UCL's new Media BA will set the benchmark for ambitious future media professionals, combining the highest standards of academic and critical rigour with media practice and state-of-the-art professional skills, and providing the opportunity to take up a work placement drawing on London's rich media environment.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2021

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

You will gain a broad understanding of the exhilarating possibilities of the digital era: how the media is made, how it is experienced, how it functions in your world, how it offers you expressive opportunities. You will benefit from world-class research in the field, and from our brand-new cutting-edge media studios in Bloomsbury.

You will reach advanced level in at least one digital media form: either in film-making or in digital game and interactive media, two of the most important media forms for the UK economy. This will prepare you for a wide range of employment in the media landscape of the UK, and beyond.

The programme will prepare you to think in an entrepreneurial way about the design and uses of the media. You will have the opportunity to take up a workplace placement within an organisation in London, either in the media industries, in galleries and museums, in the community sector, or in education.

You will learn important practice-based research skills from world-class researchers across three UCL faculties: how to study, analyse and critically reflect on the media, whether through examining its history, or its composition, or how people engage with it in an increasingly digital society.

Degree structure

The BA in Media is a unique blend of analytical, creative and entrepreneurial experience of the media arts in the twenty-first century. It offers a connection to the "real world" by taking an integrated approach to industry skill development and engagement. The programme situates the study of the media in a unique set of contexts, drawing on UCL's networks and partnerships in London and beyond.

The programme begins, in year one, with introductory modules common to all students. This will include the theoretical approaches to media and the practical strands of film-making and games and interactive media. In the third term, you will undertake a practice-based project in which you can apply the new skills and knowledge you've learned.

In the second year, you select from three pathways that guide you through the rest of the programme.

Pathway 1 is Critical Media with Film, exploring the history and cultures of media, and their use in people's everyday lives. You will also continue with the film-making practical strand, developing your skills through making documentary and fiction films.

Pathway 2 is Critical Media with Games/Interactive, similar to Pathway 1, except that the practical strand here will follow the games and interactive media, making narrative games and designing for VR/XR.

Pathway 3 is Media Practice, and follows both practical strands, allowing you to focus more strongly on production work in film and games, while also offering choices in theory-based modules.

In year two, you have the opportunity to take up a work placement. You will work with an organisation in media industry, community sector, cultural sector or media education, gaining important experience of media in the workplace. Alternatively, you have the option to develop a main practical or research-based project instead.

Most of the third year will be taken up with your major degree project. This will either be a production project in which you develop a lab-based creative piece for the degree show; or a piece of research for the degree conference. This is the culmination of your programme, drawing on the advanced level of production skills you've attained, the theoretical insights you've gained, and the workplace experience you have undertaken. In addition, broadening the interdisciplinary nature of the degree, third-year students are offered optional modules from a range of cognate cross-faculty programmes, including creative writing, radio documentary and cinema. The elective modules are subject to availability.

The final-year degree show and conference is the celebration of the students' achievements. We expect students to present a professional set of works and research that is advanced, experimental and challenging creative norms. The show will be open for public and includes a preview for industry and UCL's media network.

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

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.
Your learning

The BA in Media is facilitated in state-of-the-art media labs, studios, lecture theatres and cinema. The programme includes a variety of lectures, seminars, workshops, specialist classes, tutorials and lab-based activities including practice-based project sessions. Students are encouraged to engage with self-directed and collaborative learning, and project development which will be supported by lecturers, and lab and studio technicians.

Placement

The work placement option provide you with a real-world experience in an organisation that produces, enables or uses media: for example, a broadcaster, a games developer, a museum, or a community organisation. The placement will be for a minimum of 10 days. You will complete an assignment demonstrating what you have learned about the media-related workplace.

Assessment

Assessment is through a variety of essays, reports, blogs, podcasts, oral presentations and portfolios. They also include design presentations, prototyping and final creative projects. We will support you with informal feedback through the modules, and with clear feedback on assessed assignments to help you improve. The weight given to each assessment method varies across modules to ensure a manageable workload throughout the programme.

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.
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

(Unternational 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: £To be confirmed (2021/22)

Overseas: £To be confirmed (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 Brigitta Zics

Email: undergraduate-admissions@ucl.ac.uk

Telephone: Department: Culture, Communication & Media

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.