Icelandic BA /

UCL’s four-year Icelandic BA is the only degree programme of its kind outside Iceland. The programme aims to develop your interest in, and knowledge and understanding of Iceland and the Nordic world, in areas including other Scandinavian languages, literature, culture and history. Your third year is spent abroad at the University of Iceland.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2018

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// You will spend a year abroad at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik.

// A broad range of module options are available, including Viking Studies, Old Norse, modern Scandinavian languages, literary studies, film studies, history, and cultural studies, together with the opportunity to acquire proficiency in a second Scandinavian language.

// UCL Scandinavian Studies has specialists across the areas of language, politics, history, medieval studies, literature and film.

// You will have access to the largest and oldest Scandinavian library in the country, as well as state-of-the-art facilities within the UCL Language Space.

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.

// 74% 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).

In your first year, you will embark on an intensive study of modern Icelandic at beginner’s level, study a mainland Scandinavian language (normally Danish) as well as Old Norse, and have the option of studying Scandinavian literary studies and linguistics. In your second year you will continue with language studies and select optional modules.

You will spend year three at the University of Iceland, taking a course in Icelandic for foreign students. If you are given permission to transfer to Icelandic with Danish, Norwegian or Swedish at the end of year one, you will also take a course in your mainland Scandinavian language while at Reykjavik.

The final year is spent at UCL, where you will take advanced modules in modern Icelandic and Old Norse, study Icelandic literature, and take further optional modules. If you have transferred to Icelandic with Danish, Norwegian or Swedish you will also take advanced modules in your mainland Scandinavian language.

The programme involves modules offered by SELCS, allowing students to study literature, film, art and culture from a wider and more interdisciplinary perspective. You will be exposed to broad cultural movements, issues and approaches and be able to draw on the full range of specialisms within the school.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Basic Modern Icelandic

// Basic language module in Danish, Norwegian or Swedish

// Histories and Cultures of the Nordic Region

// Introduction to Old Norse

Optional modules

// You will select 0.5 credits of optional modules from the following:

// Introduction to Linguistics and the Scandinavian Languages

// Nordic Storytelling

// Vikings and Material Culture

// You will also choose interdepartmental modules offered by SELCS. Options may include:

// Introduction to Finnish Society and Culture

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Intermediate Language module in Danish, Norwegian or Swedish

// Intermediate Modern Icelandic Language

// Old Norse I

Optional modules

// You will select 1.5 credits of optional modules. Options may include:

// Nordic Cinema

// Nordic Landscapes

// Nordic Politics and Society

// The Nordic Welfare States

// Scandinavian Literature in Context

// Viking Age Scandinavia

// Introduction to Finnish Society and Culture

// ELCS Intermediate Level modules
YEAR THREE

Year abroad key information

// For further information on the year abroad please visit the SELCS year abroad website.
// Students spend their year abroad at Haskoli Islands (University of Iceland).
// Note: students may also be able to apply for British Council language assistantships.
// Visit UCL Study Abroad for further details.

FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Degree-level Modern Icelandic
// Modern Icelandic Literature: Special Topics
// Old Norse II
// Students taking Icelandic with Danish, Norwegian or Swedish will also take 0.5 credits of advanced-level modules in their mainland Scandinavian language.

Optional modules

// You will select 2.0 credits of optional modules. Options may include:
// Dissertation in Scandinavian Studies
// Extended Essay in Scandinavian Studies
// Nordic Cinema
// Nordic Landscapes
// Nordic Literature in a Global World
// Nordic Politics and Society
// The Nordic Welfare States
// Reading Finnish Society and Culture
// Scandinavian Social Democracy
// The Vikings in Europe
// ELCS Advanced Level modules
// Students taking Icelandic with Danish, Norwegian or Swedish will take 1.5 credits of optional modules.

Your learning

Teaching consists of a mixture of lectures, classes, seminars, group work and presentations. The language elements comprise four taught hours a week for basic language in year one, four hours a week for intermediate language in year two, and two hours a week for advanced language in the final year. A significant portion of your work will take place in guided independent study. Language teaching is generally undertaken by native speakers.

Assessment

Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and written examination. Some are assessed by essays only. Language modules are assessed by coursework and written and oral examinations. During your year abroad you will take modules at your host university and will complete a Year Abroad Project.

Your career

Upon graduation you will be fluent in Icelandic and also have knowledge of other medieval and modern Scandinavian languages. The historical and literary parts of the degree will develop your cultural awareness. You will be trained in the organisation, presentation and interpretation of complex information, written and oral communication, and independent and group work.

Many of our graduates find they are able to use their Nordic languages in a variety of contexts, such as working for Scandinavian companies. Recent graduates have also entered translating, publishing and teaching.

Please see first destinations of recent graduates (2013-2015) from European Languages, Culture and Society programmes at UCL for a selection of representative careers.

// Computer Repair Specialist, Apple
// Full-time student, MA in Theoretical And Applied Linguistics at the University of Cambridge
// Full-time student, MPhil in Anglo Saxon, Norse and Celtic at the University of Cambridge

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 personal statement should reflect your interests and goals, especially with respect to your proposed degree. Some knowledge or experience of Icelandic culture is expected, as well as an explanation of how this has motivated you to learn more. We do not necessarily require a language at A level or equivalent, but expect you to demonstrate an enthusiasm and aptitude for language learning.

If your application demonstrates that your academic ability and motivation make you well suited to our degree and you receive an offer, we shall invite you to a post-offer open day. There, you will be able to experience the sort of teaching we offer and life in SELCS.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Grades
ABB
Subjects
Foreign language preferred.

GCSE
English Language at grade B, plus 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 overall.
Subjects
A score of 16 points in three higher level subjects, preferably including a foreign language, 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: £17,710 (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
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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