

Msc in Haemoglobinopathies

Welcome to MSc in Haemaglobinopathies

The University College London in conjunction with Thalassaemia International Federation offers the first academic course ever to health professional in Haemoglobinopathies.

Our Masters programme gives a thorough understanding of holistic care to all the aspects of haemoglobinopathy, providing a strong basis for a high-level career in the field.

This unique course is expected to offer health professionals from around the world the opportunity to pursue a specialist qualification from a leading University with minimum disruption to professional and personal lives.

This innovative programme will make extensive use of the Internet technology. As a Masters student you will gain a broad and international education in the science and art of preventing Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Disease, and develop the skills required for providing holistic care to the patients suffering from haemoglobinopathies.

All lectures will be delivered as flash video with interactive and self assessments elements. In addition, each distance-learning module will entail weekly discussion forum, journal club and “meet the expert” session by video conferencing.

In addition to the academic knowledge, you will develop additional cognitive, team, communication, research, ICT, numeracy and project planning skills that are eminently transferable within the job sector.

The real strength of our programmes is in our students. Experience and expertise along with critical analysis and lively debate with teachers and fellow students is likely to enhance acquisition of new knowledge, perspectives and skills.

Job Prospects

A postgraduate distance learning qualification from UCL is career changing. It can be the springboard to promotion with your current employer, the platform from which to launch a new career or to simply become more effective in your current role.

Why Distance Learning?

Professional global classmates encourages

- Ongoing interaction with classmates from around the world
- Developed and developing countries
- Effective communication across long distances
- Working to deadlines across time zones
- Access to knowledge from a range of cultural perspectives
- Learning about different practices in other countries
- Access to programme materials from experts of various countries

- Practical learning from case studies obtained from students working all over the world

Our worldwide reputation attracts students and teachers from all over the world. UCL has students from over 140 countries, and experts from Asia, USA Europe and UK, all giving our programmes a very broad international perspective. Your interaction with fellow classmates in our virtual classroom will bring out valuable knowledge, insight, ideas and alternative perspectives. The networking benefit will continue long even after you graduate. Programme topics and class discussions will always have a global dimension. The international perspective you gain as a result is expected to give you a huge advantage in managing patients with complex medical problems with limited resources.

Accessibility

- Classes are open throughout the year
- No student is excluded from popular modules
- No geographical limitations exist
- No campus attendance is required
- No on-site exams exist
- You can get access to your virtual classroom from any Internet-enabled computer anywhere
- It is user-friendly – there is no need to have high end technical knowledge

We will accommodate your specific learning access to requirements so that you are always in the driving seat. In brief, the highest quality academic programme is now available to you without boundaries or limitations. You can even gain access to it from any Internet café in the world.

Flexible scheduling

- No physical classroom attendance is required
- Classes are open 24/7
- Flexible study is available within a weekly deadline structure
- You can choose when you wish to take a break
- We understand that you have to fit your learning objectives around your life, but it is not vice versa. You will automatically have a break between modules, which can be extended as required. All your lectures, class discussions and group projects can take place online, so that you will never have to concern yourself with lecture times or will have to travel to attend a class. As long as you meet your weekly deadlines, the time you choose to study is up to you.

Flexible programme structure permits

- Personalisation
- Specialisation tracks
- Flexible time between modules
- Ability to meet student- centred specific learning outcome

In our programme, you can choose from a range of optional modules to personalise the content of your degree. This means that you can choose modules that are relevant to your needs today as well as those that will translate your valuable work experience into a Masters degree. Our flexible programme will enable you to acquire your own learning outcome by encouraging you to personalise your learning experience by bringing your particular work situation and viewpoint into class discussion.

+ Small class sizes

We restrict the class size to a maximum of 25, selected from a maximum diversity of nationality and profession. Throughout the programme you are expected to collaborate and network with a large pool of professionals. Every member of the group will learn how to communicate their viewpoints successfully and make a valuable contribution to the team. With such an intensive interaction, people will get to know each other and develop a special camaraderie. The result is development of a unique, evolving programme that constantly adjusts to your specific needs of all the team members.

+ Active learning permits

- Constant interaction with classmates
- Ongoing assessment
- Active discussions rather than passive lectures
- Avoidance of 'learning by heart' technique
- A strong focus on assignments and projects

Our programmes are relevant to the modern health care system in their methods as well as in their contents. Critical analysis and lively debate with teachers and fellow students is expected to facilitate acquisition of new knowledge, perspective and skill. One cannot hide at the back of the classroom. The students are assessed on the quality of their contribution.

+ Student-centred project

- It is collaborative
- It works on "Choose your own schedule"
- It has small class sizes
- Your experience is a part of the programme
- Sophisticated student feedback tools are used
- Support is present throughout the project
- Programmes are designed to allow personalisation

The real strength of our programmes is in you, our students. Your experience and expertise, in constructive collaboration with those of your classmates will help you to have a unique learning experience. We will help you to shape the programme content to meet your needs. Small classes, personal support and sophisticated feedback will give you the greatest opportunity to benefit from the wealth of knowledge that is available to you.

+ Career Changing

A postgraduate distance learning qualification from the University is career changing. It can be the springboard to promotion of the student with the current employer, the platform from which a professional can launch a new career or can simply become more effective in his/her current role.

Studying by distance learning has the benefit of allowing development of the career of a professional without having to leave employment. It also means that you can apply new knowledge and insights to your working life while you are still studying.

Why Study at UCL

Please click on the link below to find out why you should study at London's Global University.

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/about-ucl/history>

Course Outline

The UCL MSc in haemoglobinopathy postgraduate degree programme gives you a thorough understanding of holistic care to all aspects of thalassaemia and sickle cell disease, providing a strong basis for a high career in the field.

There are 4 core modules and 2 option modules. All core modules are mandatory to PG Diploma and MSc.

For PG Certificate module 1 is compulsory along with either module 2 or module 3. Endocrinology module is not available for PG Certificate.

A. Core Modules covers

- Module 1: Molecular biology, research methodology, epidemiology, ethics, screening, prevention and prenatal diagnosis of haemoglobinopathy (30 credits).
- Module 2: Clinical Diagnosis, pathophysiology and management of thalassaemia (30 credits).
- Module 3: Diagnosis, pathophysiology and management of sickle cell disease (30 credits).
- Module 4: Endocrinology, puberty, growth, fertility and pregnancy. (15 credits).

B. Two optional modules, of which at least one is required for PG Diploma/MSc.

- Module 5 Advances in haemoglobinopathy including stem cell transplant, gene therapy and fetal Hb modulators (15 credits).
- Module 6 Viral and bacterial infections including Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV, vaccine (15 credits).

C. Research project is compulsory only for MSc (60 credits)

- Module 7

Students will have to obtain:

1. 180 credits for MSc degree.
2. 120 credits for PG Diploma.
3. 60 credits for PG Certificate.

Course Objectives

Aim of the course

- To provide appropriately qualified health professionals and researchers working in the field of haemoglobinopathy with an in-depth knowledge of prevention and holistic care of

thalassaemia and sickle cell disease in all age groups.

- To bring together the expertise of clinicians and researchers caring for thalassaemia from a diverse range of disciplines so that they can deliver excellence & innovation in clinical practice, research, education and training.
- To make a real and sustainable difference to the thalassaemic children and adults health locally, nationally and worldwide by educating the researchers and clinicians.
- To develop skills and knowledge in both basic and clinical science of haemoglobinopathy
- To develop awareness of future developments in the field of haemoglobinopathy.
- The programme aims to equip participants with the skills, knowledge and principles to manage all aspects of haemoglobinopathy from countries with well developed health services through to international level, in developing and resource-poor conditions, with a particular focus on a global perspective of health.

Course Assessment

Assessment

Each unit is assessed independently based on the coursework and examinations.

Course Work

MSc

- Five 2,000 word structured essays following each module.
- Five 500 word structured case history following each module.
- One 10,000 word dissertation based on original research.

Postgraduate Diploma

- Five 2,000 word structured essays following each module.
- Five 500 word structured clinical case history following each module.

Certificate

Two 2,000 word structured essays following each module.

Examination

There will be 2 Unseen examination per year.

Supervision

Each student will be assigned a project supervisor for their dissertation and a personal tutor for pastoral needs.

In addition we ask students to identify a person who works in their department or institution who can act as a local mentor. The mentor should be someone with whom the student is in regular if not daily contact in the context of their normal working environment. The responsibilities of the mentor should include:

- General facilitation
- Non-specialist technical advice

- Possible facilitation of the student project

Admission Criteria

Professional Groups at Whom The Course is Addressed

1. Medical graduates interested in haemoglobinopathy (physicians, paediatrician, haematologist, clinical geneticist, endocrinologist, obstetrician & gynaecologist).
2. Science graduates interested in medical research related to haemoglobinopathy & genetics.
3. Health care professionals interested in haemoglobinopathy-counsellors, clinical psychologists, nurse specialists & midwives.

Entry Qualifications

1. Medical doctors- MBBS or an equivalent degree. Postgraduate qualification is desirable.
2. Science graduates -a first or a second class Bachelors degree or an equivalent qualification.
3. Nurses & midwives- A bachelors degree or an equivalent qualification.
4. Candidates must be fully conversant with word, excel, power point & use of internet.
5. Applicants, whose first language is not English, must meet University College London's language requirements. Students whose first language is not English must have passed the IELTS examination at grade 6.5 or above, or be able to demonstrate that they have a high standard of written and spoken English. Click on the link for more
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate-study/application-admission/english-language/>
6. Candidates must complete an introductory programme on web CT or equivalent.
7. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to ensure access to a suitable computer connected to the Internet for the duration of the course.

Programme Duration

The programme will be built up in a way to be able to provide three different academic degrees: part time, full time and flexible

1. M.Sc.-(full time) 1 year
2. M.Sc. (part time): 2 years
3. MSc (Flexible): 5 years
3. Diploma (full time) - 8 months
4. Diploma (part time) -16 months
5. Diploma (Flexible) 4 years
5. Certificate (full time) 4 months
6. Certificate (part time) 8 months
7. Certificate (flexible) 24 months

Fees

Cost for different courses range

1. Oversees students – £4,800 - £14, 500
2. EU students – £ 1,700 - £ 4, 800

Term Dates

Course teaching starts September 2008 (to be confirmed)

How to Apply

Applications may be made online or download the Graduate office application form via the

UCL website links: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/admission/graduate-study/application-admission/>

You will need to provide two references to send back with your completed application form. Applications should be returned directly to:

Course Administrator

MSc in Haemoglobinopathy

86-96 Chenies Mews

London WC1E 6HX

UK.

email: MSc_haemoglobinopathy@ucl.ac.uk

LAST DATE FOR APPLICATION

Late June (later applications will be accepted from if places are still available)

Frequently Asked Questions

[+How long should it take me to complete the course?](#)

Master's programmes take between 1 and 5 years, depending on how intensively you are able to study and whether or not you take breaks between modules. Postgraduate Diploma takes between 4 months to 4 years, while certificate takes 4 months to 24 months.

[+Where will I graduate?](#)

Graduation ceremonies take place in UCL. Attendance is optional, but many distance learning students welcome the chance to visit the University, meet fellow graduates and celebrate their success.

[+Do I need regular access to the internet?](#)

You will need to make sure that you effectively have regular access to the Internet, as this is 100% internet based course. This will also help you to benefit from the resources available at the UCL. The University's online environment will then be available to you, at any time, from anywhere to suit your busy lifestyle. Through Video conferencing, chat room, you will be able to participate in weekly case conferences, “meet the experts” sessions and contact your lecturers and tutors and your fellow students. You will be able to access:

- Departmental web sites, resources and informational services
- Resources from the e-library
- Information about future course events
- UCL and TIF Study support and welfare services

Regular connection to the Internet via broadband access from your home, workplace or through a learning centre or Internet café is essential. If you are travelling on business or privately, you will be able to connect with UCL online from anywhere with internet access and through any networked computer, simply by knowing your user name and password, which will be provided to you at the start of your programme. We suggest you aim to log on

at least once a day during your studies to benefit the most.

[+How will I access course materials?](#)

All course materials will be available on line. You will also be provided with a suggested timetable of study. Coursework is interactive and student directed. You can access literature through “on line”. Some books are available as e-books and can be accessed on the University's Library website, as can e-journals.

Teaching and learning at the University is supported by use of an online virtual learning environment called “Moodle”. It can be accessed by registered users from anywhere in the world using the Internet. Moodle forms an integral part of the learning experience for distance learning students and provides a learning environment that enables:

- course materials and reading lists to be published in a course site;
 - online discussion between students and tutors using discussion boards and online synchronous classes, such as presentations and tutorials, with students and tutors logged into a virtual classroom;
 - the creation of group areas to support group tasks such as online discussion and file exchange; and
 - the setting and taking of online assessments with automatic marking and feedback facilities.
- There is also a network of local mentors and TIF resource centres around the world.

[+How will I be assessed?](#)

You submit essays and course works electronically by email. The course includes unseen examinations, which takes place at British Council that are local to you. The final stage of Master's programme is a written dissertation on a topic agreed between you and your tutor.

A detailed feedback will be provided from your personal tutor who will be available to talk to you via video conferencing, instant messaging or you can also correspond via email.

[+How will the University support me through my studies?](#)

Studying at a distance doesn't mean that we will leave you to it. You will be provided with a strong network of support.

The support staff will be able to advise you about how best to do this. You will be sent a handbook that details who everyone is in the department and provides you with contact details. Tutors will always be available to you to discuss any aspect of your study either by video chat or by email.

Sometimes teaching events may be organised in collaboration with local partners. You can also attend “meet the experts” in the in video or e-mail discussion forum.

The University encourages local networks of students studying via distance learning with us. The network means that students can receive peer support from each other.

[+What should I do if I find that I am struggling to juggle work, life and study commitments?](#)

The first thing you should do is to contact your tutor or the support staff or your mentor- they have years of experience in helping busy students to succeed. There are many options available, including the chance to take study breaks.

[+Is there any financial support available to distance learning students?](#)

Many students study our distance learning programmes to develop their careers and find that their employers are keen to support them, either financially or by providing study leave. The University of London offers you a number of flexible payment options, including monthly instalments to enable you to take advantage of our excellent academic programmes. For detail information see <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/tuition-fees/>

[+What are the tuition fees?](#)

The programme-specific tuition fees can be found on the See fees section

[+What are the entry requirements for postgraduate study?](#)

See entry criteria

[+What are the English Language requirements?](#)

If your first language is not English, you will need to reach a suitable standard in an approved test of English as a foreign language. We recommend that you take the IELTS (International English Language Testing Service) examination available through local offices of the British Council. The University's entrance requirement is a score of 6.5 for the IELTS, although some departments specify higher scores. <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate-study/application-admission/english-language>.