Comparative Literature with a Year Abroad BA /

This dynamic programme examines world literature from diverse geographical and cultural perspectives and equips students for a career in today’s global society. This four-year degree offers the same advantages as the Comparative Literature BA, focusing on European languages and with the added attraction of a year spent overseas. It combines comparative critical enquiry with a more in-depth study of one modern language, its literature and culture.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2020

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// UCL, being London’s Global University, provides the ideal environment in which to undertake a Comparative Literature degree. You will work with both academics and fellow students from all over the world.

// This programme offers the opportunity to study one or two modern languages to an advanced level, and incorporates an engagement with literature written in different cultural contexts.

// The Year Abroad will give you a deeper understanding of a modern foreign language and its variants as well as giving you the experience of living and studying in another country.

// Comparative literature modules in years one and two and in your final year will explore the reception, circulation and translation of texts across different periods and cultures.

Degree structure

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 15 or 30 credits, adding up to a total of 120 credits for the year. Modules are assessed in the academic year in which they are taken. The balance of compulsory and optional modules varies from programme to programme and year to year. A 30-credit module is considered equivalent to 15 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

In years one and two you will take culture-specific compulsory modules in the School of European Language, Culture and Society or in the School of Slavonic and East European Studies. You will also study language and literature modules in one foreign language - selected prior to enrolment - either at beginner’s level or at more advanced post-A level alongside students taking modern languages degrees.

You will also take modules in comparative literature and select from a wide range of options across different specialisms.

The third year is spent abroad where your foreign language of choice is spoken. At least 50% of the subjects studied abroad must be in the area of literary and cultural studies. You may also study a second language subject with the host university’s permission.

In your final year you will continue studying either your first foreign language or a different foreign language (which may be the one you began studying abroad) at an advanced level, together with comparative literary elective modules. You will also take a dissertation module allowing you to focus on an area of your interest from your studies.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)
- Cultural Encounters in World Literature
- How to Read Texts

Optional modules
- You will take 120 credits of modules per year of study. You will select at least 30 credits from a list of comparative literature modules. All texts will be available in English or in English translation, as appropriate, but may also be read in the original language.
- You will also select 30 credits of language modules and 30 credits of language-specific literature modules focusing on the close analysis of literary texts in a language other than English.

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)
- Imagination, Invention, Authorship
- Word, Image, Sound

Optional modules
- You will select at least 30 credits from a list of comparative and literary modules taught in SELCS, SSEES, and Greek & Latin. All texts will be available in English or in English translation, as appropriate, but may also be read in the original language.
- You will also select 30 credits of language modules and 30 credits of language-specific literature modules focusing on the close analysis of literary texts in a language other than English.

YEAR THREE

Year abroad
- You will spend your Year Abroad at a university in the country where your main target language is spoken, studying alongside native speakers, to make the most of your cultural and linguistic immersion. British Council language assistantships are available subject to approval.
- The experiences and skills developed while abroad further academic and personal development, cultural and social awareness, provide a foundation for further study and enhance career prospects.
- For further information please visit the SELCS Year Abroad website.
FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Dissertation

Optional modules

- You will select at least 30 credits from available comparative and literary advanced modules. All texts will be available in English or in English translation, as appropriate, but may also be read in the original language.
- You will also select 30 credits of language modules and at least 30 credits of language-specific literature modules focusing on the close analysis of literary texts in a language other than English, and on their wider cultural context.

Your learning

You will experience a wide range of learning opportunities, including lectures, seminars, tutorials, interactive groups and multimedia projects. Core modules will be taken together with all Comparative Literature students in your year. Optional modules will be taught by specialist staff from across UCL and will provide you with an opportunity to learn alongside students on other programmes.

Assessment

You will be assessed by written examination and essay. Project work and a dissertation will contribute to your overall assessment. You will be required to give presentations, work on group projects and multimedia projects and actively participate in class discussion. Languages are also assessed by oral examination.

Your career

Upon graduation you will have gained breadth of knowledge, cultural awareness, writing skills, and familiarity with advanced textual analysis. You will have a detailed and effective understanding of at least one language other than English and will be able to work flexibly and creatively across cultures and in a range of fields.

Your application

Application for admission should be made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). Applicants currently at school or college will be provided with advice on the process; however, applicants who have left school or who are based outside the United Kingdom may obtain information directly from UCAS.

Your personal statement is of great importance. We expect the fullest possible account of your literary interests, including extracurricular readings. We want you to reflect on your familiarity with different cultures and on your ability to think critically and creatively across languages and cultures. We particularly welcome applicants with a good knowledge of at least one language other than English.

We may interview candidates in person or by telephone to assess linguistic ability (if stated), cultural awareness and intellectual potential. If you meet our entry criteria and show the required level of motivation, we will invite you to a Post Offer Open Day.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS

Standard Offer: AAA. A humanities subject required. French or Spanish required at grade A if one of these is to be studied as major language pathway

Contextual Offer: ABB. A humanities subject required. French or Spanish required at grade A if one of these is to be studied as major language pathway.

GCSE

English Language at grade B or 6, plus Mathematics at grade C or 5. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs

IB DIPLOMA

Standard Offer: 38 points. A total of 18 points in three higher level subjects with no score lower than 5. French or Spanish required at higher level grade 6 if one of these is to be studied as major language pathway

Contextual Offer: 34 points. A total of 16 points in three higher level subjects with no score lower than 5. French or Spanish required at higher level grade 6 if one of these is to be studied as major language pathway.

CONTEXTUAL OFFERS – ACCESS UCL SCHEME

As part of our commitment to increasing participation from underrepresented groups, students may be eligible for a contextual offer as part of the Access UCL scheme. For more information see www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

UCL considers a wide range of UK and international qualifications for entry into its undergraduate programmes. Full details are given at: www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES

(Unternational foundation courses)

UCL Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPCs) are intensive one-year foundation courses for international students of high academic potential who are aiming to gain access to undergraduate degree programmes at UCL and other top UK universities.

Typical UPC students will be high achievers in a 12-year school system which does not meet the standard required for direct entry to UCL.

For more information see: www.ucl.ac.uk/upc.

TUITION FEES

The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2020/21 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. Fees for future years may be subject to an inflationary increase. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2020/21 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

|| UK & EU: £9,250 (2020/21)
|| Overseas: £21,260 (2020/21)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the UCL Students website.

FUNDING

Various funding options are available, including student loans, scholarships and bursaries. UK students whose household income falls below a certain level may also be eligible for a non-repayable bursary or for certain scholarships. Please see the Fees and funding pages for more details.

CONTACT

Email: selcs.admissions@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 3096
Department: School of European Languages, Culture and Society

Brexit

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

Disclaimer

This information is for guidance only. It should not be construed as advice nor relied upon and does not form part of any contract. For more information on UCL’s degree programmes please see the UCL Undergraduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus