INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES BA
UCAS CODE: LV01
2021 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus
This degree combines specialisation in one of ten humanities and social sciences, or Q-step, with a broad base in history, law, politics and philosophy, and fluency in a language. The programme is designed as "PPE or SPS with a foreign language", where you will gain access to the literature of your chosen specialism in both English and your major language. You may focus on areas such as North and South America, China and East Asia, or Maghreb.

**Key information**

**Programme starts**
September 2021

**Location**
London, Bloomsbury

**Degree benefits**
- Benefit from UCL’s world-class teaching system and the insights of its renowned humanities, language and social sciences scholars, and from the expertise of their international counterparts.
- A year abroad at a university in a country where the target language is spoken. ISPS students taking French or Spanish as their major language cannot spend their year abroad in France or Spain - if a student wishes to spend the year abroad in Europe they should apply for ESPS instead.
- Undertake a dissertation on an independently chosen research topic, with specialist supervision.
- Wide-ranging employability: approximately 15% of ESPS graduates have gone into European, international or British politics, 20% into law, business and commerce.

**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).

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Introductory modules in the first year allow you to develop your interests and identify an area of specialism for later years. Your modules then fall into three groupings: common core, language (and culture), and a specialism in the humanities or social sciences.

The common core involves working in a multidisciplinary environment, gaining insights into a range of academic disciplines and engaging critically with competing analytical perspectives. You will undertake language study throughout the programme, selecting one language on which to concentrate.

Your third year is spent abroad (outside Europe), in a country where your choice of major language is spoken. In your final year you return to UCL to continue with advanced modules in your language(s) and your humanities/social science subject, and also write your dissertation under the supervision of a member of staff. The major languages that you can study include Arabic (offered from beginner’s level only), French, Hebrew, Mandarin, Japanese, Spanish.

Upon successful completion of 360 credits, you will be awarded a BA (Hons) in International Social andPolitical Studies.

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)**
- 60 credits in the department of your major language.
- Introduction to History, Law, Philosophy and Politics.
- If you are taking the full Economics specialism you will take 45 credits from UCL Economics and 45 credits in the department of your major language and you will take no optional modules, or minor language.

**Optional modules**
- You will select 30 credits in a humanities or social sciences subject, or in a minor language.

**YEAR TWO**

**Compulsory module(s)**
- 45 credits in the department of your major language. (For students taking French or Spanish as a major language this can include a 15 credit ELCS optional module in the School of European Languages, Culture & Society.)

**Optional modules**
- You will select 75 credits in your chosen area of specialisation.

**YEAR THREE**

**Year abroad**
**Final Year**

**Compulsory module(s)**
- 30 credits Dissertation.
- 30 credits in the department of your major language.

**Optional modules**
- You will select 60 credits in your chosen area of specialisation.

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**Your learning**

Your formal timetable will involve a programme of lectures, seminars and workshops. As well as the core modules and modules designed specifically for ISPS students, you will choose options in other departments according to your area of specialisation. This gives you access to a range of UCL's successful teaching approaches.

**Assessment**

Your work will be assessed by written examination, assessed essay and presentation.

**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.

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**Your career**

International Social and Political Studies (ISPS) gives you the wide-ranging employability of graduates in PPE or international relations, but with the added maturity of a year abroad, and the advantage of fluency in a foreign language – essential for anyone seeking a career in an international context, and increasingly valuable for the financial sector or media posts.

ISPS graduates combine specialised knowledge of a humanities or social science with a broad foundation in philosophy, law, history and politics and importantly, proficiency in another language or languages. In addition, they gain independence from a year studying abroad. In particular, students are able to demonstrate their aptitude for research by writing a dissertation.

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**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.

When we assess your application, we will be looking for a firm interest in social and political issues, including a demonstration of your ability to grasp theoretical concepts and analyse social and political trends. Your achievement in examinations is crucial but we also pay careful attention to your motivation and interests as expressed in your personal statement, and your referee’s report.

There is a two-stage selection process for this programme. The first is based on your UCAS application, which we use to select candidates for the second stage, our online Thinking Skills Assessment Test (TSA). A limited number of exceptional candidates may be given an offer on the basis of their UCAS application alone, during the first stage of selection.
Entry requirements

**A LEVELS**

**Standard Offer:** A’AA. A humanities or social science subject (or Mathematics) preferred. Mathematics at A* required for full Economics specialism if chosen. French or Spanish at A grade required if one of these is to be studied as major language.

**GCSE:** English Language at grade B or 6, plus 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:** A*AB OR AAB. A humanities or social science subject (or Mathematics) preferred. Mathematics at A* required for full Economics specialism if chosen. French or Spanish at A grade required if one of these is to be studied as major language.

**GCSE:** English Language at grade B or 6, plus 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:** 39 points. A score of 19 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5. Higher level subjects to include French B, or Spanish B at grade 6 if either of these is to be studied as a major language. A humanities or social science subject (or Mathematics) at higher level is normally a requirement. Mathematics at grade 7 at higher level is required for the full Economics specialism, if chosen.

**Contextual Offer:** 36 points. A score of 17 in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5. Higher level subjects to include French B, or Spanish B at grade 6 if either of these is to be studied as a major language. A humanities or social science subject (or Mathematics) at higher level is normally a requirement. Mathematics at grade 7 at higher level is required for the full Economics specialism, if chosen.

**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:** £23,300 (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).

In addition, please note that if you wish to study abroad during your programme at UCL, this is likely to incur additional costs. Studying abroad may cost between £200–£1000 per month depending on where you choose to study. The cost of studying abroad can be difficult to predict as it will depend on your priorities and choices. There is more information available on the UCL Study Abroad website.

**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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**CONTACT**

**Email:** eisps.admissions@ucl.ac.uk

**Telephone:** 020 3108 1349

**Department:** European and International Social and Political 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.