

Programme Guide

MRes in Developmental Neuroscience and Psychopathology (DNP)



Yale



Anna Freud

Overview

The MRes in Developmental Neuroscience and Psychopathology is a two-year full time UCL Master's degree, with the first year based in London and the second year based at Yale University in the USA.

This innovative programme brings together two globally renowned universities to provide students with a unique interdisciplinary experience.

This encompasses:



- An overview of developmental psychopathology, including a wide range of mental health disorders in childhood and adolescence (e.g. anxiety, autism, ADHD, psychosis, conduct disorder).
- Conceptual frameworks that draw together neuro-cognitive, behavioural, systemic, and psychodynamic perspectives.
- Practical training in statistical analysis (e.g., R), longitudinal data analysis, programming (Matlab, Psychopy), and writing research proposals.
- The opportunity to conduct a year-long research project.

Yale Child Study Center

Yale

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: <https://medicine.yale.edu/childstudy/>

UCL



UCL is one of the foremost teaching and research institutions in the UK, and 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 1st 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 the leading UK children's mental health charity with 70 years' experience of caring for young minds through direct clinical services, research, and teaching. The vision of Anna Freud is a world in which children and their families are effectively supported to build on their own strengths to achieve their goals in life. For more information visit: www.annafreud.org

If the purpose of a master's course is to enable skill development and genuine growth - both within and beyond the academic setting - then DNP has excelled with flying colours. The notion of multiple perspectives and a move towards more interdisciplinary thinking is an absolute essential, and I am so grateful to have experienced an environment which genuinely incorporates this into all forms of learning, teaching and research.

Rosalind McAlpine, Former DNP Student



Modules are grouped into ‘families’

Module family	Year 1 (UCL, London, UK)		Year 2 (Yale, New Haven, USA)
Neuroscience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neuroscience Methods Affective Neuroscience 	Formative Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EEG, fMRI Advanced Research Methods Integrating Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives Literature Review
Research Methods	<p>Mandatory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Skills <p>Select one:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundamental Statistics: Statistical and Causal Reasoning Intermediate Statistics: Data Analysis and Visualisation with R Advanced Statistics: Data Analysis and Modelling with R 		
Developmental Disorders	Multiple Perspectives on Developmental Psychopathology I, II and III	Research Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Presentation Written Dissertation Conference Style Poster
Psychoanalytic Thought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychoanalytic Theories of Infancy and the Caregiver-Child Relationship Applied Psychoanalytic Concepts 		

Year 1: Teaching



In the first year you will be primarily based at Anna Freud at the newly built Centre of Excellence in Kings Cross, London with full access to library and computer facilities. The teaching in the first year comprises nine mandatory modules, grouped into four themes as outlined below.

1. Neuroscience

This methods-based module introduces a number of key neuroimaging techniques, including fMRI and EEG, and considers their application in the context of developmental research. A second neuroscience module, Affective Neuroscience explores how the brain processes emotion and how such processes may become disordered during development.

2. Research Methods

These modules are designed to equip you with a general knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies as well as practical research skills including the use of the statistical analysis packages R and SPSS and how to develop and present an effective research application. Students will have the option to choose one of three Statistics modules depending on ability and previous knowledge.

3. Development and Psychopathology

These two modules provide a foundation in theories of developmental psychopathology and also cover the major psychological disorders of childhood. Skills in effective science communication are also covered which are essential for all scientists. The first module introduces a range of perspectives on developmental psychopathology, including cognitive behavioural, psychiatric, psychoanalytic and systemic approaches. The second module then explores in detail - through the lens of these different perspectives – the major disorders of childhood, including anxiety, depression, autism, conduct disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder.

4. Psychoanalytic Thought

These two modules introduce students to key psychoanalytic ideas and their application to clinical practice.

Year 2: Research



The second year focuses on the completion of a substantial research project at Yale University. Already in your first year in London, you will be paired with an individual academic mentor in Yale. Mentors are experts in their field, and many are senior faculty members from the Yale Child Study Centre or associated departments in Yale.

Projects are assessed by means of a research portfolio which comprises three elements: an oral presentation of your research ideas alongside a written proposal; a 15,000-17,000-word written dissertation; and a conference style poster. In the written thesis, you will be encouraged to consider your developmental psychopathology research question from at least two perspectives. A number of formative workshops tailor-made to support the projects will be on offer during the year, including fMRI and EEG techniques, advanced research design, and a workshop focusing integrating the different perspectives on developmental psychopathology. In addition, there are opportunities to attend 'elective' courses across Yale University. You will also have support from your research mentor, and the Deputy Programme Director in Yale.

Eligibility

We would like to invite applications from students with a strong academic background in psychology, neuroscience, medicine, or related disciplines.



Fees

2025 – 2026

UK: £16,000 (year one only)

Overseas: £39,800 (year one only)

Please note: UCL fees are payable per year and fees may vary in the 2nd year.

Open Events:

In-person Open Evening: 28th November 2024

Virtual Information Event: 9th December 2024

Please check our website below for further details and booking:

www.annafreud.org/training/postgraduate-study/upcoming-events/

Application Process

Applications can be made at:

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/apply

Teaching

Teaching on this programme will begin in September 2025 at Anna Freud, Kings Cross.

Further Information

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

Specific enquiries may be sent to: dnp@annafreud.org

Application Deadline

3rd February 2025



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



