This degree programme combines training in politics, international relations and sociology with specialist modules on Russia and Eastern Europe. The degree provides graduates with the skills to analyse contemporary issues in European and international politics and society.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2021

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// This is an exciting time to study this continually changing region. Many post-communist states are now part of the European Union but, instead of consolidating democracy, are witnessing the rise of right-wing populism. At the same time, Russia is re-emerging as an assertive power with major international consequences.

// You will learn about major approaches in social and political science and how to use them to understand social and political change in Russia, the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe.

// You will be taught by leading experts in the field, all of whom speak one or more of the languages of the region.

// Our academics are regularly consulted by the media as well as organisations such as the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Union.

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).

You will take compulsory modules in politics, sociology and international relations in years one and two, including on the political developments of Russia and other parts of the former USSR as well as Central and South-Eastern Europe.

In your final year you will write a dissertation based on an independent research project. You will choose additional optional modules in politics, sociology, international relations, economics, history and culture, to match your interests.

You have the opportunity to learn Russian or another East European language as part of your degree. As well as making use of our excellent language learning opportunities, you will also have access to the rich foreign language resources of the SSEES Library.

Upon successful completion of 360 credits, you will be awarded a BA (Hons) in Politics, Sociology and East European Studies.

Please note that the list of modules given here is indicative. This information is published a long time in advance of enrolment and module content and availability is subject to change.

YEAR ONE

Compulsory module(s)

- Understanding Politics: The Big Questions in Contemporary Europe
- Understanding Politics: How Politics Works
- Understanding Society: Introduction to Political Sociology
- Understanding Society: Introduction to Social Theory
- And at least one of:
  - Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe
  - Communist Societies, 1945-1989

Optional modules

- You will select 45 credits of optional modules which may include the following:
  - Frontiers of History
  - Introduction to International Relations – Key Concepts
  - Introduction to International Relations - Key Ideas
  - Introduction to Macroeconomics
  - Introduction to Microeconomics
  - Other optional modules are available in East European languages and culture, history, or Russian. Language modules are available within SSEES or the UCL Centre for Languages & International Education (CLIE).
YEAR TWO

**Compulsory module(s)**
- Two compulsory core courses
- Comparative Political Analysis
- Researching Politics and Society
- and at least two compulsory courses chosen from the following:
  - Post-Soviet Politics and Society
  - Russian Politics and Society
  - South-East European Politics and Society
  - Politics and Society in Central and Eastern Europe

**Optional modules**
- You will select up to 60 credits from a range of additional modules. Options may include:
  - Contemporary Polish Cinema
  - Culture in Eastern Europe: Anthropological Approaches
  - History of European Political Ideas
  - Language Module
  - Migration and Health
  - Political Economy of European Integration
  - Topics in Microeconomics
- Other optional modules will be available in East European languages and culture, history or Russian.

FINAL YEAR

**Compulsory module(s)**
- 10,000 word free-standing Dissertation

**Optional modules**
- You will select 90 credits from a wide range of module options. Options may include:
  - Corruption and Governance
  - European Security
  - History of European Political Ideas
  - Baltic Politics and Society
  - Making of Modern Ukraine
  - Parties and Elections in a Global Perspective
  - Soviet and Russian Foreign Policy
- Other optional modules will be available in Russian, history, East European languages and culture.

Your learning

You will be taught through a combination of lectures, seminars and tutorials. You will be expected to prepare presentations and papers on selected topics for your seminars and tutorials, sometimes as an individual and sometimes as part of a group, followed by class discussion. You will also receive regular written work, including essays, exercises and case study analyses.

Assessment

You will receive feedback from tutors on both your oral and written work and your presentation skills to help develop your analytical ability in these areas. Your assessment will be based on unseen written examinations, coursework and a supervised final-year dissertation.

Accessibility

Details of the accessibility of UCL buildings can be obtained from AccessAble. Further information can also be obtained from the UCL Student Support & Wellbeing team.

Your career

You will acquire a solid understanding of politics and sociology, specialist knowledge of a region whose changing politics, economics and international relations are rapidly reshaping our understanding of the world, as well as a raft of transferable skills.

Career destinations of previous graduates include government service, international agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), consultancy (economic, political risk, security, marketing), banking, financial services, law, media, teaching and the leisure industry, as well as further study.

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.

We use your qualifications, predicted grades and personal statement to assess your suitability for this programme. Your personal statement should explain your motivation for applying to this programme, what it is that interests you about the study of Russia and Central and Eastern Europe, and provide evidence of an interest in politics or sociology (for example, from background reading).

On the basis of our assessment of your application we will decide whether to make you an offer. If you are successful, you will be invited to a post-offer open day (if you live in the UK).
Entry requirements

A LEVELS

**Standard Offer:** AAB. No specific subjects. At least two A level subjects should be taken from UCL’s list of preferred A level 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.

**Contextual Offer:** BBB. No specific subjects. At least two A level subjects should be taken from UCL’s list of preferred A level 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:** 36 points. A score of 17 points in three higher level subjects, with no score below 5.

**Contextual Offer:** 32 points. A score of 15 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 2020/21 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 2020/21 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

- **UK & EU:** £9,250 (2020/21)
- **Overseas:** £21,260 (2020/21)

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

A guide including rough estimates for these and other living expenses is included on the UCL Fees and funding pages. If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc., 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:** ugadmissions@ssees.ucl.ac.uk

**Telephone:** +44 (0)20 7679 8830

**Department:** SSEES - School of Slavonic & East European Studies

UK withdrawal from the EU

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s withdrawal from the EU, please refer to: www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit.