This new three-year programme offers an innovative curriculum that aims to provide understanding of historical, political, social, and international issues concerning the Americas. Our research-based, multidisciplinary teaching combines education in history, social sciences, research methods, and languages to prepare students for a wide range of global careers.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2019

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// The Institute of the Americas is the largest centre for the study of the Americas (including Canada, the US, Latin America, and the Caribbean) in the UK.

// Our programme provides a rigorous introduction to history and politics, as well as the possibility to specialise in one of these subjects after year one. You will gain new knowledge and expertise in your subject area as you take additional modules.

// You will enjoy an interdisciplinary environment designed for both home and international students who are interested in professional and academic careers in diplomacy, government, business, international charities, NGOs, and the education sector.

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).

Our aim is to provide a thorough grounding and opportunities for specialisation in history and politics. Alongside the development of disciplinary expertise, the degree programme promotes cross-disciplinary insight. You will learn how politics and societies evolve, how different disciplinary perspectives relate to each other, and how these perspectives can combine to give a more nuanced understanding of the Americas and their global relevance.

In years one and two you will take two core modules each year, plus options in history and politics. Language options are also available for students interested in learning relevant language skills.

In your final year, you will take an advanced module, designed to encourage you to engage with contemporary issues and share your knowledge with audiences outside UCL. You will also complete a dissertation and take history and politics optional modules.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Encountering the Americas: Key Themes and Concepts
// Introduction to Politics

Optional modules

// Optional modules may include:
// Language (Spanish, Portuguese, or French)
// History of Latin America, c. 1830-c. 1930 or History and Politics of Latin America, c. 1930-present
// The Making of Modern America: The United States since 1920

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Research Methods for International Studies
// Politics and Society in the Americas

Optional modules

// You will select from a range of optional modules, which may include optional modules from year 1 and:
// Building the American Nation: The United States, 1798-1920
// The Making of Modern America: The United States since 1920
// London and the United States: the Difference a City Makes
// The History and Politics of US Popular Culture in the Twentieth Century
// Protest Politics in the USA from the New Deal to the Tea Party
// Revolutions in Twentieth-Century Latin America
// Political Economy of Latin America: Institutions and Economic Growth
// International Politics of Latin America
// Democratisation in Latin America
// Power and Politics in Everyday Life: Topics in the Anthropology of Latin America
// Language (Spanish, Portuguese, or French)
FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Contemporary Issues and Texts in the Americas
- Dissertation

Optional modules

- Optional modules may include:
  - The History and Politics of US Popular Culture in the Twentieth Century
  - The New Deal: The USA and the Legacy of the Great Depression
  - Queer USA: The Politics of Sexual Minorities in the United States since the Great Depression
  - American Radicals 1945-1989
  - Crime, Violence, and Control in the Americas
  - We Shall Overcome: The Civil Rights Movement in America
  - Protest Politics in the USA from the New Deal to the Tea Party
  - Race and Resistance in Black Atlantic Thought
  - Che Guevara: The Making of a Revolutionary
  - Money and Politics in the Americas
  - Human Rights in the Americas
  - International Politics of Latin America
  - Democratization in Latin America
  - Revolutions in Twentieth-Century Latin America

Your learning

Teaching is based on lectures, seminar discussions, workshops, and individual coursework feedback. Core year one modules are taught comparatively, thematically and jointly by disciplinary and regional experts. As the degree progresses, seminars become smaller, more focused and students will follow their research interests to specialise in disciplines and regions of their choice.

Assessment

Assessment will be based on various types of written coursework and formal examinations, with learning also evaluated through speaking contributions and oral presentations. Students’ ability to engage with external audiences will be assessed in the year three core module. There is an emphasis on the acquisition of research skills via the completion of a research methods module (year two) and a 10,000-word dissertation (year three).

Your career

Our graduates, equipped with both multidisciplinary competences and area expertise, will be well situated for careers in the private and public sectors (in fields including finance, politics, diplomacy, teaching, NGOs, and international organisations). We also anticipate they will be well equipped to move on to further study and research.

As the first cohort of students for this programme will not graduate until 2021, there is no career destination information currently available. Please see first destinations of recent graduates (2013-2015) from History programmes at UCL for a selection of representative careers.

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 considered on its merits, taking into account your interest in and suitability for the degree. This should be demonstrated through your personal statement, referee’s report, and achieved and predicted grades. You should be able to demonstrate an enthusiasm for the study of at least one region of the Americas covered by the degree (the Caribbean, Latin America, and the US), as well as curiosity about those areas with which you are less familiar.

Selection is made on the basis of information contained in the UCAS application and the reference supplied.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Standard Offer: AAA. No specific subjects.
Contextual Offer: ABB. 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: 38. A score of 18 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5.
Contextual Offer: 34. A score of 16 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: £19,970 (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
Ms Antonella Silvestro
Email: ia-programmes@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 9746
Department: Institute of the Americas

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