In 2012/2013 UCL Advances secured over 100 internships for students.

**Invaluable support, unbeatable experience**

UCL Advances is UCL’s centre for entrepreneurship and business interaction. In the past year it has secured around 100 internships for students to gain invaluable work experience with SMEs across London.

However, the UCL Advances Student Internship Programme is a scheme with a difference – it pays students a tax-free training allowance of £250 per week for a full-time, eight-week placement. The programme helps young people take their first step on the job ladder while removing the financial burden of unpaid work experience.

**Another advantage of the UCL Advances approach**

UCL Advances also runs a summer programme of free key skills workshops for young entrepreneurs. These provide support and learning for students of every level of experience and knowledge, from introductory and intermediate to advanced. Many of UCL Advances internees will have benefited from these workshops.

One UCL student to have taken advantage of the internship scheme is Daniele Santoro (BA Italian and Business Management 2013), who worked with Accelerator (www.accelerator-london.com), an innovation centre in Shoreditch, London.

Accelerator is a business incubator, particularly for technology start-ups. It is home to a number of small operations and focused training programmes.

Some of Accelerator’s companies have already worked with UCL Advances on the university’s business support schemes, including programmes for training and mentoring students.

**A wide ranging world wide web remit**

Working directly with Richard Celm, manager of Accelerator and other members of staff there, Daniele undertook a variety of projects during his three month internship. The most important of these was re-branding and redesigning the company’s website, including developing strategies for social media, SEO and content.

When describing his role with Accelerator in more detail, Daniele explained, “There was a lack of strategy and direction which I helped to address, bringing a fresh perspective. Hopefully everything is in place now for Accelerator to turn a greater profit and establish itself as an industry leader.”

As Richard says, “Dan’s summer internship was extremely useful for him and us. I would certainly recommend any small business to get involved in this programme next year.”

“My time at Accelerator has proved vital in helping me to secure a job I wouldn’t have been able to otherwise get without this opportunity from UCL Advances”.

Daniele Santoro, UCL student
About UCL
UCL (University College London) was established in 1826 and is ranked as one of the world’s top-ten universities. The university is a modern, outward-looking institution, with more than 4,000 academic and research staff committed to engaging with the major issues of our times. It has a global reach, with 34% of its students coming from outside the UK, from almost 140 countries.

www.ucl.ac.uk

About UCL Advances
UCL Advances, UCL’s centre for entrepreneurship and business interaction, helps anyone who wants to learn about, start or grow a business. Its primary role is to promote a culture of entrepreneurship on campus and engagement with entrepreneurs and small businesses beyond UCL’s boundaries. It works to support start-ups and small businesses across London by helping them to access the technical and business expertise of UCL’s staff and students, through a series of programmes to help support ambitious young companies.

UCL Advances is affiliated with UCL Enterprise, which provides UCL’s structures for engaging with business for commercial and societal benefit.

www.ucl.ac.uk/advances
www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise

About Student Engagement
UCL Advances helps students learn about business, start their own enterprise or help them grow an existing venture by offering a complete programme of support which includes access to training, mentoring, one-to-one business advice from our in-house business advisors access to loans and the use of our Hatchery space.

One of these support initiatives is the Student Internship Programme (SIP) – aimed at supporting interns while they gain valuable hands-on work experience. The interns are based within a micro, small or medium sized enterprise to carry out a range of activities intended to help their host business grow.

This includes training, shadowing and work-related tasks specified by the business. It is an 8–12 week full time programme for which the intern is paid a training allowance by UCL Advances.

www.ucl.ac.uk/advances/support/internship-programme

About Business Support
UCL Advances provides direct business support for internal and external organisations through a variety of programmes and activities such as 1–1 advice, problem-solving through student consultancy, student internships, mentoring and others.

• We help London-based businesses grow and develop by analyzing business needs and connecting them to relevant interventions such as industry mentors;
• Through pairing teams of UCL and LBS students with businesses we deliver short-term consultancy projects addressing specific organisation needs;
• We broker relationships and fund exchanges between new and aspiring entrepreneurs with experienced entrepreneurs in another member state of the European Union;
• Individual angel investors connected to UCL provide seed investment to SMEs engaged with UCL Advances programmes; and
• We offer fully-funded SME Internships where UCL students spend eight to twelve weeks in a London SME working alongside the director(s) to deliver real results and lasting impact in the host organization while learning about enterprise.

www.ucl.ac.uk/advances/business/support

For more information see:
www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise