LONDON’S GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

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NATURAL SCIENCES MSci /
UCAS CODE: FGC0
2021 ENTRY

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Natural Sciences MSci

Natural Sciences enables students to combine science subject areas, known as "streams", reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of high-quality, internationally leading research undertaken at UCL. The first three years of the MSci follow the structure of our BSc programme. In the fourth year, you will deepen and extend your knowledge of one stream by undertaking a major research project as well as specialist taught study.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2021

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// The core stream structure provides you with module options from across a spectrum of disciplines - physical, life and brain sciences.

// You may broaden your knowledge further by selecting optional modules in non-science subjects such as languages, management studies, computing and statistics.

// While the programme offers a high level of flexibility, the core streams offer you a structured pathway to enable specialisation.

// Members of our teaching staff are experts in their various fields and are active in research, so you will benefit from their cutting-edge knowledge in your lectures and tutorials.

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 programme is divided into two main subjects or "streams", which are chosen in the first year and followed for the duration of the programme. Equal weighting is applied to the major and minor stream in the first and second years. During the third year, the balance of study shifts towards your chosen major stream whilst you still continue with the minor stream. The final year of the MSci involves a major research project in your major stream, and taught modules at masters level, typically these are all in the major stream although you may pick a most two modules in your minor stream.

All natural sciences students undertake a common mathematics module and three "foundation" modules in the first term of their first year. The foundation modules cover broad science subject areas and help students get a sense of what a subject is like at university level. Students narrow down these three areas to their two streams by the second term.

Certain streams may have prerequisites of particular grades and/or subjects at A level or equivalent; further details can be found on the Natural Sciences website.

Upon successful completion of 480 credits, you will be awarded a MSci (Hons) in your chosen Natural Sciences stream.

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)

// The first term comprises a compulsory mathematics module and foundation modules introducing the streams that are offered. You will select three foundation modules from the following:

// Chemistry
// Earth Sciences
// Life Sciences
// Mathematics and Statistics
// Physics and Astronomy
// Science and Technology Studies

Core streams

// In your second term you will choose two core streams in the following areas:

// Astrophysics
// Biomedical Science
// Earth and Environment
// Genetics, Evolution and Environment
// Geophysical Sciences
// History and Philosophy of Science**
// Inorganic and Materials Chemistry
// Mathematics and Statistics*
// Medical Physics
// Molecular and Cell Biology
// Organic Chemistry
// Neuroscience and Psychology
// Physical Chemistry
// Physics
// Policy, Communication and Ethics**

// *May only be pursued as a minor stream after year two
// **May only be pursued as a major stream in the BSc; MSci students may only take it as a minor.
YEAR TWO

Core streams

- You will take modules in your two core streams. Both streams have equal weighting, amounting to 45 credits of core (mandatory) modules per stream, plus a compulsory Scientific Communication and Computing module. At the end of the second year, you will choose one of the streams as a major stream.

Optional modules

- You can select one optional module, worth 15 credits. This can be taken outside the main Natural Sciences subject areas, such as in foreign languages, management, etc, provided they do not clash with core modules and space is available on them.

YEAR THREE

Core streams

- Major stream: You will take 60 credits in your major stream including a compulsory literature review (15 credits).
- Minor stream: You will take 45 credits in your minor stream.

Optional modules

- You can select one optional module worth 15 credits during your third year.

FINAL YEAR

Core stream

- At least 90 out of 120 credits must be taken in your major stream. This includes a mandatory research project that may be 45 or 60 credits, depending on the discipline.

Optional modules

- You will select your remaining credits from masters level taught modules. There may be some modules that are compulsory and some that are recommended, as well as options for you to choose from.

Your learning

A variety of teaching methods are employed, including lecture classes, practical sessions such as laboratory or field work (dependent on stream choice), and small-group tutorials. You will also be expected to spend a substantial amount of time on coursework and private study.

Contact hours can vary from stream to stream, reflecting how different scientific disciplines may be more practical and laboratory based or theoretical and involve extensive reading or searching of literature.

Fieldwork

Some streams involve optional modules with field trips, typically these are in Earth Sciences.

Assessment

Assessment is primarily through end-of-year examinations for lecture-based modules, whereas practical work is continuously assessed. Coursework is important and must be passed to allow progression from one year to the next.

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 provides an all-round scientific education in its own right. On completion of your degree, you will have cultivated transferable skills and the ability to solve problems in a quantitative way and to see science in a modern context.

You could choose to specialise in a defined, but usually interdisciplinary, science field and proceed to study for a wide range of possible postgraduate degree and doctoral programmes. Alternatively, you will be equipped to pursue many career options, for example, as a scientific journalist, in science teaching, as a management consultant or in finance and banking.

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 addition to essential academic requirements, we are looking for evidence of your motivation to pursue a degree in Natural Sciences. This could be demonstrated through examples of any relevant work, experience, attendance at scientific exhibitions or festivals, or from details of academic project work in which you have been involved.

If you are based in the UK and your application demonstrates you have the potential to meet our academic requirements, you will normally be invited to a departmental open day. This will be relatively informal and will give you the opportunity to meet with staff and current students, and to see UCL.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS

Standard Offer: A*AA. Any two subjects from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics. Please note: certain streams may have prerequisites of particular grades and/or subjects at A level or equivalent; further details can be found on the Natural Sciences website.

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: AAB. Grades AA in any two subjects from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics.

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: 39 points. A score of 19 points in three higher level subjects including grade 6 in two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics, with no score lower than 5.

Contextual Offer: 36 points. A score of 17 points in three higher level subjects including 6 in two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics, 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 & EU: £9,250 (2021/22)
// Overseas: £31,200 (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

Typically there are not additional associated costs that students are likely to incur, although this may vary from stream to stream. There are field trips on the “Earth and Environment” and “Geophysical Sciences” streams, although all such modules are optional. Students are typically expected to cover train travel and smaller costs such as lunches, which in total can cost between £200-300.

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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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.