



Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates

Foundation year for
international students

September 2025 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 world's number one student city.**

- 01 MIT
- 02 Imperial College London
- 03 University of Oxford
- 04 Harvard University
- 05 University of Cambridge
- 06 Stanford University
- 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 2025 with its own international foundation year.

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

160+

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***

80%

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

* QS World University Rankings 2025

** QS Best Student Cities 2024

*** Progression statistics from 2023

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

If you are a proficient user of English and 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.



Languages offered have included: Arabic, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese and Spanish.

Optional subjects

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

The 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

You can find tuition fees on our website: ucl.ac.uk/upc

Details of other costs associated with the course (e.g. living expenses, field trips and excursions) can also be found on our website.



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 are under the age of 18 at the point of enrolment, you should familiarise yourself with UCL's 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)

If you submit a complete application form, including all required documents and you meet our minimum requirements, 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.

The Critical Thinking task is taken during your interview.

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/or 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



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