PHARMACOLOGY BSc / UCAS CODE: B210
2020 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus
Pharmacology BSc

The subject of Pharmacology is immensely broad and covers areas of physiology, chemistry, neuroscience, biochemistry, and genetics. This flexible three-year programme offers a thorough training in the subject and students retain the option of applying to transfer to the MSci at the end of year two.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2020

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

Pharmacology at UCL offers you an outstanding academic environment. We are internationally renowned in the discipline and are recognised for numerous major discoveries.

It is our aim to combine excellence in research with high-quality pharmacology teaching. We have particular expertise in areas such as neuropharmacology and immunopharmacology.

In your final year, you will have the opportunity to join a world-leading research team to carry out your own research project.

We offer modern, state-of-the-art facilities, and are located adjacent to the Medical Research Council's Laboratory for Molecular Cell Biology, allowing for collaborative final-year projects.

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).

Pharmacology is wide-ranging and some of your modules will be taken with other Life Sciences students and will draw on expertise from across the faculty.

In the first year, all modules are compulsory, giving you a solid foundation on which to draw in years two and three. Year two mainly comprises compulsory work, including both practical classes and lectures. In your final year you have only one compulsory module, leaving you free to pursue your interests by choosing from a wide range of specialist options.

Many students undertake a nine-week laboratory research project in their final year. This provides an opportunity to work side-by-side with some of the most outstanding scientists in the field. You may find this particularly helpful in making choices about your future career, and whether you would like to pursue postgraduate study.

In your final year, you have only one compulsory module, leaving you free to pursue your interests by choosing from a wide range of specialist options.

You may also consider a 'sandwich' year in your programme, taken between years two and three, spending your time in the pharmaceutical industry or another pharmacology-related area. These are offered on a competitive basis but contacts between our staff and colleagues in industry open up many opportunities.

YEAR ONE

Compulsory subjects

- An Introduction to Mechanisms of Drug Action
- Cells and Development
- Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Chemistry for Biology Students
- Mammalian Physiology
- Statistics

Core foundational modules

All first year modules are compulsory.

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Biochemistry
- Experimental Pharmacology
- General and Systematic Pharmacology
- Immunity to Infection
- Structure and Function of the Nervous Systems

Optional modules

Options may include:

- Essential Protein Structure and Function
- Essential Molecular Biology
- Cellular Neurophysiology
- Developmental and Neurobiology
- Modern Languages (with tutor discussion)
FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Molecular Pharmacology
- Plus either:
  - Laboratory Research Project (1.5 credits)
  - Library Research Project (1.0 credits)

Optional modules

- You will select either 2.0 or 2.5 credits from a wide range of optional modules, depending on which research project you choose. Options may include:
  - Drug Design and Development
  - Immunopharmacology
  - Neuropharmacology
  - Psychopharmacology
  - Receptor Mechanisms
  - Synaptic Pharmacology: The Synapse, a Major Site of Disease and Drug Action

Your learning

Teaching is mainly conducted through lectures and laboratory classes together with regular small-group tutorials involving in-depth discussion of topics being studied. Modules run concurrently; lectures and tutorials are usually held in the morning with practical classes in the afternoons.

Assessment

You will be expected to submit coursework (e.g. essays and practical write-ups) and make oral presentations as part of your assessment. You will also take written examinations at the end of each year.

Your career

This programme not only provides detailed knowledge of the subject, but also trains you in planning, executing and analysing scientific projects and in quantitative and analytical skills, equipping you with a versatility that will be attractive to many employers.

As with any science degree, our graduates move into many types of employment including financial and managerial professions, scientific publishing, journalism, law and health administration (e.g., the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA)). Unlike many degrees, there is a related industry involving drug safety, drug research, drug sales and patent law.

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.

We will read your UCAS application to ascertain whether you meet, or are expected to meet, our academic entry requirements, and also to find out why you are interested in pharmacology.

Selection will be based on information provided in your UCAS application.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Standard Offer: AAB. Chemistry required plus one from Biology, Mathematics or Physics.

Contextual Offer: ABB. Chemistry required plus one from Biology, Mathematics or Physics.

GCSE
English Language and Mathematics at grade B or 6. 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 total of 17 points in three higher level subjects including Chemistry and one subject from Biology, Mathematics or Physics, with no score below 5.

Contextual Offer: 34 points. A total of 16 points in three higher level subjects including Chemistry and one subject from Biology, Mathematics or Physics, with no score below 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: £26,490 (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
There are no exceptional costs on this programme. However, if you have any questions about the cost of books, labcoats 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
Email: biosciences-admissions@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: 020-7679-7169
Department: Division of Biosciences

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