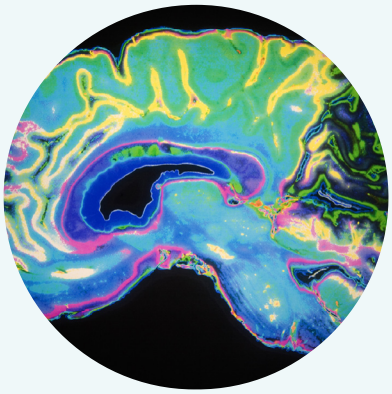
Programme guide

MPhil/PhD in Developmental Neuroscience and Mental Health







Yale UCL Anna Freud

Overview

The UCL–Yale Doctoral Training Programme in Developmental Neuroscience and Mental Health is a unique graduate programme for exceptional students. It brings together two universities with outstanding track records of research in this field and Anna Freud, a leading children and young people's mental health charity based in the UK.

The focus of this four-year international PhD programme is developmental psychopathology, drawing on multidisciplinary perspectives, with an emphasis on neuroscience.

Students spend their first two years at Anna Freud and UCL in London and their second two years at Yale University in New Haven, where they are supervised by leading Yale researchers.

UCL

UCL is one of the foremost teaching and research institutions in the UK, named University of the Year by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024. It was founded in 1826 to provide higher education for all who could benefit from it, regardless of religion, race or class, and is both the oldest and the largest of the various colleges and institutes that make up the University of London. Psychology at UCL has an outstanding track record of innovative research and UCL is ranked first for research power in Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience by the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021). For more information visit: www.ucl.ac.uk

Anna Freud

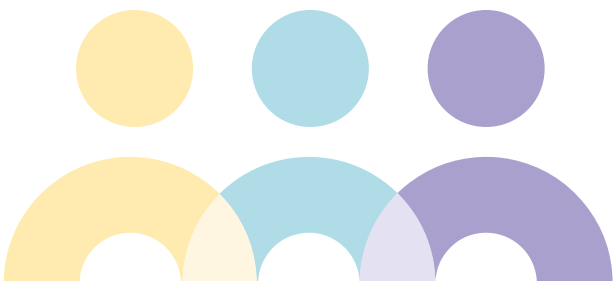
Anna Freud is a mental health charity and we've been supporting children and young people for over 70 years. We listen to and learn from their diverse voices, and integrate this with learnings from our science and practice to develop and deliver mental health care. This holistic approach has world-changing potential – our training, schools support, networks, partnerships and resources equip those who impact children and young people's lives with the knowledge and skills to support their mental health.
For more information visit: www.annafreud.org

Yale Child Study Center

The Child Study Center is a department at the Yale University School of Medicine. The mission of the Center is to understand child development, behavioural and socioemotional adjustment, their link to the emergence of psychiatric disorders and how to help children and families in need of care. The strengths of the Center are reflected in the breadth and integrative nature of research, clinical services and training. For more information visit: www.medicine.yale.edu/childstudy/

What the course involves

- Conducting research into identifying developmental processes at biological, neural and cognitive levels that drive and maintain symptoms of mental ill-health during childhood and adolescence, and into adulthood.
- The opportunity to conduct research in the context of three world-leading institutions and under the supervision of academic leaders in their research field.
- Participation in training at master's-level modules across UCL, Anna Freud and Yale. Training is tailored to student needs and includes statistics, data analysis, computer programming and other transferrable skills relevant to clinical work.
- The opportunity to gain teaching experience, supporting delivery of renowned postgraduate programmes at UCL's Division of Psychology and Language Sciences and Anna Freud.



Eligibility

We would like to invite applications from candidates with at least one of the following qualifications:

i) An upper second class honours degree in a relevant subject from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard obtained after a programme of study lasting at least three years.

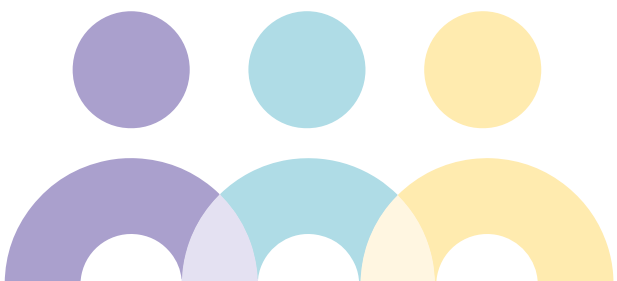
ii) A registrable qualification appropriate to this programme awarded by a UK university; or a qualification of an equivalent standard appropriate to the programme awarded by a university (or educational institution of university rank) outside the UK.

iii) A master's degree from a UK University in a relevant subject.

iv) A professional or other qualification obtained by written examinations and approved by UCL as an appropriate entrance qualification for this programme of study.

In addition to meeting these criteria, candidates with a strong academic background in psychology, neuroscience, medicine or related disciplines are encouraged to apply.

Applicants should also consult the relevant departmental/divisional admission requirements.



Fees

For information on fees, visit our **UCL graduate prospectus page**.

Application process

Applications can be made at on our **UCL application page**.

Teaching

This programme will begin in October 2027 at Anna Freud, 4–8 Rodney Street, London N1 9JH

Further information

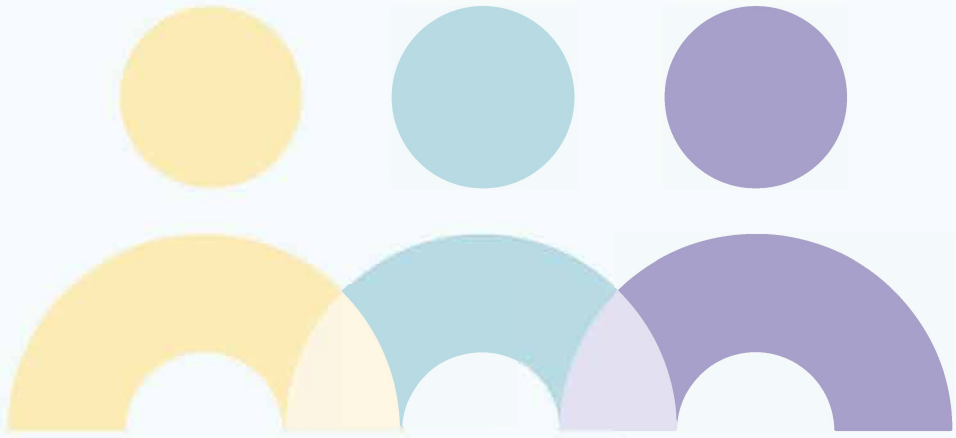
Full details of the course can be found on the **UCL website**.

Application deadline:

11 January 2027, 5pm (UK time)



The programme description is correct at time of going to print but is subject to change without notice.



Yale UCL Anna Freud