Welcome to UCL Main Library. This guide will help you find your way around and enable you to make the most of all our services and facilities. If you cannot use the stairs there is a lift which stops on every level. Eduroam wireless access is available throughout the Library.

The tour begins at the Information Point on the ground floor of the Wilkins Building. Hover your UCL ID Card over the glass on top of the gates to the right to enter the Library. Walk up the stairs and on the first landing you will see an exhibition case with treasures from our Special Collections and a touch screen for information. Look out for smaller exhibition cases on upper levels. Go up the next flight of stairs and turn left at the top to enter the Flaxman Gallery with the statue of St Michael and Satan in the middle.

Go left up another flight of stairs on the left-hand side and enter the Donaldson Reading Room which was the original Library built in 1849. It is now home to our LAW collections. After coming back down the stairs from the Donaldson Reading Room, go left again, and in the room on the left-hand side you will see machines where you can return books when you no longer need them. Once books have been returned through the machine, they are placed on the book cases in this room ready to be returned to the shelves where they’re normally found. Staff are usually available to help here as well as next door.

Turn around and go left down the corridor passing HIGHER EDUCATION books on either side, and HUMANITIES Periodicals to the left. In the next room on the left you will find Self-Issue machines where you can take books that you want to borrow and those that you’ve reserved. Also in this area you will find DVDs with a viewing room, and to the left-hand side the Main Library Short Loan Collection consisting of books from all subject collections which can be booked for specific time periods. During the day these are available for 3 hour periods, but they can also be borrowed overnight or over the weekend.
The terminals in this area allow you to access UCL’s Explore service to search for resources such as books and journals.

On the far side you will find Multi-Function Devices (MFDs) for printing, photocopying and scanning.

On exiting this room, you will see the Reference Room opposite, where you will find PCs and laptops for loan, key books for consultation such as dictionaries which have the location REFERENCE, and borrowable books on education in the CALT collection.

Coming out of the Reference Room you will find the HUMAN RIGHTS collection in the corridor to the left, PHILOSOPHY to the right, and past this through the doors at the end of the corridor you will find the ART collection. This continues into the second room on the left-hand side and around the gallery above which can be reached via the stairs tucked away around the corners. On the other side of the gallery you will find ECONOMICS books and journals, and if you go down the stairs on this side you will come to the beginning of the book collection. Turn around and walk back through the corridor past PHILOSOPHY and HUMAN RIGHTS again.

Just beyond the doors at the end of the corridor go up the stairs and turn right towards the HISTORY collections. Go along the HISTORY corridor to the end and you will find the COMPARATIVE PHILOLOGY collection. Turn to the left and you will see a Water Fountain for filling up your drinking vessels. To your right is a door to CELTIC and PALAEOGRAPHY which leads on to the DUTCH Reading Room. As well as books you will find more networked PCs in this area. Turn around and walk back up the HISTORY corridor and you will come to a room on the left-hand side where you will find INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, PUBLIC POLICY & POLITICS Periodicals.
Heading back towards the staircase where you came up, go to the end of the corridor and turn right which takes you past the Ladies’ Toilets and around to a bridge where you can look down on the Flaxman Gallery and Donaldson Reading Room. On the other side of the bridge is a Wheelchair-user Accessible Toilet and if you go around to the end towards a staircase leading down you will come to the HEBREW & JEWISH STUDIES Reading Room which also has a cluster of networked PCs. The Subject Librarian for this collection is in the office at the far end. On the way you will have walked past a corridor which you can also exit into halfway along the Reading Room on the right-hand side.

At the end of the corridor walk straight ahead to a landing where you find will ICELANDIC, and then on into the Scandinavian Reading Room where you will find the GERMANIC, SCANDINAVIAN, DANISH, NORWEGIAN, SWEDISH, AND FAEROESE books. Larger books from these collections as well as GERMAN which have QUARTOS and FOLIOS in their Library Catalogue Shelfmark are in flat-bed chests in this room, and on the gallery above you will find the smaller sized GERMAN books.

Continuing down one of the staircases in the back corners you will come to ENGLISH books on the next level and the one below. Go into the lobby area at the bottom of the front wooden staircase, and you will find periodicals for ENGLISH, GERMAN, ROMANCE and SCANDINAVIAN, as well as ROMANCE books. There is also an office here where you can ask Subject Librarians for help and advice. At the bottom of the staircase which leads back up back up to where you have just been there are more terminals for looking up books etc. via Explore.

In the corridor which leads back to the exit you will see LITERATURE books which contain translations of works in many languages into English. In the various rooms on the left-hand side you will see ITALIAN, SPANISH, PORTUGESE and CATALAN books, as well as the FRENCH collection which begins in the second room at the top right-hand side of the corridor.
LITERATURE books continue back down the right-hand side of the corridor, and these end where the TRANSLATION books begin. After this you will see a collection of screwball comedy VIDEOS. In the rooms at the North end of the corridor on this side you will find ANCIENT HISTORY and CLASSICS books and PAPYROLOGY FOLIOS, although the rest of the PAPYROLOGY collection is just outside in the corridor. CLASSICS and PAPYROLOGY Periodicals are also in the corridor.

At the end of the corridor you can see the statue in the middle of the Flaxman Gallery, and the staircase leading to the Exit will be on your left-hand side.