Neuroscience BSc /

The Neuroscience BSc offers you the opportunity to learn about the structure and function of the brain in one of the world's greatest centres for neuroscience. You will have the benefit of modules in cell biology, developmental neurobiology, neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, pharmacology and psychology – all of which will show you how different areas of biology contribute to our understanding of this subject area.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2019

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// The multidisciplinary structure of this programme allows you to draw on expertise across all life sciences. As you progress, lectures will increasingly be given by specialists who are actively involved in neuroscience-related research.

// This programme puts particular emphasis on preparing you for careers that directly involve research or require a sound understanding of research methods.

// UCL and its associated institutes for neuroscience research have an outstanding global reputation. We have one of the highest concentrations of neuroscience researchers in Europe.

// Co-operation with UCL’s Institutes of Neurology, Cognitive Neuroscience, Ophthalmology, Child Health, and the newly established Sainsbury Wellcome Centre for Neural Circuits and Behaviour offers unrivalled opportunities to access research laboratories for your final-year project.

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).

The first year consists of introductory core modules that will provide a secure foundation for future work. Taking modules alongside other students in the UCL Faculties of Life Sciences and Brain Sciences will give you insight into related disciplines. Taking further core and optional modules in your second year will prepare you for the third year, in which you will select specialised options to suit your interests. Examples include Neural Basis of Motivation and Learning, Pain, Neurobiology of Brain Injury and Disease and Cellular Basis of Brain Function, but there are many more.

You will have the opportunity to transfer to the MSci programme at the end of year two. This will extend your programme to four years.

In the third year of the programme you will be able to join an existing research team in a UCL department or institute to conduct original research, guided by a supervisor.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
// Cells and Development
// Chemistry for Biology Students
// Foundations of Neurobiology
// Introduction to Genetics
// Introduction to Neuroscience
// Mammalian Physiology

Optional modules

// All first-year modules are compulsory.

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Cellular Neurophysiology
// Essential Molecular Biology
// Human Neuroanatomy
// Molecular Biology for Neuroscientists

Optional modules

// You will select 2.0 credits from a wide range of optional modules. Your selection must include:
// One of the following:
// Intermediate Pharmacology (1.0 credits)
// Introductory Pharmacology (0.5 credits)
// Plus at least one of the following:
// Developmental Neurobiology (0.5 credits)
// Mathematics for Science 1 (0.5 credits) / Differential and Integral Calculus (0.5 credits)
// Perception (0.5 credits)
// The Principles of Cellular Control (0.5 credits)
// Systems Neuroscience (0.5 credits)
// You will also select a further free option that may lie outside neuroscience.

FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Individually-supervised Experimental Project (1.5 credits)

Optional modules

// You will select 2.5 credits from a wide range of advanced-level optional modules within neuroscience and related disciplines.
Your learning

Your teaching and learning will include lectures, tutorials, workshops and practical classes. Some modules in year one are taught in relatively small groups, while others involve large lectures shared with students on other programmes. Practical classes play an important role throughout your studies, and help to prepare you for the individual research project of your final year.

Assessment

You will normally take a written examination at the end of the academic year in which you have taken each module, after obtaining up to 30% of your marks through coursework. Some introductory modules are examined by invigilated online tests throughout the year. Your final-year project will involve a written dissertation and an oral presentation.

Your career

This programme will develop your literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking skills, all of which can help you gain success in fields that do not require your specific subject knowledge. Careers in neuroscience will also be open to you.

Around half of our graduates choose to pursue further studies in neuroscience or a related life science. Some join UCL’s own MSc or PhD programmes, while others obtain PhD scholarships at major research centres worldwide. Some have embarked upon the study of medicine at graduate level, often with a view to becoming clinical neurologists or neurosurgeons. Others enter the teaching profession.

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

- Full-time student, Medicine MBBS at UCL
- Full-time student, MPhil in Clinical Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge
- Assistant Researcher, Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology and Cellular
- Full-time student, PhD in Biological Science at the University of Cambridge
- Full-time student, PhD in Neuroscience 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.

The entry requirements and selection process for the Neuroscience BSc and MSci are the same. In addition to meeting the listed entry requirements, you must demonstrate in your application an understanding of what studying neuroscience entails and why you are motivated to pursue it, as well as evidence of scientific curiosity and independent reading in the field. Additional desirable skills include time-management abilities (perhaps shown by combining academic success with extracurricular activities), self-discipline (perhaps through involvement in sports or music) and experience of working in a team environment.

If you apply by the main UCAS deadline and meet or are predicted to meet all of our academic and individual requirements (including being able to demonstrate a good understanding of what this specialised subject entails), you will receive an offer of a place (either conditional or unconditional).
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Standard Offer: AAA. Chemistry required plus one from Biology, Mathematics or Physics.

Contextual Offer: AAB. AA must be in Chemistry and other science (Biology, Mathematics or Physics)

GCSE
English Language and Mathematics at grade B or 6. 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 total of 18 points in three higher level subjects including Chemistry and one subject from Biology, Mathematics or Physics, with no score below 5.

Contextual Offer: 36. A total of 17 points in three higher level subjects including Chemistry and one subject from Biology, Mathematics or Physics (both at grade 6), with no score below 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: £24,760 (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
Email: biosciences-admissions@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 7169
Department: Division of Biosciences

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