This Postgraduate Diploma is an intensive accelerated pre-doctoral programme for those requiring training in social science research methods. It provides entry to either the MPhil/PhD or, for suitable candidates, to year two of the EdD programme. It is aimed at professionals who have an interest in developing research skills in any of the social science disciplinary areas covered by the UCL Doctoral Training Partnership.

Degree summary

Students on this programme learn how to develop and critically evaluate research questions; gain an understanding of social science research methodologies and links between these methodologies and research questions; select appropriate social science research methods to explore identified research questions; enhance their knowledge of different forms of research proposal and the complexities of funding applications; and assess their own suitability for further research degree studies.

This programme offers a unique opportunity to gain social science research methods training applicable across any of the UCL Doctoral Training Partnership social science disciplines.

It allows access to the MPhil/PhD at the UCL Institute of Education (IOE) and gives exemptions from both taught year one methods modules on the EdD. Successful students will be allowed to commence year two of the EdD on completion of just one taught year one module, Foundations of Professionalism (this will be simultaneous to starting year two).

Placements offer opportunities to become engaged with live research projects and access experienced research teams. Placement providers often become students’ PhD or EdD supervisors. Previous students have been successful in securing ESRC funding for postgraduate research and have enhanced their professional roles as researchers.

The programme is delivered through a combination of: face-to-face seminars; online asynchronous discussion forums, and synchronous Collaborate (virtual real-time classroom) sessions. Students also learn about the practicalities of social science research through participation in a research project. Peer review and andragogy are particular forms of learning on this programme.

Assessment is through the equivalent of a 5,000-word assignment for each module.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year
Location: London, Bloomsbury
Sessions run weekly from January - July with no mid-term or end of term breaks

Students undertake modules to the value of 120 credits. The programme consists of four core modules (each 30 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

- Developing Research Questions
- Methods of Investigation
- Designing a Research Study
- Developing a Research Proposal

OPTIONAL MODULES

- There are no optional modules for this programme.

DISSERTATION/REPORT

- Students are not expected to submit a dissertation for this programme.

For module three, students undertake a small-scale research project which may involve fieldwork (some students elect to analyse policy documents or undertake systematic reviews).

Students complete a research placement for module two of the programme. This placement is with a live research project under the supervision of a placement supervisor. The placement is as closely aligned to students’ own areas of research interest as possible. However, this alignment will depend on what live projects are currently underway at the specified time. The placement may involve fieldwork but equally could involve the reviewing of literature, a research proposal or data analysis.

It is unlikely that there will be costs for this aspect of the programme as it is envisaged that students will undertake fieldwork in their place of work, or within the locale of UCL or their home. It may be necessary to travel into London to meet with your placement supervisor or to another venue if your placement involves fieldwork.
Your career

The aims of the programme are to familiarise students with social science research, to enhance their prospects of becoming a social science researcher in a professional capacity, or to gain direct access to PhD or EdD study. It supports students in writing ESRC studentship proposals, and alumni from the programme have secured such funding.

Employability

Students will gain the skills to become social science researchers and research assistants, or to progress to postgraduate research.
Entry requirements

A minimum of a second-class Bachelor’s degree or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

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

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 Social Science Research Methods at graduate level
- why you want to study Social Science 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. Applicants who have a portfolio are strongly recommended to submit it when they apply.

FEES AND FUNDING 2019/20 ENTRY

UK: £3,650 (FT)
EU: £3,650 (FT)
Overseas: £7,900 (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 Current Students website. Please note: students starting study in January 2019 will pay fees at the 2018/19 rate.

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

January 2019 entry: 1 November 2018
January 2020 entry: 1 November 2019

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

CONTACT

Dr Susan Taylor, Programme Leader
Email: sue.taylor@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7612 6829

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