SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
PRACTICE MSc
2019/20 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/
Social Development Practice MSc

This MSc offers a critical approach to 'people-centred' development, addressing the challenges for equitable citizenship in the context of social diversity and globalisation, particularly in urban contexts. Participants engage in a critical analysis of the theory and practice of social development alongside gaining the skills required to be a reflective social development practitioner.

Degree summary

This programme provides a solid grounding in social analysis skills and perspectives, rooted in social theory around identity, inequality, and social change processes. Students learn how development interventions can best support the citizenship claims of diverse groups living in the Global South, and consider the role of the social development practitioner in this endeavour.

The programme introduces students to critical, analytical and practical skills that will be of use in their future careers, whether as academics, social development practitioners or advocates for the need to place the 'social' at the centre of development. Students have an opportunity to critically examine relevant bodies of knowledge, current debates and field experience in primarily urban contexts, and to consider the challenges of making development policy, planning and practice more socially responsive.

Students on this MSc benefit from the strong practical component, which includes fieldwork assignments in London and an international field trip to a city in the Global South. This trip provides the opportunity to develop practical skills, use tools for participatory action research, and reflect on the roles and responsibilities of social development practitioners.

The practice-based components of the programme also provide students with the opportunity to network with organisations and professionals working in the social development sector. In a complementary series of careers sessions, students can network with Development Planning Unit alumni and partners who are working in relevant fields.

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, practical classroom exercises, and fieldwork within the UK and abroad. Student performance is assessed through coursework, examinations, and a dissertation report as well as an assessment of practical work, including the international fieldwork group report.

Degree structure

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

Full-time students study for 37.5 hours per week during term time. Typically, lectures and seminars occur on two days per week. Flexible students normally attend half this amount.

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of three compulsory modules (90 credits), either one or two optional modules (totaling 30 credits) and a 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

- All three of the following:
  - Social Policy and Citizenship
  - Social Diversity, Inequality, and Poverty
  - Social Development in Practice

OPTIONAL MODULES

- One or two optional modules, totalling 30 credits, usually including the following, among others:
  - NGOs and Social Transformation
  - Communication, Technologies and Social Power
  - Gender in Policy and Planning
  - Participatory Processes: Building for Development
  - Disaster Risk Reduction in Cities
  - Post Disaster Recovery: Policies, Practices and Alternatives
  - Critical Urbanism Studio I and II
  - Housing as Urbanism: Housing Policy and the Search for Scale
  - Housing Policies: Practical Dimensions and Alternative Options
  - Neo-Structuralism and the Developmental State
  - Political Economy of Development: Land, Food and Agriculture
  - Political Economy of Development: Industrialisation and Infrastructure
  - Adapting Cities to Climate Change in the Global South
  - Sustainable Infrastructure and Services in Development
  - Or any other open MSc module on offer at UCL, with Programme Leader approval.

Please note: not all optional modules listed above may be available.

DISSERTATION/REPORT

- All students undertake an independent research project related to the main themes of the programme, culminating in a dissertation report of 10,000 words (60 credits). Topics may be chosen to enhance career development or for their inherent interest.

Or any other open MSc module on offer at UCL, with Programme Leader approval.

Please note: not all optional modules listed above may be available.

The programme incorporates group fieldwork in London and in a selected country of the Global South.

The cost of flights, visas, necessary vaccinations, accommodation, and fieldwork-related travel and facilitations costs, are incorporated within the programme fees. Meals and other expenditure must be covered by the student.
Your career

Graduates of this programme are likely to find employment as officers for local and international NGOs, international organisations, in local or national government departments or as consultants. Some graduates pursue an academic career, either through doctoral studies or through teaching and research.
Entry requirements

The normal minimum qualifications are a good second-class Bachelor’s degree in a relevant subject from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard; and a demonstrable interest in the subject matter of the programme.

Candidates who do not meet the above requirements may be considered if they are able to demonstrate relevant work experience and an ability to engage academically with the subject matter of the degree. Applicants who do not hold a recognised undergraduate degree may, in exceptional cases, be admitted to the programme if they are able to demonstrate considerable senior-level professional experience in planning or a related field.

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: Standard.

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 about:

- your understanding of what social development constitutes
- any experience you have of working in social development or related sectors
- why you want to study Social Development Practice at graduate level
- why you want to study Social Development Practice at UCL
- what particularly attracts you to the chosen programme
- what do you think you will bring to the 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 demonstrate your interest in the distinctive features of this MSc programme and tell us about your expectations.

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: £14,610 (FT)
- EU: £14,610 (FT)
- Overseas: £23,300 (FT)

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.

Find out about different sources of funding available for Master’s study on the UCL Student Funding website.

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Full-time applicants: 26 July 2019
Flexible/Modular applicants: 30 August 2019

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

CONTACT

Programme Manager
Email: dpu@ucl.ac.uk
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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

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

PDF Updated: January 18, 2019