Science and Society BSc

This degree explores science in its varied and complex forms and we train you to study science and scientists as part of modern society. We combine science policy, ethics, and governance, science communication, and sociology of modern science and technology. UCL is unique in the UK in offering this BSc.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2018

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

Modules in science policy and governance are local and global in scope. They engage with ethics, historical decision-making processes, governance of emerging technologies, and future directions in science, medicine, and technology.

Modules in science communication focus on the complex interactions between scientists and the public. We consider the methods of science journalism, including radio and television and online environments.

Practical modules in public engagement and evaluation build hands-on skills with communication and conversation. You will also develop the skills of evaluating the effectiveness of science communication: what works and what doesn’t?

Modules in sociology of modern science and technology engage with classic sociological theory and practical field methods to study science as a human activity, shaped by modern society.

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.

82%: History subjects; 75%: Philosophy subjects 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).

This programme aims to produce graduates ready to talk about science and interpret its influences in modern society without committing to a life at the laboratory bench. Science involves many more people than scientists themselves, and this degree seeks to build policymakers, communicators, and other observers who can contribute informed views to ongoing debates about science’s direction and impact. This might involve contributing to debates on science funding or ethics; weighing the value of different social priorities; or consulting on the impact of new technologies and new discoveries.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Fundamentals of Science Communication
- History of Modern Science
- History of Science: Antiquity to Enlightenment
- Investigating History and Philosophy of Science
- Investigating Science and Society
- Philosophy of Science I
- Revealing Science
- Science Policy

Optional modules

- There are no optional modules in year one.

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

- There are no compulsory modules in year two.

Optional modules

- Students select options from a wide range of modules offered by the department and more widely across UCL, including:
  - Engaging the Public with Science
  - Evolution in Science and Culture
  - Philosophy of Science II
  - Policy Issues in the Life Sciences
  - Science and Empire
  - Science and Ethics
  - Science and Religion
  - Science in Popular Culture
  - Sociology of Science and Technology
  - Science and Empire
  - Applied Medicine and Society

- Our intermediate-year optional modules vary from year to year to reflect current practice and the latest academic research. Students may also select options from a wide range of modules offered by the department and throughout UCL.
The department has a reputation for excellence in the classroom. Tutors have won local and international teaching awards and we consistently rank highly in student evaluations. Tutors also include industry professionals. Our teaching methods adapt to specific needs of students. Many modules include small-group discussions and active participation. The departmental student-to-tutor ratio is approximately 4:1.

Assessment
Coursework ranges from short position pieces to significant research papers. In addition to essays, we sometimes assess using posters, blogs, and multimedia projects. Practical work includes mock parliamentary reports, radio programmes, presentations, and web projects. Group work sometimes is used, as are unseen examinations.

Your career
The programme is designed to enable you to gain understanding of the discipline, and to develop intellectual, practical and transferable skills, such as critical thinking; retrieving, researching and analysing material, time and project management and working effectively both independently and as part of a team.

In this scientific and technological world, this programme provides an excellent foundation for many careers, especially those at the interface of professional science and the wider culture transnationally.

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

// Self-Employed Illustrator, Self-Employed Illustrator
// Full-time student, Emerging Economies and International Development MSc at King’s College London
// Full-time student, Science Communication MSc at Imperial College London
// Full-time student, MSc in Global Governance and Ethics at UCL
**Entry requirements**

### A LEVELS

**Grades**
AAB-ABB

**Subjects**
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-reqs](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs)

### IB DIPLOMA

**Points**
34-36 overall.

**Subjects**
A score of 16-17 points in three higher level subjects, 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](http://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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/upc).

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**Tuition Fees**

The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2018/19 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2018/19 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

- **UK & EU:** £9,250 (2018/19)
- **Overseas:** £22,790 (2018/19)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the [UCL Students website](http://www.ucl.ac.uk).

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**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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk) 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/eu-referendum](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum)

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**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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus).