This MSc focuses on the design, creation, and operation of democratic institutions. Students gain understanding of when a given set of institutes are appropriate for a society and what will make them function, and how scholars have thought about these matters, applying theory to examples of institution-building and design.

**Degree summary**

Students are equipped with the theoretical tools and empirical evidence necessary for an in-depth understanding of democratic institutions and politics. They develop an understanding of the potential benefits and pitfalls of different institutional designs, reforms, and administrative practices, and are able to analyse problems raised by new and reforming democracies.

- UCL Political Science is recognised as a centre of excellence in the field and offers a uniquely stimulating environment for the study of democracy and comparative politics.
- Students on the programme benefit from greater interaction with fellow students and academic staff due to small class sizes.
- London features a wealth of seminars, conferences, and other events on democratic topics. These provide a means for students to expand their knowledge and to extend their professional networks prior to entering the job market.

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures and seminars. Assessment is through unseen examinations, long essays, coursework, and the dissertation.

**Degree structure**

**Mode:** Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years

**Location:** London, Bloomsbury

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of five compulsory core modules (75 credits), optional modules (45 credits) and a research dissertation (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**

- Democracy and Constitutional Design (30)
- Democratic Political Institutions (15)
- Qualitative Methods: Interviews, Observations and Mixed Methods (15) or Qualitative Methods: Texts and Images (15) or Qualitative Methods: Case Studies and Comparative Analysis (15)
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods or Advanced Quantitative Methods (15)

**OPTIONAL MODULES**

- Choose one of the following 15 credit methods modules:
- Further modules can be chosen up to a value of 30 credits in total from a list available at our website: Political Science Department.
- Choose one of the following 15 credit modules (the other three remain available as options): Parliaments, Political Parties and Policy Making (15) Governing Divided Societies (15) The European Union, Globalisation and the State (15) Voters, Public Opinion and Participation (15)

**DISSERTATION/REPORT**

- All MSc students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a dissertation of 10,000 words.
Your career

Alumni of this programme work in a variety of fields. Many take on roles within their home governments, and a substantial number find jobs with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), working in their home countries or abroad. Some work for a research institutes or provide research for business, and a small number have also gone on to PhD study.

Employability

Graduates of the programme are equipped with the theoretical tools and empirical evidence necessary for entry into the world of government policy, non-governmental organisations, or the private sector.
Entry requirements

As a minimum, an upper second-class Bachelor's degree from a UK university; or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. Relevant practical or work experience in a related field may also be taken into account.

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 Democracy and Comparative Politics at graduate level
- why you want to study Democracy and Comparative Politics at UCL
- what particularly attracts you to this programme
- how your personal, academic and professional background meets the demands of a challenging and truly international academic environment
- 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: £13,340 (FT), £6,610 (PT)
- EU: £13,340 (FT), £6,610 (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.

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

Political Science Admissions Administrator

Email: polsci.admissions@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 4982/4950

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

PDF Updated: June 25, 2019

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 Graduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate