This new three-year programme offers an innovative curriculum that aims to provide understanding of historical, political, social, and international issues concerning the Americas. Our research-based, multidisciplinary teaching combines education in history, social sciences, research methods, and languages to prepare students for a wide range of global careers.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2020

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// The Institute of the Americas is the largest centre for the study of the Americas (including Canada, the US, Latin America, and the Caribbean) in the UK.

// Our programme provides a rigorous introduction to history and politics, as well as the possibility to specialise in one of these subjects after year one. You will gain new knowledge and expertise in your subject area as you take additional modules.

// You will enjoy an interdisciplinary environment designed for both home and international students who are interested in professional and academic careers in diplomacy, government, business, international charities, NGOs, and the education sector.

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).

Our aim is to provide a thorough grounding and opportunities for specialisation in history and politics. Alongside the development of disciplinary expertise, the degree programme promotes cross-disciplinary insight. You will learn how politics and societies evolve, how different disciplinary perspectives relate to each other, and how these perspectives can combine to give a more nuanced understanding of the Americas and their global relevance.

In years one and two you will take two core modules each year, plus options in history and politics. Language options are also available for students interested in learning relevant language skills.

In your final year, you will take an advanced module, designed to encourage you to engage with contemporary issues and share your knowledge with audiences outside UCL. You will also complete a dissertation and take history and politics optional modules.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Encountering the Americas: Key Themes and Concepts
// Introduction to Politics

Optional modules

Optional modules may include:

// Language (Spanish, Portuguese, or French)
// History of Latin America, c. 1830-c. 1930 or History and Politics of Latin America, c. 1930-present
// The Making of Modern America: The United States since 1920

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Research Methods

Optional modules

You will select from a range of optional modules, which may include optional modules from year 1 and:

// Gender, Politics and Society of the Americas
// Politics of the United States
// Building the American Nation: The United States, 1798-1920
// Colonial and Revolutionary North America, 1607-1787
// London and the United States: the Difference a City Makes
// Protest Politics in the USA from the New Deal to Trump
// Revolutions in Twentieth-Century Latin America
// The United States and the Cold War
// Political Economy of Economic Development
// International Politics of Latin America
// The Caribbean in the Shadow of the North: Caribbean-U.S. Relations in the Twentieth Century
// Power and Politics in Everyday Life: Topics in the Anthropology of Latin America
// Language (Spanish, Portuguese, or French)
FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Contemporary Issues and Texts in the Americas
// Dissertation

Optional modules

Optional modules may include options from Year 2 and:

// Queer USA: The Politics of Sexual Minorities in the United States since the Great Depression
// American Radicalisms, 1945-1989
// Crime, Violence, and Control in the Americas
// We Shall Overcome: The Civil Rights Movement in America
// Race and Resistance in Black Atlantic Thought
// Che Guevara: The Making of a Revolutionary
// Money and Politics in the Americas
// Human Rights in the Americas

Your learning

Teaching is based on lectures, seminar discussions, workshops, and individual coursework feedback. Core year one modules are taught comparatively, thematically and jointly by disciplinary and regional experts. As the degree progresses, seminars become smaller, more focused and students will follow their research interests to specialise in disciplines and regions of their choice.

Assessment

Assessment will be based on various types of written coursework and formal examinations, with learning also evaluated through speaking contributions and oral presentations. Students’ ability to engage with external audiences will be assessed in the year three core module. There is an emphasis on the acquisition of research skills via the completion of a research methods module (year two) and a 10,000-word dissertation (year three).

Your career

Our graduates, equipped with both multidisciplinary competences and area expertise, will be well situated for careers in the private and public sectors (in fields including finance, politics, diplomacy, teaching, NGOs, and international organisations). We also anticipate they will be well equipped to move on to further study and 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.

Your application will be considered on its merits, taking into account your interest in and suitability for the degree. This should be demonstrated through your personal statement, referee’s report, and achieved and predicted grades. You should be able to demonstrate an enthusiasm for the study of at least one region of the Americas covered by the degree (the Caribbean, Latin America, and the US), as well as curiosity about those areas with which you are less familiar.

Selection is made on the basis of information contained in the UCAS application and the reference supplied.
Entry requirements

**A LEVELS**

**Standard Offer:** AAA. No specific subjects.

**Contextual Offer:** ABB. No specific 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 score of 18 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5.

**Contextual Offer:** 34 points. A score of 16 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 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.

Additional costs

If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc. on this programme, 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

Email: ia-programmes@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 9746
Department: Institute of the Americas

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