

International Student Newsletter

DECEMBER 2012

In this edition you will find:

English language support • Introduction to Skills4Work • Opportunities to study in China • Language Cafe • Immigration update • Fun things to do during the Christmas period

Writing & Language Support Programme for non-native English speakers



This programme is organised by UCL Students Union (UCLU).

The Writing & Language Support Programme is designed to offer you support with your academic writing and speaking if you are not a native English speaker. You can sign up to the programme on its [Moodle page](#), which also allows you to book a free appointment with a Peer Tutor. The Peer Tutors are current UCL students who can help you improve your writing and grammar skills.

Additionally, you can register to receive language (speaking) support. If you have an oral presentation coming soon, you can practice your presentation and receive feedback on your fluency and pronunciation.

Booking an appointment

Appointment slots are released regularly on [Moodle](#), you can book a place up to one week in advance.

Disclaimer

This programme is not available for postgraduate research students or final year undergraduates (unless studying at UCL on an Erasmus programme).

How to enhance your Skills4Work?



Natalia Mazzini-Cea, UCL Career Services, introduces Skills4Work

What is Skills4Work?

Skills4Work is an initiative aiming to give all UCL students the opportunity to meet UK employers and help them identify the skills needed to start a career after leaving UCL.

How can Skills4Work help me find a job after my studies?

Skills4Work offers you a range of interactive workshops, panel discussions and employer-led coaching free of charge during your studies at UCL or as a [UCL Gradclub Member](#).

You can hear company representatives talk about their personal experience of looking for a job, the selection and recruitment requirements of the employers they represent, and the corporate culture. All group sessions are followed up by networking where you can talk in person with the presenters and ask questions.

Which employers can I meet at the Skills4Work events?

Skills4Work works with a number of employers, representing a range of sectors and operating both in the UK market and internationally. Some of their clients are American Express, Earnst & Young, Deloitte and many others.

[More information about future Skills4Work events...](#)

Study for free at one of China's top universities with "Study China"



All UCL students have access to a unique programme offering a three week study experience at a range of universities in China. Your tuition and accommodation fees will be covered and you only need to finance your travel costs.

The "Study China" programme is run by University of Manchester and is designed to help you develop Chinese language skills, knowledge of the current economic climate, arts, history, and culture.

[More information...](#)

Language Cafe



The UCLU International Students' Forum hosts a monthly *Language Café* in the George Farha Café, Lewis's Building ([Map](#), reference 2C).

If you wish to practice, learn or teach another language, you are encouraged to attend this event

The *Language Café* takes place on a Saturday between 1-3pm.

[More information and dates can be found on Facebook...](#)

Information for students on a Tier 4 Student Visa



Tier 4 Student Visa renewal

If you are looking to apply for your visa extension before Christmas, remember to [request a CAS number](#) as soon as possible. UCL will be closed during the Christmas period, for both students and staff from 5.30pm on Friday 21 December 2012 to 8am on Wednesday 2 January, during this period CAS requests will not be processed.

As soon as you are issued with your visa extension, you are required to bring it with your passport to the Student Centre. One of the

advisers in the Student Centre will add the details to your record and keep a copy for your file.

The Student Centre is based on the Ground Floor of the Chadwick Building and is open from 10am - 4pm Monday to Friday.

[More information about the Student Centre...](#)

Culture & entertainment during the Christmas period

Lets go to the Panto



At this time of year people who do not normally see shows are flocking to the theatre with their families. And what is drawing them to the world of drama? It is pantomime.

Pantomime, meaning “imitating all”, was a popular art form in Ancient Greece and it included aspects of comedy, drama and romance.

Pantomimes have now become traditional English plays performed over the Christmas period. There are certain conventions that have to be followed and so pantomimes have to include the following elements:

- They are based on fairy tales, such as Cinderella or Snow White, or English folklore, like Robin Hood or Dick Whittington.
- The main male character has to be played by a woman whereas the older female character has to be played by a man in drag, commonly known as the dame.
- All the characters wear colourful costumes except the baddies who are normally dressed in black and look almost ghost-like.
- There is often an animal played by actors, or a pantomime horse or cow, played by two actors, one at the front and one at the back.
- There are set pieces such as an audience participation song and responses elicited from the audience such as a pantomime character saying “oh no it is isn’t” and the audience responding “oh yes it is” or shouting “he’s behind you”.
- There are songs galore, slapstick routines, magic and mystery, and childish jokes and pranks.
- At the end of the pantomime the evil people are defeated and everyone is happy with the main characters ending up married off to each other, culminating in an upbeat song and dance routine.

In recent years, stars of TV and film have taken to appearing in pantomimes, as well as famous stars from America. For example, David Hasselhoff and Dallas’ Patrick Duffy have travelled to the UK to appear in pantomimes. This year, David is back as Captain Hook in Peter Pan up in Manchester, whilst Elvis’ wife, Priscilla Presley, is appearing as the Wicked Queen in Snow White in a theatre in Wimbledon. Actors who are normally associated with Shakespearean tragedies such as Ian McKellen (Gandalf in the Lord of the Rings trilogy) have also turned their hands to pantomime for a bit of fun.

So, if you are interested, why not sample a traditional English pantomime? You will probably find it difficult to understand what it is all about but suspend reality for an hour or two, imagine you are dreaming and let the spectacle immerse you for the evening.

It is a great night out – “oh yes it is” “oh no it isn’t”.

[Find a pantomime...](#)

Visit Southbank Centre Christmas Market



Christmas markets have a long tradition in Europe. These markets first originated in Germany in the fifteenth century and still continue to draw millions of visitors each year. The Southbank Centre Christmas Market gives you the opportunity to experience the magic of a traditional Germany Christmas market in the heart of London.

You can enjoy mulled wine, bratwurst and gingerbread while taking in the lights, sights and sounds of London at Christmas time.

The 80 authentically decorated wooden chalets, unique hand-crafted gifts and unusual Christmas present are guaranteed to raise your festive spirit.

[More information...](#)

Discover the Mysteries of Ancient Britain



International Friends offer fully guided one day tours for international students to Britain's most important pre-historic monument Stonehenge and the city of Bath.

Stonehenge is one of the the most famous sites in the world and its age is estimated at 3100 BC. It is composed of a circular setting of large standing stones set within earthworks and speculations on the reason it was built range from human sacrifice to astronomy.

All UCL students can request a discount, using code: ALLIS10.

[More information and tickets...](#)

Enjoy a Christmas meal at International Students House



UCL is a member of the International Students House (ISH), which means that you have access to the wide variety of events, live music, lectures and sporting activities they organise. Many of these events are free for you when you present your UCL student ID card.

This year ISH has arranged many events to help you meet new people and enjoy the Christmas period. ISH will be open on Christmas day for an annual Christmas celebration, including a drink reception and a three course British Christmas lunch.

[More information...](#)

Happy Christmas everyone!

International Support
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