COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
MA /
2019/20 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/
Comparative Literature MA /

This interdisciplinary MA is taught on an interdepartmental basis by staff who cover an exceptionally wide range of expertise. The flexible nature of the programme enables students to develop their own interests whilst gaining a thorough understanding of modern literary theory and comparative literature.

Degree summary

Students develop a thorough understanding of modern theories of literature, the contexts of literature and the interaction between literatures, and gain practical experience in comparative literary studies. The programme also develops the critical and analytical skills necessary for research in this field.

With its exceptional range of modern and ancient languages and cultures, UCL provides a comprehensive environment for comparative literary study.

Departments housed in the Faculty of Arts & Humanities cover Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Ancient Greek, Hebrew, Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish and Yiddish. The School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES) deals with all the major languages, literatures and cultures of Central and Eastern Europe. A co-operation agreement with SOAS, University of London, covers teaching as well as research and ensures global coverage.

Many UCL staff have comparative and interdisciplinary research interests in addition to their subject specialism. We are particularly interested in innovative approaches to literary and cultural studies, and in research with a comparative, cross-cultural, and interdisciplinary focus, including research in the following fields: world literature, literary and cultural theory, material and visual cultures, reception studies, themes and genres, cultural history, comparative gender and performance studies, translation studies, diaspora and migration studies, and new media.

Teaching and supervision are organised on an interdepartmental basis. Teaching sessions are envisaged as interactive, with a limited amount of lecturing and an emphasis on student participation and critical discussion. Assessment is based on a combination of shorter and longer essays and the dissertation.

Degree structure

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

Part-time students will normally take half of their courses in Year 1 and the other half, including the dissertation, in Year 2.

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. There are two pathways through the programme: taught and research. Taught: two core modules (60 credits), two optional modules (60 credits), and a dissertation (60 credits). Research: two core modules (60 credits), one optional module (30 credits), and a dissertation (90 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 Course: Literature (30 credits: Term 1); Core Course: Literary Theory (30 credits: Term 2)

Modern Literary Theory

Comparative Literary Studies

Dissertation

There are three compulsory modules: Comparative Literary Studies (30 credits, Term 1); Modern Literary Theory (30 credits, Term 2); and the Dissertation (60 credits, Terms 3 & 4)

OPTIONAL MODULES

Options may include the following:

Revolutions in Literature: Writing China's Twentieth Century

Apocalypse Literature

Consumer Culture in Literature

Readings in Twentieth Century Chinese Literature and Culture: Family, Childhood, Gender

Performance, Visual Media and Popular Culture in Africa

Theoretical Issues in History and Literature

Language, Culture and History

Topics in Cultural Studies

Translation Studies

Comparative Medieval Literature

Literary and Cultural Theory

All Quiet on the Eastern Front: Culture, Politics, and Everyday Life in Central and Eastern Europe from Stalin to Present

Literatures of Rupture: Modernism in Russia and Eastern Europe

Modern Chinese Literature in Translation

The MA in Comparative Literature is highly flexible and courses can be taken in a number of units including, for example, SELCS, SSEES and SOAS.

DISSERTATION/REPORT

All students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a dissertation of 12,000 words (taught pathway) or 18,000 words (research pathway).
Your career

Publishing, academic teaching, research and journalism are the most common destinations for graduates with an MA in Comparative Literature but the civil service, teaching or employment as a translator or copywriter are becoming increasingly attractive alternatives.

Employability

Skills acquired as a result of taking this programme include: ability to conduct research in library archives and electronic archives; ability to synthesise and summarise large amounts of information; ability to use evidence in order to construct a convincing argument; ability to work with texts in more than one language; acquisition of sensitivity to the cultural register of texts; ability to plan workloads efficiently and meet deadlines.
Entry requirements

A minimum of an upper second-class Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

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: Advanced.

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 Comparative Literature at graduate level
// why you want to study Comparative Literature at UCL
// what particularly attracts you to this programme
// how your personal, academic and professional background meets the demands of this 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.

We are also interested in candidates who demonstrate evidence of leadership.

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), £5,275 (PT)
// EU: £10,440 (FT), £5,275 (PT)
// Overseas: £21,790 (FT), £11,060 (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.

All full time students are required to pay a fee deposit of £1,000 for this programme. All part-time students are required to pay a fee deposit of £500.

All prospective students can apply for the UCL Graduate School Open Scholarships.

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

Jo Wolff, Admissions Officer

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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