextual Offer: 32. A score of 15 points in three higher level subjects, 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/prospectus

**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: £23,470 (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**
If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc. on this programme, please get in touch with the relevant departmental contact (details given on this page).

**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**
Dr Jean-Baptiste Gouyon
Email: sts-admissions@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 1328
Department: Science and Technology Studies

**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