SOCIOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD AND CHILDREN’S RIGHTS MA
/ 2019/20 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/
Sociology of Childhood and Children's Rights MA

This MA examines a range of contemporary social theories about global childhoods and children's rights. By cultivating sociological understandings of varied and unequal childhoods and engaging with research-active lecturers, professionals from charitable and government sectors, and international activists, you will develop skills to critically analyse policy and practice and explore new possibilities for achieving social justice for children and young people.

**Degree summary**

This programme provides you with the opportunity to identify, examine, and understand key sociological perspectives on the complex links between childhood, children’s rights, and social justice. You will develop conceptual and research skills to analyse how social, political and economic changes affect and produce childhoods, the shifting social status of children and childhood, as well as young people’s contributions and creative responses to dynamic global contexts.

- This MA explores cutting-edge research and theorising about the politics of children and childhood. Examining childhood in global contexts, as well as how childhood is cross-cut by class, ‘race’, gender, and ability, will enable you to question taken-for-granted assumptions about children and childhood. Historical perspectives will support you to identify and examine how childhoods are shifting in contemporary contexts of neoliberalism, post-colonialism, conflict, and transnational migration.

- You will have the opportunity to hear from internationally-renowned academics and leading international children’s organisations, and engage with a diverse group of students from around the world.

- The MA is based in UCL Social Science which houses five prestigious research-intensive units. Together they provide a foundation for world-leading work in childhood studies, social work, social pedagogy, and sociology of the family.

Face-to-face teaching includes lectures, discussions and debates. You will have the opportunity to explore and analyse readings, real world case studies, images, and films with other students. Students are encouraged to reflect upon their own personal, academic and/or professional experiences during sessions. An online environment is provided for interactive activities between teaching sessions. Each core module is assessed by a 5,000-word written assignment, and the dissertation is a 20,000 word piece of independent research. There are tutorials for essay preparation and seminars to support dissertation research.

**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 three compulsory modules (90 credits), one or two optional module(s) (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**
- Critical Theoretical Debates about Global Childhoods and Society
- Children's Rights in Global Perspectives
- Researching Childhood

**OPTIONAL MODULES**
- Up to 30 credits of options drawn from the following:
  - Sociology of Race and Education
  - Contemporary Issues in Early Years
  - Understanding Education Policy
  - Gender, Education and Development
  - Gender, Sexuality and Education
  - Rights and Education
  - Knowledge, Power and the Cultural Production of Gender
  - Global Politics of Gender, Sexuality and Security
  - Thinking Space
  - Postcolonial Cultural Geographies
  - Social Theory and the Study of Contemporary Social Problems

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 20,000 words.
Your career

Graduates of this programme benefit from a wide variety of career destinations. Our graduates are currently working as international NGO staff, children’s charity workers, child advocacy workers and policy advisors. As a result of studying on this MA, health professionals, legal practitioners, and educators have moved into positions of leadership and management. Graduates are also working as teachers and early years practitioners, while others have jobs as university and college lecturers and researchers. Inspired by their MA studies in a dynamic and growing field of academic scholarship, our graduates also go on to doctoral-level study.

Employability

Students on this MA will develop skills for:

- Conducting creative and participatory research with children
- Critically analysing childhood policy and professional practice with children
- Contributing to public debates about challenging issues ranging from child labour to children’s use of social media
- Undertaking collaborative projects with diverse participants
- Exploring and developing innovative approaches to working with and for children

With a home in a vibrant centre of research on childhood and children’s rights, students can build networks with research-active staff and students, attend departmental events with visiting childhood scholars, and find out about opportunities for internships with children’s organisations.
Entry requirements

A second-class Bachelor's degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard in social science, media or cultural studies, humanities, education or a related field. A similar qualification in another subject is also acceptable if combined with experience in child care, health, education or children’s advocacy.

All applicants should preferably have experience of working with and for children.

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 Sociology of Childhood and Children’s Rights at graduate level
- why you want to study Sociology of Childhood and Children’s Rights 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

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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