LONDON’S GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICS OF SCIENCE BSc / UCAS CODE: L391 2019 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus
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 2019

**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.

**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).

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; weighting the value of different social priorities; or consulting on the impact of new technologies and new discoveries.

**YEAR ONE**

**Core or compulsory module(s)**
- Science Communication and Public Engagement
- 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
  - Thinking about Technology
  - 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 optional and elective modules offered by the department and throughout UCL.
Data taken from the 'Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education' survey undertaken by HESA looking at the destinations of UK and EU students in the 2013-2015 graduating cohorts six months after graduation.

**FINAL YEAR**

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Dissertation

Optional modules

- Advanced Philosophy of Medicine
- Communication of Scientific Ideas
- Disease in History
- Governing Emerging Technologies
- History of Astronomy and Cosmology
- History of Medicine
- Medical Ethics
- Nature, Technology and the Environment
- Philosophy of Information
- Philosophy of Natural Science
- Science and Film Production
- Science in the Age of Newton
- Science, Art and Philosophy
- Science, Politics, and the State in Russia and the Soviet Union
- Sleep and Dreaming
- Globalisation in Theory and Practice
- Science Communication in Digital Environments
- Philosophy of Natural Sciences
- Zoos in Science and Culture

- Our final-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 optional and elective modules offered by the department and throughout UCL.

**Your learning**

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, obtaining 100% student satisfaction for the STS degrees from the National Student Survey in 2016, 2014, and 2013. Our teaching methods adapt to specific needs of students. Many modules include small-group discussions and active participation. The student-to-tutor ratio is approximately 10:1.

**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:

- Civil Servant, Home Office
- Non-Managed Deposit Liaison, Savills

**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 application will be assessed on your prior and predicted academic achievement, and we will be seeking evidence of your interest in historical and contemporary issues in science and technology. You should also be able to demonstrate your ability to construct a reasoned argument and to participate in debate.

After assessing your application, we invite applicants in the UK to visit the department for an open day. This includes introductory talks from staff and tours given by current students. The afternoon meetings with academic staff provide an opportunity to discuss your personal interests and aspirations in relation to your chosen degree.
Entry requirements

**A LEVELS**
Standard Offer: AAB. No specific subjects.
Contextual Offer: BBB. 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**
Standard Offer: 36. A score of 17 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5.
Contextual Offer: 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](http://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](http://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](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. Fees for future years may be subject to an inflationary increase. 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)

Overseas fees for the 2019/20 academic year are expected to be available in July 2018. Undergraduate UK/EU fees are capped by the UK Government and are expected to be available in October 2018. 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**
Dr Carina Fearnley
Email: sts-admissions@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 1328
Department: Science and Technology Studies

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

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