Centre for Languages &
International Education

UCL



Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates

Foundation year for international students

September 2026 entry

English



WELCOME TO UCL

London's Global University

University College London (UCL) is a world-leading multidisciplinary university with an international reputation for high-quality teaching and research, and is ranked in the top 10 universities worldwide.*

Based in Bloomsbury, central London, UCL's main campus is within walking distance of outstanding academic, social and cultural resources, as well as exceptional sporting facilities and entertainment, giving easy access to the best student city in Europe.**

01 MIT
02 Imperial College London
03 Stanford University
04 University of Oxford
05 Harvard University
06 University of Cambridge
07 ETH Zurich
08 National University of Singapore
09 UCL
10 California Institute of Technology*

A global top 10 university

We're the only UK university in the top 10 of the QS World University Rankings 2026 with its own international foundation year.

Start your journey with the UPC and move onto your chosen degree at a high-ranking UK university.

230+ UCL degrees guarantee an offer if you are predicted to meet the entry requirements and write a clearly relevant personal statement

62% of UPC students progressed to a UCL undergraduate degree***

79% of UPC students progressed to UCL or another Russell Group University***

* QS World University Rankings 2026
** QS Best Student Cities 2026
*** Progression statistics from 2024

Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPC)



Why study the UPC at UCL?

Full university experience

We teach the UPC on UCL's Bloomsbury campus. You'll be a UCL student from day one and can take advantage of UCL's academic, social and welfare resources.

Join societies and sports teams at Students' Union UCL and experience student life in London first-hand.

Personalised support

You will receive a one-to-one tutorial every week with your personal tutor, as well as regular support from a student mentor and a dedicated education advisor.

Quality teaching

You'll be taught by experienced UCL academic staff who are experts in preparing international students for undergraduate studies.

For compulsory subjects, you'll typically be taught in seminar groups of no more than 14 students.

London's global university

You will be joining a welcoming and supportive environment of international students and staff, both on the UPC and in the wider-UCL community.



Overview

Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPC) are intensive and challenging foundation courses for international students whose school qualifications do not allow direct admission to an undergraduate programme.

The UPC provides students with the essential academic and language skills, knowledge and support to progress confidently and smoothly onto an undergraduate degree at UCL or another top UK university.

There are two undergraduate foundation courses at UCL:

- Humanities (UPCH)
- Science & Engineering (UPCSE).

During one academic year (September – June), the courses provide outstanding preparation for the academic challenges of a top UK degree programme.

Course structure

You will study four subjects.

Compulsory subjects

You will study two compulsory subjects:

- Academic English (all students)
- Academic Research: Approaches & Methods (UPCH students)
- Science & Society (UPCSE students).

UPCH/UPCSE for Architecture students take Academic English and Visual Studies for Architecture & Academic Research: Approaches & Methods as their compulsory modules.

If you have an IELTS for UKVI (Academic) score of 7.5 (overall and in each section), or equivalent, you can study another language instead of Academic English.

Optional subjects

In addition to the compulsory subjects, you will choose two optional subjects.

Optional subjects are selected according to the requirements of the undergraduate programme you are aiming for.

Please see our guide for selecting optional subjects on the website.

UPCH optional subjects:

- Classical Civilisation: Literature, Philosophy and Politics
- Economics
- Geography & the Built Environment
- Mathematics
- Modern European Culture
- Modern European History & Politics.

UPCSE optional subjects:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Physics.

Tuition fees

The cost of tuition is:

- UPCH/UPCSE: £28,000
- UPCH/UPCSE for Architecture: £29,500

Details of other costs associated with the course (e.g. living expenses, field trips and excursions) can be found on our website: **ucl.ac.uk/upc**

Entry requirements

Am I eligible?

You can apply for the UPC if you:

- Are 16+ years old when the course starts.
- Are in the last year of high school when applying, or have already graduated.
- Do not have the qualifications to apply directly to a UCL undergraduate degree.*

* Entry requirements are available in the UCL prospectus at **ucl.ac.uk/study**

Academic requirements

We welcome students from all over the world and do not have a single set of academic entry requirements for the UPC.

We're looking for excellent grades on your school transcripts and list some examples of minimum grades for qualifications from several countries on our website.

English language requirements

You need to complete the IELTS for UKVI (Academic) or Pearson PTE Academic UKVI before applying.

Information on the specific scores you will need in your English language tests can be found on our website: **ucl.ac.uk/upc**

Under 18?

If you will be under 18 years old when you start the course, you should familiarise yourself with the essential information for under 18s on the UPC website.



How to apply

There are four stages to the UPC application process:

1. application form & supporting documents
2. entrance tests
3. interview
4. offer.

You must succeed at each stage to receive an offer.

Application form & supporting documents:

- Fully completed application form (including personal statement).
- Copies of school transcripts.
- Reference.
- An IELTS for UKVI (Academic) or PTE Academic UKVI.
- Payment of application fee.

Entrance test(s)

Once you have submitted a complete application form, met our minimum requirements and paid the application fee, we'll contact you about the entrance test(s).

Which entrance test(s) will I take?

- **UPCH with Mathematics**: Mathematics test and Critical Thinking task.
- **UPCH without Mathematics**: Critical Thinking task.
- **UPCSE**: one entrance test for each of your two optional modules.

You can familiarise yourself with practice tasks/tests from our website.

Interview

When deciding whether to interview, all aspects of your application are considered.

Your performance in the interview is important in our decision to offer you a place on the course.

Your entrance test and interview date will depend on when you submit a complete application.

See our website for full application and entrance test dates.

Accommodation

Once you've accepted your UPC offer, you can apply for UCL accommodation.

If you meet the eligibility criteria and apply before the deadline, you will be prioritised for a place in accommodation.

More information online:
ucl.ac.uk/accommodation

Disclaimer

UCL has sought to ensure that the information given in this brochure is correct at the time of going to press but we cannot guarantee that it is accurate. The information contained in this brochure is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please see the course website, which takes priority over this printed brochure. You should check the information on the course website before accepting an offer of a place at UCL.





Contact information:

upc@ucl.ac.uk
+44 (0)20 3987 2678
ucl.ac.uk/upc

@uclclie