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 2018

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 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

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%: History subjects; 75%: Philosophy subjects 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).

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 History and Philosophy of Science
// 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
// Applied Medicine and Society

// 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 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.

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**Your learning**

The department has a reputation for excellence in the classroom. Tutors have won local and international teaching awards and we consistently rank highly in student evaluations. 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 4:1.

**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.

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**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:

// Research and Marketing Project Manager, Nasmyth Group
// Lead Games Tester, HCL Technologies
// Investor Relations Support, Vectura
// Graduate Community and Co-Design Partner, British Government
// Auditor, Deloitte

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**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.

After assessing your application, we invite applicants in the UK to visit the department for an open day. This includes introductory talks from staff and tours given by current students. The afternoon meetings with academic staff provide an opportunity to discuss your personal interests and aspirations in relation to your chosen degree.
Entry requirements

**A LEVELS**

**Grades**
AAB-ABB

**Subjects**
No specific subjects.

**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**
34-36 overall.

**Subjects**
A score of 16-17 points in three higher level subjects, 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:** £20,820 (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.

CONTACT

Dr Carina Fearnley

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/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