CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES MSc
2019/20 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/
Clinical Mental Health Sciences MSc

The UCL Division of Psychiatry is pleased to offer this programme focused on clinical practice in mental health and its evidence base. The Clinical Mental Health Sciences MSc integrates biological, psychological and social perspectives on mental health and caters both for psychology graduates and for clinicians wishing to undertake a broad-based, rigorous and flexible higher degree.

Degree summary

Students will develop an in-depth understanding of current evidence regarding mental health problems and the interventions provided to address them, as well as enhancing their research skills. A wide range of options from across the School of Life and Medical Sciences at UCL allows students to tailor a programme that fully fits their needs.

UCL has a cluster of international experts in mental health, including in genetics, epidemiology, and applied clinical research, and most are also clinicians. We are able to offer a broad programme encompassing both cutting-edge research and a clinical perspective.

The programme is strongly focused on student participation, with much use of small-group learning, and the environment in the Division of Psychiatry is stimulating, friendly and supportive.

A wide range of options at UCL allows programmes to be tailored to students’ needs and interests in clinical, research and management domains.

The programme is delivered through lectures, seminars and workshops, with considerable use of supporting online learning. Assessment methods include one unseen examination, coursework including designing questionnaires and protocols and analysing data, giving talks and presenting posters, and a final report in the format of a journal paper or brief for clinicians or service planners.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years; Flexible: 2-5 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of 1–2 core double modules (30–60 credits), 4–6 optional modules (60–90 credits) and a dissertation/report (60 credits).

A diploma may be awarded to students who complete the equivalent of 8 taught single modules, amounting to 120 credits.

A certificate may be awarded to students who complete the equivalent of 4 taught single modules, amounting to 60 credits.

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.

COMPULSORY MODULES

- Core Principles of Mental Health Research (double module)
- Clinical Mental Health (double module; compulsory only for those who do not have at least six months’ full-time experience, or the equivalent, of working in mental health settings).

Students who are unsure whether they should take Clinical Mental Health should discuss it with the course team. It is in general unnecessary for those who are already qualified clinicians.

OPTIONAL MODULES

Students who take the Clinical Mental Health module will take four optional modules, including at least one from the Division of Psychiatry. Students who do not take this module will take six optional modules, including at least three from the Division of Psychiatry.

- Students who take the Clinical Mental Health module will choose at least one option (15 credits) from the following:
  - Current Research in Depression and Anxiety
  - Current Research in Dementia
  - Current Research in Intellectual and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities
  - Current Research in Psychosis and Bipolar
  - Current Research in Children’s and Young People’s Mental Health
  - Mental Health Care: Policy and Evaluation
  - Culture in the Clinic
  - Advanced treatment and management of Dementia (appropriateness to be discussed with Module Lead if Current Research in Dementia not also taken
  - Please note: Students who do not take the Clinical Mental Health module will select at least three modules (45 credits) from the above list
  - Any UCL modules approved by the Programme staff and not resulting in timetable clashes may be added. Other modules available in the Division are Mental Health in Social & Global Context, Epidemiologic, Ethnicity, Migration and Health (Department of Epidemiological and Social Methods in Public Health)
  - Social Determinants of Health (Department of Epidemiology and Public Health)
  - Higher Functions of the Brain (Institute of Neurology)

NB: due to timetable clashes only one UCL Institute of Child Health module may be taken by each student.

RESEARCH PROJECT/REPORT

- All students undertake a final project. This may be a research project, to be reported as a paper of up to 7,000 words ready for submission to a specified journal, a blog of 1,000 words and a 20-minute talk, or a clinical project of 10,000 words reporting on a clinical topic or service evaluation.
We do not have formal assessed placements as part of the course, but many students spend a day a week volunteering in NHS or clinical research settings for all or part of the course, and we are happy to help people find suitable settings in which to undertake this voluntary experience.

The programme team support students in obtaining volunteer placements in relevant mental health care and research settings, but this is not a formal part of the course and is entirely optional.

Your career

For non-clinicians, the programme will be an excellent grounding for clinical training, such as in clinical psychology, or for embarking on a research career in mental health. Many graduates go on to research assistant, clinical support worker or assistant psychologist posts as a first destination. The programme is also intended to prepare students for PhD studies, also a major onward route. For clinicians, this is a great opportunity to gain a higher qualification through a programme based in a leading university department which can be closely tailored to your interests across clinical, research and management fields.

Employability

Students will be taught by leading experts in their fields, will gain a strong clinical understanding of mental health, and will be able to develop their skills in research, service design and evaluation, and writing and presenting. Previous Division of Psychiatry Master’s graduates have been enthusiastic about their career enhancement, both through their programme and the connections they have made through it. We offer to find all students a placement (if they wish) for one day a week in which relevant clinical and/or research experience is obtained. A large proportion of our first cohort of graduates have gone on to paid employment in relevant areas of mental health, especially research assistant, clinical support worker, psychological wellbeing practitioner and assistant psychologist posts. Others have embarked on PhD studies.
Entry requirements

An upper second-class Bachelor’s degree in psychology or a related scientific or social science discipline, or a professional health qualification (medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, social work) or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

Candidates who do not have at least six months’ full-time work experience (or the equivalent) in a mental health service setting or in clinical mental health research are required to take the Clinical Mental Health double module.

English language proficiency level

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency.

The level of English language proficiency for this programme is: Good.

Information about the evidence required, acceptable qualifications and test providers is provided at: www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/english-requirements

Your application

Students are advised to apply as early as possible due to competition for places. Those applying for scholarship funding (particularly overseas applicants) should take note of application deadlines.

When we assess your application we would like to learn:

// why you want to study Clinical Mental Health Sciences at graduate level
// why you want to study Clinical Mental Health Sciences at UCL
// what particularly attracts you to this programme
// how your personal, academic and professional background meets the demands of this challenging programme
// where you would like to go professionally with your degree

Together with essential academic requirements, the personal statement is your opportunity to illustrate whether your reasons for applying to this programme match what the programme will deliver.

There is an application processing fee for this programme of £75 for online applications and £100 for paper applications. Further information can be found at: www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/application.

FEES AND FUNDING 2019/20 ENTRY

// UK: £11,650 (FT), £5,800 (PT)
// EU: £11,650 (FT), £5,800 (PT)
// Overseas: £27,470 (FT), £13,750 (PT)

The tuition fees shown are for the year indicated above. Fees for subsequent years may increase or otherwise vary. Further information on fee status, fee increases and the fee schedule can be viewed on the UCL Students website.

Fees for flexible, modular study are charged pro-rata to the appropriate full-time Master’s fee taken in an academic session.

The Division of Psychiatry offers 5-6 awards worth up to £2,000 towards fees to students who show great promise as mental health researchers.

Full details of funding opportunities can be found on the UCL Scholarships website: www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 18 May 2019

Details on how to apply are available on the website at: www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

Mrs Chris Coup, Programme Administrator

Email: c.coup@ucl.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 9039

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/brexit