This MSc is a degree offering advanced training in social research methods, designed to be flexible to accommodate students arriving with a range of previous methodological training. The core modules offer a strong grounding in the research process and quantitative and qualitative methods. The optional modules allow students to build on these and develop more advanced skills in particular methods of interest.

Degree summary

This degree is designed to cover the research methods used in collating evidence for the design, critique and evaluation of substantive issues in the social sciences. Students will gain hands-on experience in a range of methodologies used to study issues of interest in the real world. Students will be expected to apply their understanding of methodology to critique existing research, to design their own research, carry out their own analysis and communicate this clearly to academic specialists and non-specialists.

UCL Social Science is a research-intensive department with world-leading experts in quantitative, qualitative and systematic review methodology - as well as a broad range of social science substantive subjects. We have a lively community of staff, PhD, MSc and undergraduate students involved in seminars, workshops and reading groups in addition to formal teaching.

Our department specialises in applying research methods to inform policy in areas such as education, health, labour markets, human development and child/adult wellbeing.

The department's staff have a broad range of interests, which includes expertise in economics, sociology, psychology, social statistics, survey methods and data collection, mixed-methods research, and the techniques of policy evaluation.

This programme is delivered via face-to-face daytime lectures, seminars and practical computer workshops. Assessment is through coursework assignments and a 10,000- to 12,000-word dissertation.

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 five core modules (75 credits), three optional modules (45 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.

 compromulsory modules

- Students spend the first term studying a range of core methods, before specialising in more advanced techniques in the second term. Exemptions may be given from some introductory modules for students with a strong background in a particular methodology.
- Introduction to Data Analysis
- Introduction to Regression Analysis
- Introduction to Qualitative Methods
- Survey Design
- Systematic Review Design and Planning

Optional modules

- Students take three of the following advanced optional modules. Students who gain exemption from any core modules will take optional modules to make up the difference.
- Longitudinal Data and Analysis
- Impact Evaluation Methods
- Using Stata Efficiently and Effectively
- Advanced Qualitative Methods
- Systematic Reviews for Complex Policy Issues
- Research Engagement, Participation and Impact
- Advanced Quantitative Methods
- Ethnography

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 10,000-12,000 words.
Your career

Graduates of this Master's degree are currently working as:

- university and college lecturers and researchers
- civil servants
- third sector employees
- teachers
- journalists
- social researchers
- market researchers.

Employability

Many employers seek graduates with skills in research methods, including government departments, academic institutions, the media, finance and marketing.
Entry requirements

A minimum of an upper second-class Bachelor's degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard, in a social science discipline.

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 Social Research Methods at graduate level
- why you want to study Social Research Methods 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

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.

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: 26 July 2019

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

CONTACT

Mr David Fowkes, Programme Administrator

Email: d.fowkes@ucl.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7612 6271

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