

UCL Scholars Study Abroad Program Program Description and Application Requirements

Applications due January 25

Turn in all materials including transcript & references to:

Lauren Stolper, Director of Study Abroad

Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad (FASA), Rm. 319 in the Center for Student Services, Mail Code 319-87

Please read the following pages carefully as this information is essential for completing an application.

Introduction and General Information

Dates and Orientation:

The UCL Scholars Program is a study abroad program in which Caltech students will study at University College London during their junior or senior year during the Fall Term. **The dates for 2019 are Monday, September 23 through Friday, December 13.** Participants are required to attend the international student program orientation (ISOP) that will take place during the week before the term begins as well as the Welcome Week Program the week prior to the start of classes. Dates for next year are not yet set but will generally follow this year's dates. The orientation program will provide information on the academic system, registrations for classes and the health and counseling services for incoming exchange students. There are usually social events and tours of London in addition to the typical workshops on registration, life at UCL, etc.

Travel Issues:

Travel is not permitted during the either ISOP or the Welcome Week or weekends related to these programs as activities take place on the weekends related to the programs. Both ISOP and the Welcome Week are mandatory. Student may travel in Britain or Europe before the orientation program starts or after their last final examination in December and during the Reading Week as explained below. It is possible to make weekend trips in the UK or to nearby European destinations such as Paris or Amsterdam. However, weekend trips must not interfere with lecture, lab, or tutorial attendance.

Reading Week: At the mid-point of the term there is a Reading Week when no classes are in session. The Reading Week is intended for catching up on the reading, sets working on essays, or projects. With good time management during the first half of the term, most students can take advantage of the Reading Week for travel.

UCL Location, History and Student Body

University College London (UCL) <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/> is one of the top universities in Britain. UCL was founded in 1826 and was the first university established in London. It was the first university to admit students from any religious or social background and to admit women on equal terms with men. UCL was also the first university in Britain to offer degrees in fields such as literature, modern languages, law, medicine, and engineering.

With about 14,000 undergraduates, UCL is located in a vibrant part of central London, the Bloomsbury/Fitzrovia area. The UCL campus is a short walk to Oxford Street (one of the main shopping arteries) and near the British Museum. There is very convenient access to the London Underground and London area train stations which are minutes away. There is also an extensive metropolitan bus system.

Room and Board

Caltech students live in single rooms in one of the official UCL halls of residence, which are a short walk to the UCL campus. There is no meal plan in the halls that Caltech students are assigned (self-catered) and halls have ample and convenient kitchen facilities. All UCL residence halls house UCL students and affiliate students.

Due to the longer length of the UCL 12-week term (compared to the 10-week Caltech term) and the cost of housing in London, there is usually a housing fee supplement charged to cover the additional weeks of room. The amount of the supplement depends on the Caltech housing rate compared to the UCL housing fees and the exchange rate. Students on financial aid are eligible for additional funding to cover these costs and costs associated with the additional weeks of meals. The Financial Aid Office will hold a meeting on study abroad costs for aid recipients in the spring.

Academic Program

Caltech as an exchange partner has its own selection process for students applying to UCL. Therefore, if you come across any directions on the UCL web pages about how to apply for affiliated student status, please ignore this information, as Caltech students must be selected by Caltech and will then be admitted by UCL.

Note that UCL is composed of 11 faculties and Caltech students must choose an Admitting Department from within the **Faculty of Engineering Sciences, Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, or the Faculty of Life Sciences keeping the department restrictions noted below in mind.**

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS: Students MUST take exactly 60 UCL Credits total, which is 4 classes. Fifty percent of classes (2) MUST be taken in the student's Admitting Department. Students have ONE Admitting Department only.

Each UCL class is 15 UCL units. Students take 4 classes and no overloading is allowed. Each 15 UCL unit class receives 9 CIT units except in the case of a required option 12-unit Caltech equivalent class.

Students are not allowed to take THE FALL HALF OF A 30 UCL credit year-long courses. This is a UCL rule and there are NO exceptions.

CLASS BY CORRESPONDENCE: Students may take one Caltech class by correspondence if the Caltech instructor allows. This class is in addition to the required 60 UCL credits. A class by correspondence should only be taken if the student cannot find an equivalent class abroad and must take the class during the term abroad. Usually, there is flexibility at Caltech when such situations arise, or students should choose a program that does teach the class in their term abroad if they do not want to take the class by correspondence. A student is registered on Regis for such classes (only one) and must do all work and exams by the required dates to get Caltech credit. Such classes appear on the Caltech transcript as any class does.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE CREDIT: As noted fifty percent of classes (2) MUST be taken in the student's Admitting Department. Students may take all 60 UCL credits total in the sciences or engineering or may take up to 30 UCL credits (2 classes) in the humanities or social sciences at UCL. All classes taken must have a December examination or other assessment and be open to fall only Affiliate Students. UCL does not offer research classes.

Classes in the humanities, social sciences, or in a foreign language can be taken to fulfill humanities and social science requirements, provided that you obtain Caltech's HSS departmental permission after acceptance into the program. (You do not need to seek their permission as part of the application process.) Students can take

interesting classes such as an *Art in London*, taught in a different art gallery each week by a different art specialist, or a course on the *Architecture of London*. Other fascinating classes such as *Egypt in London* and *London Before the Great Fire* are also taught. See the art history, anthropology, archaeology, political science, and literature, etc., listings in the Subject List link below.

The UCL Subject List <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/study-abroad-ucl/study-abroad-guide/subjects> and at the top of each subject **it is clearly stated what term is allowed**. **Caltech students can only take classes in subjects that include Fall in the list. As noted, any Subject that states Year or Year and Spring is NOT open for students to take fall taught classes.** Some subjects, even though classes are taught in the fall term, do not allow fall term only students to take the class because the final examination or assessment is held in the UCL third term, the UCL examination term. **If a Department at UCL in their general subject description states Year or Spring only, then fall classes are NOT allowed in this subject.**

CLASS RESTRICTIONS: Fall affiliate students are not allowed to take courses in the following departments:

Architecture, Chemical Engineering, Electronic and Electrical Engineering, English Literature, Fine Arts (Slade School), Language Centre, Law, Management, Physics & Astronomy, Mathematics, and Statistical Sciences. Note that this list is based on current UCL subject online information.

Affiliate Students can only take Level 1 modules in Economics. However, introductory and upper level Economics classes are taught in [Slavonic and East European Studies \(SSEES\)](#).

Students CANNOT take any classes in the UCL English Literature Department even if the student has a second option or minor in English. However, literature classes can be taken in many of the area studies departments.

GPA ISSUES: Biomedical Sciences and Computer Science departments require a minimum GPA of 3.9 to apply and very strong letters of reference. A 3.9 does not guarantee acceptance in CS or Biomedical Sciences. These departments reject most applicants. Student applying to Biomedical Sciences must be sure they have the background for upper level Biomedical Sciences classes. Most students should choose Molecular Biosciences or Biological Sciences as the Admitting Department (2 classes minimum as with all Admitting Departments) and then can take a class or two in Biomedical Sciences. A minimum 3.3 GPA is needed for Admitting Departments other than CS and Biomedical Sciences. UCL prefers rising or a stable cumulative GPA.

As noted, students find courses by subject at:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/study-abroad-ucl/study-abroad-guide/subjects>.

When listing classes for the application, list UCL credits only. Do NOT include U.S. or ECTS credits.

Students accepted to UCL will be allowed to make changes with the permission of the director of study abroad and their UCL Affiliate Tutor (academic advisor) or the designated department representative for subjects outside their Admitting Department once classes for the coming fall are finalized, usually over the summer months.

On each department's homepage, you can click on the undergraduate degree programs if you want to gain a fuller picture of the required classes: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/departments/academic-departments/>.

EVALUATION: *In addition to taking the December final examination or completing required projects or essays, Caltech students will be evaluated by Caltech and UCL faculty on a Course Report Form and will also receive a grade on a UCL transcript. Students will take all UCL courses for a grade, but these grades will not*

transfer to Caltech -- only credit/no credit will appear on the Caltech transcript. However, students will be able to order and submit an official UCL if needed or graduate school, fellowships, or employment.

AFFILIATE TUTOR: In the online information for each department, a faculty member will be designated as the Affiliate Tutor, who acts as the academic advisor to Affiliate Students. This faculty member is available to answer questions via email. However, the questions should be thoughtful. Do not ask the Affiliate Tutor to explain something that the applicant read online nor do the Affiliate Tutors grant exceptions. Students applying to UCL need to abide by their course rules. Usually the email on the Subject page, but if only their name is listed, either go to the department's homepage or use the UCL directory <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/isd/services/user-ids-passwords/ucl-directory>.

Note that when you copy course descriptions from web pages, please adjust the spacing so that the descriptions are single-spaced.