HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE BSc /
UCAS CODE: V550
2021 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus
This degree investigates the history of science from antiquity to the present and globally. The goal is to better understand science’s many methods, fundamental concepts, logic, and ethics. We aim to provide our students with the ability to build a broad perspective on the origins of science and its role in our modern world.

**Key information**

**Programme starts**
September 2021

**Location**
London, Bloomsbury

**Degree benefits**

- Explore the history of science from antiquity to the present and across the world. This includes following changes as scientific knowledge moves between different cultures. Through our research-led teaching, acquire transferable skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, arguing, well adapted to the 21st century job market.
- Investigate how scientific knowledge is intertwined with culture and society, and how historians and sociologists understand the past based on evidence from archives, libraries, museums and oral testimonies.
- Investigate science as a way of knowing, including its many methods, fundamental concepts, logic, and ethics, and use science to develop expertise in areas of philosophy from aesthetics to metaphysics.
- Learn how to use history and philosophy to access, understand, and challenge positions in contemporary debates about science and technology.

**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).

This degree aims to produce graduates ready to use deep historical and philosophical perspectives to interpret science's influence on modern society.

With our focus on key skills, practical methods, and broader perspectives, we also aim to create versatile thinkers ready to engage with emerging issues.

The real strength of the degree is its flexibility and breadth across a wide range of themes in history and philosophy, underpinned by strong interdisciplinary connections.

Students have the option of study abroad in Year 3 of the degree. They will follow a programme of study developed in consultation with STS mentors, UCL study abroad staff, and academics at the partner institution. Students complete their degree in Year 4.

Upon successful completion of 360 credits, you will be awarded a BSc (Hons) in History and Philosophy of Science.

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**

**Compulsory module(s)**

- History of Modern Science
- History of Science: from Antiquity to the Enlightenment
- STS Perspectives on Big Problems
- Investigating Sociology and Politics of Science
- Philosophy of Science I
- Introduction to History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Science
- Science Policy
- Science Communication and Public Engagement

**Optional modules**

- There are no optional modules in year one.

**YEAR TWO**

**Compulsory module(s)**

- History of Science 2

**Optional modules**

- Students select modules from a wide range offered by the department. In year 2 students also have the option of taking up to two modules from other UCL departments. STS options may include the following, but applicants should note that this list is not comprehensive and not all modules are available each year:
  - Engaging the Public with Science
  - Evolution in Science and Culture
  - Medicine and Society
  - Philosophy of Science II
  - Policy Issues in the Life Sciences
  - Science and Ethics
  - Science and Religion
  - Science in Popular Culture
  - Sociology of Science and Technology
  - Thinking about Technology
  - Science and Empire
FINAL YEAR

Compulsory module(s)

// Dissertation

Optional modules

// Students select modules from a wide range offered by the department. In year 3 students also have the option of taking one module from another UCL department. STS options may include the following, but applicants should note that this list is not comprehensive and not all modules are available each year:

// Philosophy of Medicine
Science Journalism
Disease in History
Governing Emerging Technologies
History of Astronomy and Cosmology
// Madness and Society
// Medicine, History and Society
Medical Ethics
Nature, Technology and the Environment
Philosophy of Information
Philosophy of Natural Sciences
Science and Film Production
Science in the Age of Newton
Science, Art and Philosophy
Science, Politics, and the State in Russia and the Soviet Union
Sleeping and Dreaming
// Science in Nineteenth Century London
Eugenics in Science and Culture
// The Social Sciences of Inequality

Your learning

We consistently excel in student evaluations, obtaining 100% student satisfaction for the STS degrees from the National Student Survey in 2017, 2016, 2014, and 2013. Our teaching methods adapt to specific needs of students. Many modules include small-group discussions and active participation. The student-to-tutor ratio is approximately 10:1.

Assessment

Coursework ranges from short position pieces to significant research papers. In addition to essays, we assess using posters, blogs, and multimedia projects. Practical work includes mock parliamentary reports, radio programmes, film production, oral presentations, and internet projects. Group work sometimes is used, as are unseen examinations.

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

The programme is designed to enable you both to gain understanding of the discipline, and to develop intellectual, practical and transferable skills, such as critical thinking; retrieving, researching and analysing material; time and project management; and working effectively both independently and as part of a team.

In this scientific and technological world, this programme provides an excellent foundation for many careers, especially those at the interface of professional science and the wider culture transnationally.

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 application will be assessed on your prior and predicted academic achievement, and we will be seeking evidence of your interest in historical and contemporary issues in science, technology and medicine. You should also be able to demonstrate your ability to construct a reasoned argument and to participate in debate.

After assessing your application, we invite applicants in the UK to visit the department for an open day. This includes introductory talks from staff and tours given by current students. The afternoon meetings with academic staff provide an opportunity to discuss your personal interests and aspirations in relation to your chosen degree.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS

Standard Offer: AAB. 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: BBB. 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: 36 points. A score of 17 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5.

Contextual Offer: 32 points. A score of 15 points in three higher level subjects, 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 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

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

Dr Jean-Baptiste Gouyon

Email: sts-admissions@ucl.ac.uk

Telephone:

Department: Science and Technology Studies

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.