Politics, Sociology and East European Studies with a Year Abroad BA /

This degree programme combines training in politics, international relations and sociology with specialist modules on Russia and Eastern Europe. The degree provides graduates with the skills to analyse contemporary issues in European and international politics and society.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2020

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// This is an exciting time to study this continually changing region. Many post-communist states are now part of the European Union but, instead of consolidating democracy, are witnessing the rise of right-wing populism. At the same time, Russia is re-emerging as an assertive power with major international consequences.

// You will learn about major approaches in social and political science and how to use them to understand social and political change in Russia, the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe.

// You will be taught by leading experts in the field, all of whom speak one or more of the languages of the region.

// Our academic staff are regularly consulted by organisations such as the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Union.

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).

You will take compulsory modules in politics, sociology and international relations in years one and two, including on the political developments of Russia and other parts of the former USSR as well as Central and South-Eastern Europe. In your final year you will write a dissertation based on an independent research project. You will choose additional optional modules in politics, sociology, international relations, economics, history and culture, to match your interests.

You are strongly encouraged to learn Russian or another east European language as part of your degree. As well as making use of our excellent language learning opportunities, you will also have access to the rich foreign language resources of the UCL School of Slavonic & East European Studies (SSEES) Library.

Your third year is spent abroad studying at a university in the region. During your year abroad you will be expected to develop your language skills where appropriate, to take modules (in English) related to your degree and to develop an enhanced understanding of relevant country-level issues.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Understanding Politics: How Politics Works
// Understanding Politics: The Big Questions in Contemporary Europe
// Understanding Society: Introduction to Political Sociology
// Understanding Society: Introduction to Social Theory

// And at least one of:
// SESS1204 - Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe
// SESS1207 - Communist Societies, 1945-1989

Optional modules

// You will select 45 credits of optional modules, which may include the following:
// Frontiers of History
// Introduction to International Relations
// Introduction to Macroeconomics
// Introduction to Microeconomics

// Other optional modules are available in east European languages and culture, history, or Russian. Language module options are available within SSEES.
YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)
- Comparative Political Analysis
- Researching Politics and Society
- Plus at least two modules from:
  - Politics and Society in Central and Eastern Europe
  - Post-Soviet Politics and Society
  - Russian Politics and Society
  - South-East European Politics and Societies

Optional modules
- You will select up to 60 credits from a range of additional optional modules. Options may include:
  - Contemporary Polish Cinema
  - Culture in Eastern Europe: Anthropological Approaches
  - Democracy and Democratization
  - History of European Political Ideas
  - Language Module
  - Migration and Health
  - Political Economy of European Integration
  - Topics in Microeconomics
- Other optional modules choices are available in east European languages and culture, history or Russian.

YEAR THREE

Year abroad
- Students spend year three abroad studying at a university in the region, including partners in Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Poland and Russia.

FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)
- Dissertation

Optional modules
- You will select 90 credits from a wide range of optional modules. Options may include:
  - Corruption and Governance
  - European Security
  - Poland in the UK
  - History of European Political Ideas
  - Political Economy of European Integration
  - Soviet and Russian Foreign Policy
  - Baltic Politics and Society
- Other optional modules will be available in Russian, history, and east European languages and culture.

Your learning
You will be taught through a combination of lectures, seminars and tutorials. You will be expected to prepare presentations and papers on selected topics for your seminars and tutorials, sometimes as an individual and sometimes as part of a group, followed by class discussion. You will also receive regular written work, including essays, exercises and case study analyses.

Assessment
You will receive feedback from tutors on both your oral and written work and your presentation skills to help develop your analytical ability in these areas. Your assessment will be based on unseen written examinations, coursework and a supervised final-year dissertation.

Your career
You will acquire a solid understanding of politics and sociology, specialist knowledge of a region whose changing politics, economics and international relations are rapidly reshaping our understanding of the world, as well as a raft of transferable skills.

Career destinations of previous graduates include government service, international agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), consultancy (economic, political risk, security, marketing), banking, financial services, law, media, teaching and the leisure industry, as well as further study.

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 use your qualifications, predicted grades and personal statement to assess your suitability for this programme. Your personal statement should explain your motivation for applying for this programme, what it is that interests you about the study of Russia and Central and Eastern Europe, and provide evidence of an interest in politics (for example, from background reading).

On the basis of our assessment of your application we will decide whether to make you an offer. If you are successful, you will be invited to a post-offer open day (if you live in the UK).
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Standard Offer: AAB. No specific subjects.
Contextual Offer: BBB. No specific subjects.

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: 36 points. A score of 17 points in three higher level subjects, with no score below 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 (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: £21,260 (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
If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc. on this programme, 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
Miss Lisa Walters
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Department: SSEES - School of Slavonic & East European Studies

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