The MA Primary Education (4-12) develops critical understanding of policy development in primary education within the UK and internationally. It meets the rapidly changing needs of professionals educating young children, in examining critically the bases for current practices in primary schools, providing insight into international developments in primary education and in offering opportunities to work with leading researchers and practitioners in the field.

Degree summary

The programme offers opportunities to engage with the latest research and international debate concerning curriculum, pedagogy and assessment and its implications for professional practice in primary education. Students will develop knowledge and skills to evaluate and conduct educational research related to their professional interests and develop their own perspectives as leaders in primary education.

The Primary and Early Years Education staff team at UCL Institute of Education (IOE) have been at the forefront of international research for two decades including the renowned Effective Pre-School, Primary and Secondary Education (EPPSE) project. The programme also has strong links to the innovative Helen Hamlyn Centre for Pedagogy (0-11). The programme sits as part of the wider MA Early Years Education. The MA Primary Education (4-12) focuses specifically on primary education but you will also have the opportunity to exchanges ideas with and learn from students studying across the early years and primary age phases.

This degree supports understanding and insights into primary education nationally and internationally, and contributes to personal and professional development in the field of study.

Previous students have found it helpful in developing their critical awareness of how policy and practice interact and its influence on their practice, for example: "linking classroom and school practice to research and thinking about the implications of research findings and resulting possibilities" (E. Taylor-Jones, 2018)

This programme is delivered through face-to-face sessions which are a mix of mainly evenings 5:30-8:30pm and a few Saturdays across the year. Sessions are a mixture of input by specialists and discussion in seminars and workshops. Assessment is through assignments and a dissertation/report.

Degree structure

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

Students take modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of three compulsory modules (90 credits), one optional module (30 credits) and a dissertation (60 credits). For those students who import (up to 60) credits via Accreditation of Prior Learning, a report (30 credits) may be undertaken instead of the dissertation.

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

- Primary Education Policies and Practice
- Global debates and research into practice: educating children aged 4-12
- Researching Early Years and Primary Education

OPTIONAL MODULES

Students can choose from the optional modules listed below. Students can also choose one from a range of other Master's-level optional modules across the IOE offering, subject to availability.

- Leadership in Early Childhood Education
- Guiding effective teaching and learning
- Primary maths (this will only run with a min of 20 students)
- Literacy Development
- Children’s Rights and Practice
- Assessment for learning
- Understanding education policy
- Bilingualism and multilingualism
- Reading and Spelling Difficulties

Visit the UCL Institute of Education website for more information, including module descriptions, which can be seen by clicking on the module title.

DISSERTATION/REPORT

Students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a 20,000-word dissertation or 10,000 word report.

There is an opportunity in the Autumn term to visit a primary school, particularly for those unfamiliar with the English education system.

If you wish to undertake any of your research in UK schools or settings, you will need to apply and pay for a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.
Your career

Graduates of this programme are currently working in a broad range of careers, both nationally and internationally. Many have leadership roles in schools, for example as school mentors for early career teachers, subject leaders, phase co-ordinators, assistant head teachers or head teachers. Others work as education advisers and consultants across a range of schools or as inspectors and policymakers at both local and national levels. Graduates can also be found working as researchers, lecturers and teacher educators in higher education and in educational services outside schools such as museums, publishing or children’s support services.

Employability

By taking this programme students develop an international, critical and deep understanding of primary leadership, curriculum, pedagogy and assessment.
Entry requirements

Normally a minimum of a lower second-class Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline from a UK university an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. Students should also ideally have direct professional involvement with pre-school or primary education either in or outside the UK.

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

When we assess your application we would like to learn:

- why you want to study Primary Education at graduate level
- why you want to study Primary Education 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

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: £To be confirmed (FT), £To be confirmed (PT)
// EU: £To be confirmed (FT), £To be confirmed (PT)
// Overseas: £To be confirmed (FT), £To be confirmed (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: 16 August 2019

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

CONTACT

Dr Amanda Ince, Programme Leader
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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