INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES BA
UCAS CODE: LV01
2019 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus
International Social and Political Studies BA /

This degree combines specialisation in one of nine humanities and social sciences, plus Q-step, with a broad base in history, law, politics and philosophy, and fluency in a language. The programme is designed as "PPE or SPS with a foreign language", where you will gain access to the literature of your chosen specialism in both English and your major language. You may focus on areas such as North and South America or China and East Asia.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2019

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// Benefit from UCL’s world-class teaching system and the insights of its renowned humanities, language and social sciences scholars, and from the expertise of their European counterparts.

// A year abroad at a university in a country where the target language is spoken.

// Undertake a dissertation on an independently chosen research topic, with specialist supervision.

// Wide-ranging employability: approximately 15% of ESPS graduates have gone into European, international or British politics, 20% into law, business and commerce.

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).

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Introductory modules in the first year allow you to develop your interests and identify an area of specialism for later years. Your modules then fall into three groupings: common core, language (and culture), and a specialism in the humanities or social sciences.

The common core involves working in a multidisciplinary environment, gaining insights into a range of academic disciplines and engaging critically with competing analytical perspectives. You will undertake language study throughout the programme, selecting one language, or in some cases two, on which to concentrate.

Your third year is spent abroad, in a country where your choice of major language is spoken. In your final year you return to UCL to continue with advanced modules in your language(s) and your humanities/social science subject, and also write your dissertation under the supervision of a member of staff. The major languages that you can study include French, Mandarin, Japanese, Spanish.

YEAR ONE
Core or compulsory module(s)

// Language-based modules
 Introduction to History, Law, Philosophy and Politics
 If you are taking the full Economics specialism you will also take 45 credits from UCL Economics, and will take no optional modules, or minor language.

Optional modules

// You will select 30 credits in a humanities or social sciences subject, or in a minor language.

YEAR TWO
Core or compulsory module(s)

// 45 credits in the department of your major language.

Optional modules

// You will select 75 credits in your chosen area of specialisation.

YEAR THREE
Year abroad

FINAL YEAR
Core or compulsory module(s)

// Dissertation
// Language-based modules

Optional modules

// You will select 60 credits in your chosen area of specialisation.
Your learning

Your formal timetable will involve a programme of lectures, seminars and workshops. As well as the core modules, and modules designed specifically for ISPS students, you will choose options in other departments according to your area of specialisation. This gives you access to a range of UCL’s successful teaching approaches.

Assessment

Your work will be assessed by written examination, assessed essay and presentation.

Your career

International Social and Political Studies (ISPS) gives you the wide-ranging employability of graduates in PPE or international relations, but with the added maturity of a year abroad, and the advantage of fluency in a foreign language – essential for anyone seeking a career in an international context, and increasingly valuable for the financial sector or media posts.

ISPS graduates combine specialised knowledge of a humanities or social science with a broad foundation in philosophy, law, history and politics and, importantly, proficiency in another language or languages. In addition, they gain independence from a year studying abroad. In particular, students are able to demonstrate their aptitude for research by writing a dissertation.

As this is a new programme there are no destination statistics available yet.

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.

When we assess your application, we will be looking for a firm interest in social and political issues, including a demonstration of your ability to grasp theoretical concepts and analyse social trends. Your achievement in examinations is crucial but we also pay careful attention to your motivation and interests as expressed in your personal statement, and your referee’s report.

If you live in Europe and you meet (or are expected to meet) our selection criteria, you will be invited to an assessment day. This will involve sitting the Thinking Skills Assessment Test (at UCL) and taking part in a discussion group chaired by ESPS staff. If you are resident in a country outside Europe you will be interviewed by telephone, and asked to submit an essay on a set topic written under examination conditions.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Contextual Offer: AAB. No specific subjects.

GCSE
English Language at grade B or 6, plus 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-reqs

IB DIPLOMA
Standard Offer: 39. A score of 19 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5.
Contextual Offer: 36. A score of 17 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.

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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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/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