GEOGRAPHY BA / UCAS CODE: L700 2020 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus
This integrated geography programme combines physical and human geography initially and then offers increasing opportunities for specialisation, including a Quantitative Methods pathway. Those choosing the BA will usually have studied social science or humanities subjects at A level or equivalent, but may transfer to the BSc if their interests develop in this direction.

**Key information**

**Programme starts**
September 2020

**Location**
London, Bloomsbury

**Degree benefits**

- You will gain a broad range of practical and project management skills, making you attractive to both the public and private sectors in the UK and around the world.
- We offer a wide range of optional modules and have a particularly low staff-to-student ratio (Guardian University Guide 2019), encouraging individual choice and personal supervision.
- We are proud of our consistently high research record. You will therefore be working with thinkers at the cutting-edge of developments in their fields.
- Resources include specialist GIS and satellite image analysis facilities; laboratories; a reference map collection; two common rooms; a dedicated reading room and first-class library facilities.

**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).

The Geography BA and BSc share core elements at the start, providing you with a strong geographical foundation on which to build. In year one you take two compulsory modules and four optional modules, one of which can be outside the department.

In year two, compulsory modules are supplemented by six or seven optional modules, including field research based courses, selected from a substantial pool. You may begin to focus on topics such as development geography, environmental geography, urban geography, GIS and climate change. Students may take one module outside the Department.

Your dissertation is the main focus of year three. You will work with an academic supervisor to develop an original piece of research on a topic of your choice. In addition you take further optional modules, including one from outside Geography if you like. Students may participate in a term-long exchange programme with universities in Australia, Canada, Europe or Singapore.

Fieldwork throughout the programme can take place both in the UK and abroad, and it is also possible to base your dissertation on an overseas project. Recent destinations include Australia, Belize, India, Montserrat and Papua New Guinea.

**YEAR ONE**

**Core or compulsory module(s)**

- Thinking Geographically I & II
- Geography in the Field I & II

**Core foundational modules**

- You will select modules equivalent to 60 credits from a range including:
  - Global Events
  - Space and Society
  - Earth: an integrated system
  - Environmental Change
  - Human Ecology
- Or you may take one 15 credit module taught outside of Geography instead of one of these modules if you wish.

**YEAR TWO**

**Core or compulsory module(s)**

- The Practice of Geography

**Optional modules**

- Students who take Methods in Human Geography will then select 90 credits of intermediary modules from the specialised areas below, which can include one outside the department.
- Students who do not wish to take Methods in Human Geography must take 45 credits of Physical Geography and 60 credits of optional modules from the specialised areas below, which can include one outside the department.
- Human Geography; Cultural and Historical Geography; Development Geography; Environment and Society; Economic Geography; GIS and Geodemographics; Political Geography and Geopolitics; Urban Geography; Economic Geography I; Human Geography Fieldclass.
- Physical Geography; Ecological Patterns and Processes; Environmental Remote Sensing; Geomorphology; Hydroclimatology; Reconstructing Past Environments; Statistics for Environmental Geographers; Physical Geography Fieldclass.
FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Dissertation

Core advanced modules

- You take 75 credits of advanced modules from the below. You may also attend a field class (15 credits), study abroad for a term (45 credits), or enrol on the independent study module involving close collaboration with one academic (15 credits).
- Human Geography: Urban Political Ecology; Economic Geography II; Global Urbanism; Geopolitical Events; Geography, Culture and Materiality; Postcolonial Geographies of African Development; Mining Social and Geographical Datasets; Gendered Geographies, Advanced Environment and Society.
- Physical Geography: Coastal Geohazards; Global Environmental Change; Principles and Practices of Remote Sensing; Managing Freshwaters in the 21st Century; Palaeoclimatology.
- Water and Development is an option that spans human and physical geography. You can also take Professional Geography or take a module outside the department.

Your learning

Your timetable will include lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes and fieldwork. As you progress, the focus shifts to independent and critical learning, with student-led discussions and presentations becoming more important.

Fieldwork

In the first year students will attend a week-long fieldclass (currently to Catalonia) with the whole cohort, and will also undertake fieldwork in London, as part of one of the compulsory modules. There are two second-year and three third-year fieldclasses, which are counted as optional modules. The destinations of these field classes are subject to change but have been in Europe in recent years.

Assessment

First-year assessment combines independent coursework completed throughout the year with end-of-year written examinations. In years two and three, assessment varies - some modules combine written examinations with independent projects, while others are assessed entirely by independent projects or by written examination. Your dissertation carries significant weight in your final year.

Your career

Having developed skills associated with both the sciences and the humanities, UCL geographers are particularly adept at taking different perspectives on an issue or problem. These skills make our graduates attractive to employers.

UCL geographers have a particularly good track record of securing employment after graduation (Guardian University Guide 2019). This may be partly because of the significant project management skills they develop by undertaking their supported dissertation research.

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.

In the selection process we aim for there to be two-way communication so both you and the department can make the right choices. In addition to looking at your qualifications we will also be examining your personal statement for evidence of your interest in and enthusiasm for geography and for proficiency in key skills.

Most students are invited to attend an open day once they have been made an offer based on their predicted or actual A level (or equivalent) performance and their potential and aspirations. Our open days include student-led seminars, a short tour of UCL, a chance to talk with representatives of all our different research groups, and introductory masterclasses run by key members of staff.
**Entry requirements**

**A LEVELS**

*Standard Offer:* AAA. Geography grade A required. For the Geography with Quantitative Methods stream, grade A in Mathematics is also required.

*Contextual Offer:* ABB. Geography grade A required. For the Geography with Quantitative Methods stream, grade A in Mathematics is also required.

**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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs)

**IB DIPLOMA**

*Standard Offer:* 38 points. A total of 18 points in three higher level subjects including grade 6 in Geography, with no score below 5. For the Geography with Quantitative Methods stream, grade 6 in Mathematics at higher level is also required.

*Contextual Offer:* 34 points. A total of 16 points in three higher level subjects including grade 6 in Geography, with no score below 5. For the Geography with Quantitative Methods stream, grade 6 in Mathematics at higher level is also required.

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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:** £25,780 (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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk).

**Additional costs**

UCL Geography covers all accommodation and travel costs for the 1st year fieldtrip to Catalonia, and currently makes a significant contribution to the costs of second and third year fieldtrips. The exact cost of each fieldtrip will vary. Bursaries will also be available. Further details are available on our [website](http://www.ucl.ac.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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk) 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](http://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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus)