

## ***Information for UCL Students: receiving health treatment during your studies in the UK***

The National Health Service (NHS) is the healthcare system in the UK and is primarily funded through general taxation rather than requiring insurance payments. Some NHS services are free, others you need to pay for.

### **NHS treatment free for everyone:**

- Treatment given in an accident and emergency department (this may exclude emergency treatment given elsewhere in the hospital; and follow-up treatment)
- Treatment given in a walk in centre providing similar services to those of an accident and emergency department of a hospital
- Treatment for certain communicable diseases
- Compulsory psychiatric treatment
- Family planning services

### **Seeing a doctor in the UK**

In order to see a doctor during your stay in the UK you need to register with a GP (general practitioner) practice as an NHS patient. All UCL students can register with a GP, regardless of nationality or duration of studies in the UK. Treatment will be free of charge.

### **What is a GP?**

GP is a doctor who sees patients with wide range health problems. For most health problems, the GP should usually be the first doctor you consult. If you have a complicated problem or an illness that requires specialist advice the GP may refer you to a specialist clinician.

If your GP prescribes medication, you will be asked to pay a statutory NHS prescription charge (currently £7.85).

### **Registration with a GP entitles you to:**

- Free consultation with your GP
- Free hospital treatment in Accident and Emergency (A&E)
- Free hospital treatment if your GP recommends it (a few conditions are not eligible for treatment on the NHS)

### **When to register with a GP?**

We strongly recommend that you register with a GP within the first few weeks of arriving in the UK. This will enable your GP to process your registration and provide you with an NHS number in good time. You are required to have an NHS number in order to obtain hospital treatment (non emergency) and if you need to be referred to a specialist clinician.

### **Finding a GP practice near you**

**UCL Health Centre - [www.gowerplacepractice.nhs.uk](http://www.gowerplacepractice.nhs.uk)**



UCL Health Centre, also referred to as Gower Place Practice, is an NHS general practice located on UCL campus which provides general health care, a contraceptive service and a full nursing service. You can register with them if you live in one of the local postcodes which they cover:

NW1, NW3\*, NW5, NW6\*, NW8 / EC1, EC2, EC3, EC4 / WC1, WC2  
N1, N4, N5, N6, N7, N8, N10, N11\*, N13, N15, N16, N17, N19, N22  
W1, W2, W8\*, W9\*, W10\*, W11\* / SW1, SW3, SW5, SW7

*Note - not all streets in postcodes marked with \* are eligible for registration, if you live in one of the \* postcodes please discuss with the reception team.*

If you live outside UCL Health Centre's catchment area, you can search for an NHS general practice near you on the NHS website - [www.nhs.uk/Service-Search](http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search) . You can also look for a local dentist on this website.

### **Documents you need in order to register**

Most GP practices will ask to see proof of your address in the UK in order to register you. The UCL Health Centre will request to see proof of your address in the UK (you may use your *Statement of Student Status*) and your UCL identity card at registration, which means that you will only be able to register with them after enrolling on your programme of study at UCL. You are also required to complete their registration form before attending the UCL Health Centre in person.

The form can be downloaded from the UCL Health Centre website, <http://www.gowerplacepractice.nhs.uk/files/2013/08/UCL-Students-Health-Registration-Form-Protected.pdf>.



### **Are my spouse and/or child eligible for NHS treatment?**

If your spouse and/or children under 16yr (or up to the age of 19 if they are in full-time education) are staying with you for the duration of your programme at UCL, they will also be eligible for NHS treatment on the same basis as you.

### **Hospital treatment**

Whether you are entitled to receiving free hospital treatment depends on the duration of your programme of study in the UK and which country you are from.

- **Full time students on a programme of 6 months or more**

If your programme of study at UCL is full-time and for duration of six months or more, you will be fully entitled to free NHS hospital treatment in England.

- **Students from the EEA**

If you are a student from the European Economic Area (EEA) then you are strongly advised to bring a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) with you, otherwise you may be charged if you need treatment. Please remember that the UK's healthcare system may be different from your home country's and therefore your EHIC might not cover everything that you would expect to get free in your country.

Also, the EHIC is **not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as mountain rescue in ski resorts, being flown back home, or lost or stolen property.

- **Students from non-EEA countries on a programme of study of less than six months duration**

We recommend that you visit the *Information for overseas visitors to the UK* on the NHS website to see if NHS hospital treatment charges apply to you.

Charges for hospital treatment will depend on your nationality, <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/uk-visitors/Pages/accessing-nhs-services.aspx>



**Further information** - <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/iss/before-you-arrive/health>

