SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH (WITH SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS) MSc / 2019/20 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/
The MSc Social Policy and Social Research (with Systematic Reviews) combines a theoretical understanding of contemporary social problems, social policy and intervention, and policymaking processes across a range of different sectors and countries, with advanced training in systematic reviews. This degree has ESRC 1+3 training recognition, meaning it stands alone as an MSc but can also prepare students for doctoral research.

Degree summary

The programme will enable you to plan and appraise a systematic review of research in any policy area, to develop a critical appreciation of the full diversity of review approaches and types of research use, and equip you with understanding and skills to help ensure perspectives from the public, practitioners, policymakers and researchers are all considered in research and policy development.

This multidisciplinary programme is unique in the way that students study methods for reviews of both qualitative and quantitative data, and a full range of research designs. The programme can be taken entirely at a distance, or on campus, and attracts students from across the globe, many of whom are already working for research-focused or policy-making organisations.

The programme is located within the Department of Social Science, a research-intensive department with an outstanding international reputation. It is taught by an interdisciplinary team, all with specialist expertise across a wide range of policy areas. As students on the specialist 'systematic reviews' route, you will also learn from research-active tutors based at UCL's EPPI-Centre, which is recognised worldwide for its development of methods for diverse kinds of systematic review, for the production of policy-relevant research, and for research into perspectives and participation.

Our central London location and network of partners and alumni give us access to nationally and internationally prominent guest speakers who provide insight into policy as it is formed.

A rich variety of teaching of methods are used, including lectures combined with seminars. In some modules students are given the opportunity to develop presentational skills through group projects. Assessment is through coursework assignments (e.g. written essay or research proposal), an unseen examination and a 12,000-word dissertation. The programme can be taken entirely at a distance, or on campus.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years; Flexible: up to 5 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury
Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of eight compulsory modules (120 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

Students take eight compulsory modules (120 credits in total):

1. Understanding the policy process
2. Social problems and intervention
3. Evidence for Policy and Practice
4. Comparative social policy
5. Systematic Review Design and Planning
6. Systematic Reviews for Complex Policy Issues
7. Research Engagement, Participation and Impact
8. Approaches to systematic review synthesis

Each of the eight compulsory modules is offered as both a campus-based module and a fully-online module. The online version of each module does not require attendance on campus, providing greater flexibility for students combining study with work, particularly those taking the programme over two to five years.

The programme can be taken entirely at a distance, or on campus.

OPTIONAL MODULES

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

All students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a dissertation of 12,000 words (60 credits). Workshops and online resources help prepare students for the dissertation.

The purchase of books may constitute an additional cost, but there is no requirement to purchase any book as part of the programme. If fieldwork is conducted for the dissertation, this is also at your own expense and should be estimated according to the type and length of fieldwork proposed. Fieldwork is not compulsory to complete a dissertation. Printing and binding final copy of dissertation (up to £50).
Your career

Graduates of previous versions of this programme are currently working across a broad range of areas. For example, one is a project director in mobile technology for learning, while another is a social research manager advising national government. Another graduate works as a senior editor of systematic research reviews. Others have gone on to doctoral studies.

Employability

Students completing the programme are equipped with enhanced critical thinking skills and, in particular, skills for research design and appraisal, spanning a full range of research purposes and problems.
**Entry requirements**

Normally a minimum of an upper second-class Bachelor’s degree in a social science subject from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard is required.

**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 Systematic Reviews for Social Policy and Practice at graduate level
- why you want to study Systematic Reviews for Social Policy and Practice 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**

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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.

Applicants may be eligible to apply for funding from the Economic and Social Research Council via the UCL, Bloomsbury and East London Doctoral Training Partnership. The MSc provides master’s-level postgraduate training which can constitute the first year of ESRC 1+3 postgraduate PhD studentships. Further information: https://ubel-dtp.ac.uk/

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