VIKING AND OLD NORSE STUDIES BA
UCAS CODE: R691
2020 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus
Viking and Old Norse Studies BA /

This four-year programme aims to develop your knowledge and understanding of the Viking Age through study of the medieval and modern Scandinavian languages, Old Norse literature, and medieval history. The third year is spent abroad at a university in Denmark, Iceland, Norway or Sweden, depending upon your language choice.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2020

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

This degree programme gives you the opportunity to learn a Scandinavian language of which you have no prior knowledge and attain a near-native competence by the time you graduate.

You will spend a year abroad in Scandinavia, at a university in Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, depending upon your chosen language.

UCL Scandinavian Studies has specialists across the areas of language, politics, history, medieval studies, literature and film.

You will have access to the largest and oldest Scandinavian library in the country, as well as state-of-the-art facilities within the UCL Language Space.

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).

In the first year, you will study a mainland Scandinavian language and Old Norse. You will also have the option of studying modules in Scandinavian history, linguistics, and medieval history.

In the second year you will continue your language studies, with a particular emphasis on Old Norse. You will also take a module in Viking Age Scandinavia.

Your third year is spent abroad at a university in Scandinavia.

Your final year is spent at UCL where you will continue with your language studies and take advanced modules including Old Norse and The Vikings in Europe. A dissertation option is available.

You will also take modules from SELCS. This will allow you to study subjects like literature, film, art and culture from a wider perspective. You will be exposed to broad cultural movements, issues and approaches and be able to draw on the full range of specialisms within the school.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Introductory Language Module in Danish, Icelandic, Norwegian or Swedish
- Histories and Cultures of the Nordic Region
- Introduction to Old Norse
- Vikings and Material Culture

Optional modules

- You will select one of the following:
  - Introduction to Linguistics and the Scandinavian Languages
  - Nordic Storytelling
- You will also choose an interdepartmental module offered by SELCS. Options may include the study of linguistics, film and history.

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Intermediate Language Module in Danish, Icelandic, Norwegian or Swedish
- Intermediate Old Norse
- Viking-Age Scandinavia

Optional modules

You will select 30 credits of optional modules. Options may include:

- Introduction to Finnish Society and Culture
- Nordic Cinema
- Nordic Landscapes
- Scandinavian Literature in Context
- The Nordic Welfare States

You will also choose a SELCS Interdepartmental Intermediate module to the value of 15 credits.
YEAR THREE

Year abroad

- You will spend your Year Abroad at a university in the country where your target language is spoken, studying alongside native speakers, to make the most of your cultural and linguistic immersion.
- The experiences and skills developed while abroad further academic and personal development, cultural and social awareness, provide a foundation for further study and enhance career prospects.
- For further information please visit the SELCS Year Abroad website.

FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Advanced Language Module in Danish, Icelandic, Norwegian or Swedish
- Advanced Old Norse
- The Vikings in Europe

Optional modules

You will select 75 credits of Scandinavian Studies modules (subject to availability). Options may include:

- Advanced Project Work in Danish, Norwegian or Swedish
- Dissertation in Scandinavian Studies
- Extended Essay in Scandinavian Studies
- Mythology and Religion in Medieval Scandinavia
- Nordic Cinema
- Nordic Landscapes
- Nordic Politics and Society
- Scandinavian Social Democracy
- The Nordic Welfare States
- Translation from the Scandinavian Languages
- SELCS Interdepartmental Advanced modules

Your learning

Teaching comprises lectures, classes, seminars, group work and presentations. The modern language elements comprise four taught hours a week for basic language in year one, four hours a week for intermediate language in year two, and two hours a week for advanced language in the final year. A significant portion of your work will take place in guided independent study.

Assessment

Most modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework and written examination. Some are assessed by essays only. Language modules are assessed by coursework and written and oral examinations.

Your career

Upon graduation you will be fluent in your chosen language and have a reading knowledge of other Scandinavian languages. The historical and literary parts of the degree will develop your cultural awareness. You will be trained in the organisation, presentation and interpretation of complex information, written and oral communication, and independent and group work.

Many of our graduates find they are able to use their Scandinavian languages in a variety of contexts, such as working for Scandinavian companies. Recent graduates have also entered translating, publishing and teaching.

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.

Your personal statement should reflect your interests and goals, especially with respect to your proposed degree. Some knowledge or experience of Scandinavian culture is expected, as well as an explanation of how this has motivated you to learn more. We do not necessarily require a language at A level or equivalent, but expect you to demonstrate an enthusiasm and aptitude for language learning.

If your application demonstrates that your academic ability and motivation make you well suited to our degree and you receive an offer, we shall invite you to a Post Offer Open Day. There, you will be able to experience the sort of teaching we offer and life in SELCS.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS

Standard Offer: ABB. English Literature, History and/or a language preferred.

Contextual Offer: BBB. English Literature, History and/or a language preferred.

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: 34 points. A score of 16 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5. English Literature, History and/or language preferred.

Contextual Offer: 32 points. A score of 15 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5. English Literature, History and/or language preferred.

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

Modern European Languages Scholarship https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/scholarships/undergraduate/MELS

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: selcs.admissions@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 3096
Department: School of European Languages, Culture and Society

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