



Global Vision
UCL International Strategy 2012–2017
A summary

We pride ourselves on being London's global university, because this symbolises far more than simply being an internationally-leading institution that attracts staff and students from around the world.

It denotes also a commitment to global engagement, not only through the traditional models of teaching and research collaboration with peer institutions, but in collaborating across disciplines and across institutions to tackle some of the world's most difficult social and economic problems.

This is why we have set out through this strategy to extend our global reach, to seize research and educational opportunities in other countries, and to search for new partners and new realms of activity.

Higher education today is a global activity. There are more students studying abroad than at any time in history – estimates run into several millions – and this trend looks likely to continue. We aim through this strategy to continue to be one of the leaders in developing new approaches and new models for global interaction.



Professor Malcolm Grant
UCL President & Provost



UCL is London's global university. In the last five years, UCL's global reach has developed dramatically.

More of our students are studying around the world, we have developed a worldwide network of partnerships and collaborations, we have risen to the challenge of opening new campuses and delivering our programmes across the world, and our research is global in its reach. We have the capacity and the ambition to achieve even more.

Internationalisation is high on UCL's agenda and this international strategy seeks to strengthen and enhance yet further UCL's position as an internationally engaged and internationally responsive world-leading global university.

Looking ahead, as always, we shall respond creatively to changes in global higher education, as well as leading discussions on the role of universities in the complex globalised world of the 21st Century. UCL will also continue to shoulder its responsibility to use its tremendous assets to solve some of the world's greatest problems.

The strategy is bold and exciting. Its successful delivery will depend on the outstanding and globally-aware UCL community and on our worldwide partners.



Professor Michael Worton
UCL Vice-Provost (International)



Introduction

UCL is London's global university. This mission statement, affirmed in the *UCL Council White Paper 2011–2021*, sets the framework for the *UCL International Strategy 2012–2017*.

This strategy updates and revises the *UCL International Strategy 2007–2011*. In the last five years, UCL's global reach has developed dramatically:

- The student, staff and alumni community is now self-evidently global
- Our students are increasingly studying around the world
- The UCL Grand Challenges, as set out in the UCL Research Strategy, provide a framework for enhancing cross-disciplinary research that is hugely relevant to the challenges that face humankind across the globe
- The UCL Enterprise Strategy proposes support that will equip UCL's students and staff to capitalise upon the opportunities that the ever more connected global economy presents
- UCL's network of partnerships and collaborations extends across the globe
- We have shown ourselves able to rise to the challenge of opening new campuses and delivering our programmes around the world

- UCL is engaged with a wide range of international policy organisations
- Internationalisation of teaching and learning is well-advanced. The UCL Learning and Teaching Strategy proposes an extension of the Global Citizenship Framework
- Our commitment to modern languages is strong, providing a lead nationally.

In short, UCL's leadership role in internationalisation activities is now widely recognised both in the UK and globally.

The *UCL International Strategy 2012–2017* proposes the next steps to be taken to strengthen and enhance UCL's position as a leading global university.

This document provides a summary of the UCL International Strategy.



The strategy

The *UCL Council White Paper 2011–2021* commits UCL to conducting itself ethically, fairly and in an environmentally-sustainable manner: locally, nationally and globally. We are a university that is committed to excellence, innovation, ethical behaviour and the promotion of knowledge, intercultural understanding and cooperation, and equality and diversity.

UCL is well placed to propose and deliver a bold international agenda for the next five years, capitalising upon our achievements to date and building on the aspirations, and operating within the principles, of the UCL Council White Paper.

The strategy dovetails with our learning and teaching, research and enterprise strategies.

(Images from top):

UCL Wilkins Building, London

UCL Australia students on a field trip to the Angas Zinc Mine in Strathalbyn, South Australia

This international strategy has six aims and identifies how UCL intends to deliver against these aims.



Aim 1

To place an international dimension at the heart of a unique and outstanding UCL student experience.

(Images from top):

Students in the UCL Centre for Languages and International Education

Peasant carrying branches in Ethiopia
– UCL Global Citizenship Student Photography Competition

UCL students attending the Rio Film School in Brazil with the assistance of Santander Universities. Santander Universities supports UCL students and staff with scholarships and other opportunities

To be achieved by:

- Implementing the new UCL Global Citizenship Strategy
- Increasing the opportunities to study languages
- Enabling more students to have a period of study abroad.



Aim 2

To attract and support within UCL a diverse international staff and student community of the highest calibre.

(Images from top):

UCL Student Open Day

Walking on Mars – UCL Global Citizenship Student Photography Competition

To be achieved by:

- Increasing international student recruitment in a coherent way that will preserve UCL's attributes as a British university with a global footprint
- Enhancing support for the induction of international staff
- Engaging with government on the development of UK immigration policy
- Enhancing the UCL Transition Programme and the Graduate School Skills Development Programme
- Improving the accessibility of information for prospective and current international students
- Enhancing and incentivising in-session English language provision and take-up
- Preparing a comprehensive plan for enhancing the UCL international student experience.



Aim 3

To extend UCL's network of international partnerships and collaborations in education, research, business and healthcare, and with the global development sector, governments, charities and philanthropists.



(Images from top):

Yale UCL Collaborative members at the House of Commons

UCL PhD student Rosemary Willatt (UCL Earth Sciences) measuring the thickness of Arctic sea-ice

MSc students from the UCL Bartlett's Development Planning Unit conducting research into the ways in which secondary education can help reduce poverty in northern Ethiopia



To be achieved by:

- Positioning UCL as an internationally-recognised centre of teaching excellence
- Developing further dual-degree programmes
- Extending and deepening relationships with overseas research organisations
- Expanding the Yale UCL Collaborative across UCL
- Developing strategic relationships with global companies
- Creating international school and college educational outreach partnerships
- Expanding UCL's partnership with the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA)
- Developing proposals for a China Centre, an India Centre and an Arab World Centre at UCL
- Creating an international strand of UCL's public engagement and collections activity
- Reviewing UCL's membership of international university networks
- Leveraging further value from UCL's alumni network
- Supporting staff to volunteer on international development projects.



Aim 4

To extend the global reach of UCL's distinctive mission.

To be achieved by:

- Establishing further institutional presence abroad, focusing on countries with rapidly developing economies
- Expanding UCL's e-learning offering
- Extending UCL's University Preparatory Certificate programmes
- Developing a pre-Master's qualifying programme
- Launching a new International Relations MSc
- Introducing a UCL Summer School.

(Images from top):

Rural medical treatment in Africa, UCL Institute for Global Health

Dr Peter Johnson (left) teaching at Nazarbayev University's School of Engineering where UCL is a strategic partner

A winner of a Santander 1-UCL award for non-academic achievement donating her prize to St Joseph's Convent High School Orphanage in Goa, India

Ceramic conservation by UCL Qatar MSc Conservation Studies student Stefani Kavda



Aim 5

To achieve the widest possible recognition for UCL's approach to internationalisation.

(Images from top):

A scholarship recipient thanks donors at special ceremony dedicated to UCL's UK and international scholarship schemes

Madam Fu Ying, former Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, with UCL President and Provost, Professor Malcolm Grant

UCL alumni at an event held in Japan

To be achieved by:

- Enhancing internal and external communications
- Making greater use of the regional Pro-Provosts to project UCL internationally
- Increasing engagement with embassies and high commissions in London
- Showcasing UCL's scholarship support aimed at high-ability international students from low-income families
- Seeking support for the creation of an International Teaching Excellence Prize to be administered by UCL.



Aim 6

To ensure that UCL's policies, procedures, academic structures and support infrastructure equip it to operate efficiently and effectively in the increasingly competitive international higher education environment.

(Images from top):

Children at a public library in India which is sponsored by UCL Library Services staff

Professor Zhumadilov, Nazarbayev University Head of Centre for Life Sciences (left) and Professor Worton, UCL Vice-Provost (International) signing an agreement to conduct a research collaboration on ageing in Astana, Kazakhstan

Tonya Nelson, UCL Museum Champion for Qatar. Tonya is one of four international champions at UCL

To be achieved by:

- Revising governance arrangements for UCL's international activities
- Undertaking a corporate and academic support needs analysis whenever a new international presence is proposed
- Developing new regional strategies
- Reviewing arrangements for engaging staff to support UCL's work internationally
- Enhancing the Institutional Research Information System (IRIS) database
- Piloting the introduction of International Impact Assessments
- Undertaking a full assessment of the requirement for research students to enrol initially to an MPhil
- Introducing a new grading system for UCL programmes
- Re-naming the UCL Language Centre the UCL Centre for Languages and International Education
- Encouraging more UCL staff to consider secondment possibilities at one of UCL's overseas operations and increasing the support for seconded staff
- Reviewing the study abroad support structure
- Instituting a programme of formal review for international memoranda of understanding
- Ensuring the international agenda at UCL is advanced in an environmentally-sustainable manner.

UCL Office for International Affairs

www.ucl.ac.uk/global