





HEALTH

In the past five years, UCL has cemented a number of groundbreaking biomedical partnerships with its local NHS teaching hospitals and research charities – including UCL Partners and UKCMRI. This new approach has allowed the university to work more closely and fluently with healthcare providers in Camden, translating breakthroughs in the laboratory to treatments in the clinic.

PIONEERING NEUROLOGY HOSPITAL CELEBRATES ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The Camden-based National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (NHNN) celebrated its 150th anniversary this year.

The pioneering institution is one of the world's leading centres for the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with a wide range of neurological conditions including multiple sclerosis, brain cancer, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, stroke, Alzheimer's disease and head injury.

With its neighbour, the UCL Institute of Neurology, the NHNN is a major international centre for research and training, which also provides comprehensive neurology and neurosurgery services for other hospitals in the borough and beyond, including an acute brain injury unit, the national prion clinic and a neurorehabilitation unit.





HEALTH

CENTRE AIMS TO IMPROVE LIFE FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES IN CAMDEN

Camden Mencap and other local groups are benefiting from the presence of UCL's newly launched Centre for Health Service Research in Intellectual Disabilities (CHSRID). The centre has been established to conduct high quality, multi-disciplinary research to ensure that health service provision for people with intellectual disabilities actively contributes to their quality of life. It also aims to remove the stigma attached with intellectual disability in the UK.

Frank Earley, joint strategic commissioner for learning disabilities at Camden Council, said: "We're very conscious in Camden that, in UCL, we've got a world class institution on our doorstep where the local authority and the local health services can come together with academia and think about how we can develop and improve the lives of the local population."

Dr Katrina Scior, a co-founder of the CHSRID and a Senior Lecturer in Clinical Psychology, said: "A key aim is to produce interdisciplinary research to enhance the wellbeing of life for people with learning disabilities."





HEALTH

UCL UNVEILS VISION FOR 'CATHEDRAL FOR SCIENCE'

UCL is one of four founding partners of the consortium developing a 'cathedral for science' in the heart of Camden.

The UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation (UKCMRI) will be the biggest centre for biomedical research and innovation in Europe.

UCL and its partners – the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK and the Wellcome Trust – unveiled their vision for the project, which will be based in St Pancras and Somers Town.

It has been developed by a panel of leading international scientists, with advice from experts from Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, Harvard, the US National Institutes of Health, and other world-renowned institutions, as well as biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry leaders.

The chairman of the Scientific Planning Committee, Nobel Laureate and Royal Society President Sir Paul Nurse, explained that UKCMRI aimed to break down the barriers between different research teams within institutes

and between disciplines.

He added: "With 1250 scientists working with an encompassing infrastructure, UKCMRI will provide the critical mass, support and unique environment to tackle difficult research questions."

Professor Malcolm Grant, President and Provost of UCL, said: "We anticipate that UKCMRI will be a vital catalyst for jobs and regeneration in Camden."







EDUCATION

A leading multidisciplinary university, UCL's excellence in subjects from sciences to visual art affords the potential for tremendous learning partnerships with schools across Camden, ranging from small volunteering projects through to major institutional endeavours such as the Camden Academy. UCL offers numerous lifelong learning opportunities for the people of Camden, whether through the well-resourced Language Centre or through the activities on offer from UCL's museums and collections.

GREEN LIGHT FOR PIONEERING ACADEMY

UCL has received the green light to push ahead with its plans for a pioneering academy in Camden.

The UCL Academy will be a mixed 11–18 comprehensive school, which will open on Adelaide Road in Swiss Cottage.

The school will specialise in science and mathematics, and will enjoy close links with the university, which is acting as sole sponsor.

UCL President and Provost Professor Malcolm Grant added: "We have four priorities: high standards for pupils and a commitment to developing individual potential; the establishment of an internationally renowned centre of excellence for the teaching of science and mathematics; languages at the heart of the curriculum; and a mission to provide education for global citizenship."





EDUCATION

SOWING THE SEEDS OF A GREENER TOMORROW

Pupils at St Michael's School in Camden are reaping the benefits of an environmental education project run in collaboration with student volunteers from UCL.

The seven-strong team of students have been working with charity Roots & Shoots to provide teachers with free resources and activities that encourage children to implement practical change for people, animals and the environment.

The team worked with primary pupils between the age of five and 11, covering topics ranging from the wonder of water to carbon footprints and recycling to the exotic pet trade.

They helped the school's pupils establish their own vegetable garden, and also collaborated with the UCL Grant Museum of Zoology to bring examples of the museum's natural history collection into the classroom.

Bruce Russell, head of science and Key Stage 2 at St Michael's, said that pupils enjoyed the stimulating activities, and contact with the students had raised their aspirations.

He added: "The programme was creative and enriching, well run and engaging for the children. It moved their learning and understanding of the world around us forward and gave them a desire to learn more."





EDUCATION

EXPANDING PUPILS' HORIZONS

Pupils from South Camden Community School and Maria Fidelis Catholic Convent School are expanding their horizons through visits to UCL.

The teenagers joined others from inner-city schools across London to take part in Horizons, an educational outreach project run by the university.

The project takes the form of a one-year Saturday school, with 100 teenagers attending 20 sessions at UCL's campus between November and June.

A team of UCL undergraduates act as role models and classroom assistants as the teenagers take short courses in

a variety of subjects, including an introduction to medicine taught by UCL Medical School staff, an archaeology module taught by a UCL PhD student, and debating and film-making modules.

Alison Home, Widening Participation Officer at UCL, said: "Most participants come from families with no history of higher education, and many are from ethnic minority or recent migrant backgrounds. The excitement of being selected to take part in a programme at a top university is a great confidence boost."

Horizons, which is funded by financial services firm JPMorgan, ran for the first time in 2009/10 and will run again in 2010/11.







COMMUNITY

ARMY OF STUDENT VOLUNTEERS DEPLOYED IN CAMDEN

UCL's 1,000-strong army of student volunteers clocked up nearly 26,000 hours in the borough of Camden this year.

UCL holds a wealth of resources, both intellectual and cultural, and part of our mission as an outward-facing institution is to seed the benefits of these resources into our local community. UCL's Volunteering Services Unit helps hundreds of volunteers each year to work on projects in Camden. In the field of research, the university is committed to pursuing avenues that make a real-world difference, including through UCL's Grand Challenge of Sustainable Cities, which draws together research focusing on improving life in our cities, locally and internationally.

They work with children, improve the environment, help disabled people, refugees and asylum seekers, and much more, with the support of the university's Volunteering Services Unit (VSU).

Michael Worton, UCL Vice Provost (International & Academic), said: "Each year, the VSU and our volunteering students go from strength to strength. What I find most inspiring is that every year, there are more and more students who choose to volunteer in the community. This is something of which UCL is enormously proud."

One of the most successful projects is Spectrum, a registered charity run by students at the Royal Free and University College Medical School.

It links students with children under the age of 18 living in Camden who have a disability or a special need.





COMMUNITY

STUDENTS HELP ENVISION SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

MSc students from the UCL Bartlett School of Planning are working closely with the sustainability team at Camden Council to promote sustainable urban development. As part of their course, teams of students work under supervision to respond to planning briefs devised by the borough council.

This year's projects looked at urban food production, the refurbishment of Victorian and Georgian houses to improve their energy efficiency and green/brown roofs.

Professor Yvonne Rydin, from the UCL Bartlett School of Planning, said: "In effect, the students are working as consultants for the borough, with Camden acting as a client. We've been looking at people's understanding of urban air pollution and the implications for policy; we've been developing a series of principles for canalside development from a sustainability perspective; and finally, we've developed a sound policy basis for promoting sustainable urban development through development control."





COMMUNITY

HELPING THE VICTIMS OF CRIME

UCL researchers are working in Camden with elderly victims of crime to study the psychological effects of the experience and assess the effectiveness of potential treatments.

The HAVoC study (Helping Aged Victims of Crime) is being led by psychiatrists from UCL Mental Health Sciences and involves residents aged 65 and over.

Dr Marc Serfaty, a Consultant Psychiatrist and Senior Lecturer at UCL who is leading the research, said: "Crime can wreak havoc on older peoples' lives, with depression, anxiety and post traumatic stress disorder being the main psychological problems victims can experience. Such trauma may also produce social withdrawal and isolation that can have a negative effect on mental health.

"This study will help us to determine the impact of crime on older people's psychological health and quality of life, and understand its effect on this vulnerable group. We also hope it will help us develop an effective treatment, using recognised methods, to improve overall quality of life."

Following initial screening of hundreds of people, some participants will be offered cognitive behavioural therapy which has been modified specifically for victims of crime.







ENTERPRISE

A STRONGER PARTNERSHIP AND A BRIGHTER FUTURE

UCL and Camden have strengthened their ties to support local entrepreneurs and businesses.

UCL Advances is the centre for entrepreneurship and business interaction at UCL. It exists to stimulate collaboration among researchers, business and investors, driving innovations that benefit society and the economy, with a particular focus on new businesses and SME engagement.

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.

Building links with commerce and cultivating the entrepreneurial flair of UCL staff and students is central to UCL's mission. Whether it is through placing graduates in internship schemes with local businesses, or working with Camden partners to develop new IT or engineering research innovations into commercial solutions, we're passionate about doing business in the borough.





BUSINESS

UCL Advances and London Borough of Camden are working in partnership on two projects: The Higher Education London Outreach (HELO) programme, and the Innovation Central London project.

The HELO project is an innovative scheme to help local small

businesses access the expertise of UCL and London Business School through small-scale projects that will help them overcome obstacles that limit their growth.

Tim Barnes, Executive Director at UCL Advances, said: "We are working to identify issues within the





BUSINESS



community and give people access to support from a network of highly skilled people within these excellent institutions. This is about helping people to prosper and transform both themselves and their communities.”

The Innovation Central London project is funded by London Borough of Camden and offers grant support to new, innovative, creative and technical businesses based in the

borough that need help to get started.

Mr Barnes said: “With the HELO project and the Innovation Central project, we have been able to complete the range of business support services we are able to offer, so there is now support for small businesses and start-ups in need of technical problem solving, business advice and small grants to get going – it’s a compelling package!”