EARTH SCIENCES BSc
UCAS CODE: F603
2020 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus
Earth Sciences BSc

Earth Sciences is the study of our home planet. Our flexible programme combines ideas and principles of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geology and Geophysics. We explore how our planet works at depth and at the surface, the biological processes that build diversity and cause extinction, the ocean and atmospheric processes shaping climate, and issues relating to resources, geohazards and climate change.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2020

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// This programme emphasises the holistic nature of the Earth Sciences. It offers the opportunity to specialise within Earth Sciences and, by the appropriate choice of modules, graduate with a degree in Earth Sciences (Palaeobiology) or Earth Sciences (Environment and Policy).

// The department has one of the highest staff/student ratios in the country, resulting in small classes. Teaching is delivered by all of our research-active staff guaranteeing up-to-the-minute understanding and providing opportunities to take part in cutting-edge research activities.

// We have recently moved into the renovated Kathleen Lonsdale Building with new, world-class facilities include bespoke teaching laboratories, new microscope facilities and student study areas, all in the heart of the department, next to staff offices and research laboratories.

// This programme offers up to three months of field classes in the UK and continental Europe and independent field mapping projects in Scotland, Southern France and Spain, with financial support from the department.

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).

On entry to the programme, you will select a pathway through the subject (General, Palaeobiology, or Environment and Policy). The programme includes many optional modules across Earth Sciences.

Students should normally take at least five half-module credits in UCL Earth Sciences each year. Modules based in other departments may be chosen from those listed for the Environmental Geoscience, Geology and Geophysics degree programmes and the Palaeobiology and Environment and Policy pathways.

The third year has an emphasis on individual initiative and problem-based learning.

Fieldwork provides a unique opportunity to develop independent and team skills and problem-solving abilities.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Dynamic Earth
- Earth Materials
  - From Petrology to Petrogenesis (including Cornwall fieldwork)
  - Geochemistry
  - History of Life
  - Surface Processes (including Dorset/Devon fieldwork)
- The Earth
- Foundation of Physical Geoscience (normally compulsory for students without A-level Mathematics)

Optional modules

- You will select 15 credits of optional modules from:
  - Foundation of Physical Geoscience (if not taken as compulsory)
  - Mathematics for engineers (students must have A-level Mathematics)
  - Earth: An integrated system
  - Quantitative Biology
  - Life on Earth
  - Revealing Science

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Maps, Images and Structures (including Scotland fieldwork)
  - Structural Geology and Tectonics

Optional modules

- You will select 30 credits of optional modules which include:
  - Ecological patterns and processes
  - Engaging the public with science
  - Environmental remote sensing
  - Global Geophysics
  - Geomorphology
  - Igneous Petrology
  - Isotope Geology
  - Principles of climate
  - Reconstructing past environments
  - Science in popular culture
  - Surface and groundwater hydrology
  - Surface processes and structures
  - Vertebrate Palaeontology and Evolution
FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

- All final-year modules are optional.

Optional modules

- You will select 120 credits of optional modules which include:
  - Biodiversity and Macroevolutionary Patterns
  - Crustal Dynamics, Mountain Building and Basin Evolution (fieldwork only)
  - Earth Resources and Sustainability
  - Geological/Environmental Mapping Project
  - Geosciences Report
  - Groundwater Science
  - Global environmental change
  - Advanced geochemistry
  - Marine Geology
  - Ocean Physics and Climate Change
  - Seismology I
  - Seismology II
  - Geodynamics and Global Tectonics
  - Metamorphism and Metamorphic Processes

Please note: the modules listed above relate to the General pathway for Earth Sciences. For specialist pathways, please see the department website.

Your learning

We use a mixture of lectures, practical classes, field courses, directed reading, problem-orientated learning, private study and tutorials to enable you to gain the theoretical knowledge and practical skills demanded by the programme, as well as to develop key transferable skills such as critical analysis, report writing, team working and organisational skills.

Assessment

You will be assessed by a combination of written examinations, practical examinations, coursework, independent project reports and sometimes an oral examination.

Your career

You will develop both discipline-based and highly sought after analytical skills, together with practical skills such as planning, conducting and reporting on investigations, collecting, recording and analysing data and the ability to undertake field and laboratory research.

All our students are encouraged and helped towards making informed career choices. We have excellent relationships with many employers in diverse aspects of the Earth sciences, and students are actively guided towards achieving their potential at UCL in preparation for their future careers.

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.

We will assess your application on the basis of your performance, or predicted performance academically, but we will also be looking for an indication of how your interest in natural and Earth sciences has developed, what aspects particularly appeal to you, and whether you have undertaken any research or reading to find out about the subject matter you wish to study.

We normally reach a decision on making an offer on the basis of the application alone. If you are resident in the UK and have been made an offer you will be invited to an applicant open day. This visit will include introductory talks on UCL Earth Sciences and our degree programmes, a tour of the department and UCL and a question and answer session.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Standard Offer: AAB. Two sciences preferred.
Contextual Offer: BBB. Two sciences preferred.

GCSE
English Language and 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: 36 points. A score of 17 points in three higher level subjects to preferably include two sciences, with no score lower than 5.
Contextual Offer: 32 points. A score of 15 points in three higher level subjects to preferably include two sciences, with no score lower than 5.

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/prospectus

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 (International 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: £28,610 (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.

Additional costs
Students will be required to pay for transportation to overseas field trips and food. (The department covers accommodation and transport costs in the UK.)

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.

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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