The Sociology of Education MA will guide students through the latest theories, concepts and research in the sociology of education, exploring the wider political, social and cultural contexts of policy and practice in education. It will encourage them to use sociological research to reflect on their current and future roles in education and provide them with a grounding for evaluating education practice.

Degree summary

Students will develop critical theoretical, methodological and analytical skills in educational research in the sociology of education field and learn to apply them in their own professional context.

The Department of Education, Practice and Society at UCL Institute of Education (IOE) is home to an interdisciplinary grouping bringing together high-quality teaching and research in the history, sociology and philosophy of education, international development, post-compulsory and vocational education and higher education.

The Sociology of Education MA is a cutting-edge programme taught by world-leading sociologists within the department who have expertise in research methods, policy analysis, equality and human rights: issues of gender, ‘race’, sexuality, youth, disability and social class.

Students gain invaluable networking opportunities with leading scholars and a cohort of internationally diverse students across the IOE’s MA cluster in sociology, social justice and policy studies in education.

The programme is delivered through a mix of face-to-face Saturday and evening sessions and interactive online learning. Sometimes a conventional lecture-based approach is taken, with the aim of providing an overview of the field. Lectures are usually followed by open discussion or group work. At other times a seminar format is adopted involving, for example, group discussion of set reading, a video or an introductory presentation.

Assessment is through coursework essay assignments, plus submission of a report or 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 two core modules (60 credits), two optional modules (60 credits), and a dissertation (60 credits) or a report (30 credits) plus one further optional module (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

- Sociology of Education
- Understanding Education Research
- Dissertation or Report

OPTIONAL MODULES

- Students can choose optional modules from the list below and from a wide range of Master’s-level optional modules across the IOE offering, subject to availability.
- Sociology of Race and Education
- Gender, Sexuality and Education
- Rights and Education
- Theoretical Foundations of Educational Ideas
- Understanding Education Policy
- Minorities, Migrants and Refugees in National Education Systems
- Higher Education: Comparative and International Perspectives

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 or a report of 10,000 words.

Some fieldwork is normally undertaken in relation to research for the dissertation module.

You may be required to apply for Disclosure and Barring Service clearance if your research requires work with children or vulnerable adults.
Your career

Graduates of this programme are currently working as lecturers and teachers, local authority officers, government department officers, members of education think tanks, or as research students (MPhil/PhD, EdD).

Employability

Students develop a capacity to critically engage with and conduct educational research on issues relating to sociology and education.
Entry requirements

A minimum of a second-class Bachelor’s degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard in sociology or a related discipline is required. Some educational experience in either teaching or administration is considered an advantage.

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 Education at graduate level
- why you want to study Sociology of Education 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: £8,680 (FT), £4,470 (PT)
- EU: £8,680 (FT), £4,470 (PT)
- Overseas: £18,790 (FT), £9,570 (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