



# Discover Research at UCL

Investigate

Choose

Funding?

Decision

[ucl.ac.uk/graduate](https://ucl.ac.uk/graduate)

# Applying for research at UCL

## Investigate academic areas at UCL

Identify the programme or programmes which interest you. A list of research programmes offered by UCL can be found within our Graduate Prospectus at [ucl.ac.uk/graduate/research](http://ucl.ac.uk/graduate/research)



## Check you meet the requirements

Entry requirements for our research programmes can be found on the Graduate Prospectus [ucl.ac.uk/graduate/research](http://ucl.ac.uk/graduate/research). International equivalencies are shown in the key information section of each degree page. You may also need to provide proof of your English language proficiency if English is not your first language.

## Funded research opportunities

A studentship is a defined research project with funding already attached. They are predominantly in science, technology, engineering and medical areas, and are advertised throughout the year on one or more of the following sites:

- UCL Doctoral Training Centre and programmes: [ucl.ac.uk/cdts](http://ucl.ac.uk/cdts) or UCL Studentships: [ucl.ac.uk/studentships](http://ucl.ac.uk/studentships)
- Faculty and department sites: [www.ucl.ac.uk/about/how/faculties](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/about/how/faculties)
- Listings sites like [www.findaphd.com](http://www.findaphd.com) or [www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk)

Availability of studentships is ad hoc in nature, and each one will have specific advice on how to apply.

**Note** that studentships funded by UK Research Councils, including most Doctoral Training opportunities, are not usually available to students from outside the EU. If you are applying for funding from your government check the requirements and deadlines – these can often be earlier than you would expect.

## Choose an academic department or research group

Establishing a dialogue with a prospective supervisor is usually fundamental to the application process. All applicants, except those applying for advertised studentships (see “Funded research opportunities”), are encouraged to send an informal research enquiry. This should either be sent directly to the academic you are interested in working with, or to the departmental contact. The process can vary by department; please contact the department first. See “Departments and research groups” section below for contact details.

Academics at UCL undertake a lot of interdisciplinary research – for this reason it is recommended that you consider a variety of departments, academics and research groups. We advise you to make use of all the sources of information mentioned here to help you identify suitable supervisors or groups for you.

### Individual academics

There are three ways to identify an appropriate academic supervisor to contact:

- Browse the UCL Graduate Prospectus to find centres of research in your area of interest. You can click through to the relevant department or centre website to find staff profiles. [ucl.ac.uk/graduate](http://ucl.ac.uk/graduate)
- Look on UCL’s Institutional Research Information System (IRIS), where you can search for academics and centres of research by keyword. Not all academics are listed in IRIS but it is a good place to start. [ucl.ac.uk/iris](http://ucl.ac.uk/iris)
- Search our online research repository (UCL Discovery) to find papers and research relevant to you. If you identify a research paper that interests you it is possible that one of the authors could be a suitable supervisor. [ucl.ac.uk/discovery](http://ucl.ac.uk/discovery)

### Departments and research groups

You can find contact details for academic departments on the relevant degree pages in our Graduate Prospectus, [ucl.ac.uk/graduate](http://ucl.ac.uk/graduate)

Alternatively, you can find Graduate Tutor information, by selecting Essential Information, on the UCL Doctoral website, [www.grad.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.grad.ucl.ac.uk)

## Enquire make a research enquiry

Academic members of staff are extremely busy people and receive many research enquiries. It is therefore important to research thoroughly your prospective supervisor’s interests before you contact them, and say who you are and what you want to do clearly and concisely.

### Your email should answer the following:

- Are you a UK/EU or overseas student?
- Where are you from?
- What qualifications do you have, from which institution?
- What were your grades?
- Do you have any research experience? If so, what?
- Have you published any research?
- How will you fund your studies?

### Research proposal

Research proposals are more common in arts and social sciences areas. They are not usually required in science, technology, engineering and medical areas, where research is usually done in research groups. If applicable, you need to clearly describe the topic, its aims and objectives, and its methodology as concisely as possible; in the first instance it should usually amount to around 500 words. If a prospective supervisor is interested, then you can refine and develop your initial outline to produce a final proposal.

### A good proposal will include the following:

- A clear and descriptive working title
- Some background, rationale and any relevant issues
- Your aims and objectives
- A description of your theoretical framework and methodological approach
- What sources or data you will be using
- What valuable and useful knowledge will come out of your research.

## Apply complete an application

An application is the final stage of the process and should only be submitted when requested, or when you have agreed on a research project with your supervisor.

## Apply for a studentship

Follow the application guidance of the studentship.

## Decision track your progress

You will be able to track the progress of your application via the UCL Applicant Portal – details will be sent to you when your application has been received.



# Why UCL?

£476m



## Research grant income

UCL annual report and financial statement 2017/18



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## Nobel Laureates

29 Nobel Prizes have been awarded to people who are, or were, students or academics at UCL

8th



## in the world

QS World University Rankings 2020

1st



## for research strength in the UK

UCL is the top-rated university in the UK for research strength (REF 2014)



Partners



## UCL's ongoing links with industry:

Arup, Cisco, BBC, EU, CERN, NASA, UK Parliament, UN, Dyson, British Museum, Eisai, Microsoft and Intel, among others.

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## countries represented by UCL staff and students

UCL attracts the best and the brightest staff and students from all over the world