Geography BSc

This is an integrated geography programme which combines physical and human geography as well as offering opportunities for specialisation, including a BA Geography with Social Data Science pathway. Those choosing the BSc will usually have studied some science at A level or equivalent, but it is possible to transfer to the BA if your interests develop differently.

**Key information**

**Programme starts**  
September 2021

**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 an exceptionally wide range of optional modules and have a particularly low staff-student ratio (Guardian University Guide 2020), encouraging individual choice and personal supervision.
- We are proud of our research record. You will therefore be working with thinkers at the cutting edge of developments in their fields.
- Our physical geography resources include specialist computing facilities for geographical information and satellite image analysis and world-class science laboratories enabling soil, water and microscopic analysis.

**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 and it is your personal interests, and the options you wish to pursue, that should shape your choice. In your first year you take three 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. At this point it is possible to begin focusing on topics such as environmental and conservation management, remote sensing, geomorphology and climate change.

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, Singapore or elsewhere.

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

Upon successful completion of 360 credits, you will be awarded a BSc (Hons) in Geography.

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.

**YEAR ONE**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Compulsory module(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Thinking Geographically I &amp; II</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Geography in the Field I &amp; II</td>
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<td>- Understanding our Planet</td>
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<tr>
<th>Core foundational modules</th>
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<td>- You will select modules equivalent to 45 credits from a range including:</td>
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<td>- Global Events</td>
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<td>- Space and Society</td>
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<td>- Environmental Change</td>
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<td>- Human Ecology</td>
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<td>- Or you may take one 15 credit module taught outside of Geography instead of one of these modules if you wish.</td>
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YEAR TWO

Compulsory module(s)

- The Practice of Geography

Core intermediary 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, which can include one outside the department.
- Physical Geography: Ecological Patterns and Processes; Environmental Remote Sensing; Geomorphology; Hydroclimatology; Reconstructing Past Environments; Statistics for Environmental Geographers; Physical Geography Fieldclass.

FINAL YEAR

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.

Accessibility

Details of the accessibility of UCL buildings can be obtained from AccessAble. Further information can also be obtained from the UCL Student Support & Wellbeing team.

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 2020). 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. No specific subjects. At least two A level subjects should be taken from UCL’s list of preferred A level subjects.
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.

Contextual Offer: ABB. No specific subjects. At least two A level subjects should be taken from UCL’s list of preferred A level subjects.
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: 38 points. A total of 18 points in three higher level subjects, with no score below 5.

Contextual Offer: 34 points. A total of 16 points in three higher level subjects, with no score below 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 2021/22 academic year. The UK 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 2021/22 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK: £9,250 (2021/22)
// Overseas: £28,500 (2021/22)

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
We believe all of our students should be able to learn in the field. 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.

A guide including rough estimates for these and other living expenses is included on the UCL Fees and funding pages. If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc., please get in touch with the relevant departmental contact (details given on this page).

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
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Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 0500
Department: Geography

UK withdrawal from the EU
For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s withdrawal from the EU, please refer to: www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit.

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.