Clinical trials are essential in discovering whether new healthcare interventions improve outcomes for patients. This face-to-face programme will provide an excellent grounding in clinical trials and enhance the knowledge and understanding of those already working in the field. This is an expanding area which offers many exciting career opportunities.

Degree summary

Students learn about the scientific, methodological and practical issues involved in the design, conduct, analysis, and reporting of clinical trials. Teaching is delivered by researchers with expertise in many different healthcare fields. All types of trials, from early to late phase trials, and from simple to complex interventions are covered.

The Institute of Clinical Trials and Methodology (ICTM) at UCL is a global leader in the field with over 450 researchers (including clinicians, statisticians, trials managers) working within it. Students will meet and be taught by many of these researchers.

Using a diverse range of clinical trials designs and methodology the ICTM provides evidence that impacts on a wide variety of diseases and has a particularly strong track record in cancer, HIV, tuberculosis, primary care, and mental and women’s health.

There is expertise from early to late phase clinical trials, stratified medicine and novel interventions such as targeted therapies.

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, online resources and practical work. Assessment is through written examinations, oral presentations, written assignments (for example, essays, abstracts, background section of a protocol, critical analysis of published work, patient information and communication plans) and the dissertation/report.

Degree structure

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

Full-time students will usually attend two days per week. Part-time students will usually attend one day per week.

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of seven core modules (120 credits), and a dissertation/report (60 credits)

A Postgraduate Diploma, consisting of seven core modules (120 credits) and available for full-time, part-time or flexible study is offered.

A Postgraduate Certificate consisting of three or four modules (60 credits) and available for full-time, part-time and flexible study is offered.

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

- All modules, except where indicated, are worth 15 credits.
- Introduction to Clinical Trial Design and Statistical Analysis (30 credits)
- Protecting Patients and Introduction to Public and Patient Engagement
- Trial Set-Up and Conduct - from an Idea to Reality
- Further Trial Designs and Outcomes
- Applying Clinical Trial Design Principles in Practice
- Managing Open Trials, Preparing for Analysis and Disseminating Trial Results
- Patient and Data Pathways through Clinical Trials

OPTIONAL MODULES

- No options are currently available for this programme.

DISSERTATION/RESEARCH PROJECT

- All students undertake a project which consists of a project proposal of 2,000 words, a 20-minute oral presentation, and a journal paper of 6,000 words.
Your career

Students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to become key team members in the design, conduct, analysis, and reporting of high-quality clinical trials. Potential career opportunities include trial and data management, statistics, regulation of clinical trials, and medical writing. Career destinations include academic trials units, the pharmaceutical industry, contract research organisations, or hospitals. Students may also use this qualification as a springboard for further study at doctoral level.

Employability

Clinical trials is an expanding and highly competitive field of research yet employers find it challenging to recruit people with the appropriate skills and knowledge. This programme has been designed in consultation with employers from academia, the pharmaceutical industry and the NHS. It will give graduates the critical thinking and problem-solving skills that employers seek in this multidisciplinary, collaborative field.
Entry requirements

Normally a minimum of an upper second-class UK Bachelor's degree in a healthcare or life science related subject (including pharmacy) or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. Clinicians are required to have a degree (for example, an MBBS).

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 access your application we would like to learn:

- why you want to study Clinical Trials at graduate level
- why you want to study Clinical Trials at UCL
- what particularly attracts you to the chosen programme
- how your 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: £10,440 (FT), £5,210 (PT)
// EU: £10,440 (FT), £5,210 (PT)
// Overseas: £25,150 (FT), £12,510 (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.

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 26 July 2019

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

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/brexit