The new BSc in Politics and International Relations is designed for people who are passionate about politics, and who want to look in-depth behind the headlines to understand the forces shaping today's world. The degree will empower you to assess some of the most pressing challenges of our time, both domestically and globally. Our training will equip you with the tools through which to analyse data, conduct research, and write persuasively.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2020

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// Learn from world-leading experts in politics and international relations in the UCL Department of Political Science and School of Public Policy, who will teach your classes.

// Acquire the knowledge and know-how you need to analyse the major political problems of our time -- and evaluate how we should respond to them.

// Link your studies with real-world political developments, both through coursework that engages with current events and by learning from eminent practitioners at our flagship Policy & Practice Seminar Series.

// Develop a portfolio of skills -- in how to undertake research, analyse data, argue persuasively, and communicate effectively -- valued by employers in both the public and private sectors.

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 three-year curriculum delivers both structured training in political science, and the opportunity for you to focus on the questions that interest you most. The first year begins by investigating some of the great political challenges in the world today. You will also explore some of the main subfields of politics, including international relations, comparative politics, and political philosophy. During the first year, you will also develop your writing skills, and learn about the use and misuse of data in politics.

The second year begins by deepening your substantive knowledge. You will choose modules from a wide variety of options offered by the department. You will delve deeply into the main methods in political science, learning the skills to do a wide array of research. Additionally, you will engage with practitioners from the world of politics and policy.

Finally, in the third year, you are free to concentrate on the particular subfields, issues, and methods that interest you most, choosing several options from the full array of intermediate and advanced undergraduate modules offered by the department (and, subject to approval, offered by external departments). You will also undertake a final research project on an approved topic of your choosing, culminating in a dissertation.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

The compulsory modules for the first year are:

// How to Argue About Politics
// Lies, Damned Lies, and Bullshit: Evidence and Inference for Citizens and Social Scientists
// International Conflict and Cooperation
// Democracy and Authoritarianism
// Justice and Public Policy

You will also take modules in which you explore controversial contemporary political "hot topics" in detail. Topics vary in response to current events. These may include: Protest and Revolution; Globalisation and Populism; Refugees; and Identity Politics: Prejudice, Inclusion, and Equal Rights.

Please note that the exact titles of these modules may change. Please check the departmental website for updates on the specific titles of these modules.

Optional modules

// There are no optional modules in year one.
YEARS TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

The compulsory modules for the second year are:

- Foundations of Research Design
- Quantitative Methods
- Qualitative Methods
- Normative Methods
- Politics and Policy in Practice

Please note that the exact titles of these modules may change. Please check the departmental website for updates on the specific titles of these modules.

Optional modules

Optional modules for the second year may include the following or similar. Please note that this list is subject to change -- both removals and additions -- and there is no guarantee that all of these optional modules will run in any given year.

- British Politics
- Comparative Political Economy
- Authority, Democracy, and Resistance
- Ethics of Crime and Punishment
- Strategies of Terrorism
- International Security
- Politics of the European Union
- International Development and Public Policy
- Global Environmental Politics
- Human Rights and World Politics
- Global Economic and Social Rights

YEAR THREE

Core or compulsory module(s)

During the final year, the only compulsory module is the year-long final research project, which culminates in a dissertation.

Optional modules

Optional modules for the third year may include the following or similar. Please note that this list is subject to change -- both removals and additions -- and there is no guarantee that all of these optional modules will run in any given year.

- British Politics
- Comparative Political Economy
- Authority, Democracy, and Resistance
- Ethics of Crime and Punishment
- Strategies of Terrorism
- International Security
- Politics of the European Union
- International Development and Public Policy
- Global Environmental Politics
- Human Rights and World Politics
- Global Economic and Social Rights
- Public Policy
- Wars and Violence
- Voters, Public Opinion, and Political Participation
- Global Justice
- Conflict Resolution and Postwar Development
- Managing Government

YOUR CAREER

Our goal is to produce graduates who can undertake independent research on complex questions, collecting and analysing data and other forms of evidence; who can express complicated ideas clearly and communicate them effectively in speech and writing; and who can construct and defend reasoned arguments about politics and public policy.

The BSc in Politics and International Relations will equip you with a range of skills. Your training in independent research, data analysis, writing, and logical reasoning -- alongside the breadth of knowledge you will acquire -- will be valued by employers across the public and private sectors.

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 are looking for applicants who have a passion for thinking critically about the world in which we live. We value applicants who express themselves clearly and without jargon, and who have a proven track record of academic success and engagement in their community.

YOU LEARNING

Teaching is usually conducted through lectures and seminars delivered by the teaching staff of the UCL Department of Political Science and School of Public Policy. Lectures are typically accompanied by seminars that enable an in-depth and participatory discussion to the topics each week.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment includes essays, problem sets, examinations, presentations, literature reviews, policy briefs, and a final research project, culminating in a dissertation.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS

Standard Offer: AAA. No specific subjects. An essay based subject is preferred but not required.

Contextual Offer: ABB. No specific subjects. An essay based subject is preferred but not required.

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. An essay based subject at HL is preferred but not required.

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.

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<td>Overseas: £21,260 (2020/21)</td>
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Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the UCL Students 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.

CONTACT

Ms Helen Elliot

Email: polsci.admissions@ucl.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 4982

Department: Political Science

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