At UCL we are proud of our pioneering history, our distinguished present and our ambitions for an exciting future.

- We are one of the world’s best universities, consistently placed in the global top 20. The QS World University Rankings (2016/17) ranked UCL 7th in the world and 4th in Europe.

- We are a world-leader in research, with outstanding results in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework.

- We are a multidisciplinary university, home to teaching excellence in subjects ranging from medicine to languages, law to engineering and history to astrophysics. We encourage interdisciplinary study and believe that all areas of study can inform and enrich each other.

- We have found that intellectually curious students learn best when they experience first-hand the challenges of conducting research. Initiatives like the UCL Connected Curriculum aim to ensure our students can take an active part in the thriving research culture at UCL.
We are London’s Global University

• Your studies will provide a global perspective which will help you understand the major issues facing the world and equip you to contribute to solutions.

• Our students are, and always have been, selected on the basis of their talent and potential, whatever their personal, social or national background.

• Around 41% of our students come from outside the UK. With over 150 countries represented, UCL has a friendly and cosmopolitan atmosphere.

• Around 90% of UCL graduates enter work or further study within six months of graduating, achieving median starting salaries that are higher than the UK and Russell Group average*.

* Data taken from the HESA ‘Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education’ survey undertaken by HESA, looking at destinations of UK and EU graduates in the 2015 cohort.
Introduction

Welcome to UCL. This self-guided tour has been designed to help you explore UCL by guiding you around the Bloomsbury campus, looking at some of the facilities and learning a little more about our interesting history.

The tour is divided into 20 stages with a photograph on each page to help you orientate yourself. Written directions are provided under the numbered stages. The numbered stages are marked on the fold-out map found on the inside back page of the guide. The tour should take approximately 30 to 40 minutes.

The bottom section of each page contains further information about departments and facilities along the way, as well as historical facts about UCL.

Please be reminded that you undertake the tour at your own risk and much of the tour takes place in areas fully accessible to the general public. You should exercise appropriate care at all times, such as by not entering building sites or other restricted areas and being mindful of other individuals, obstacles and traffic. While the information contained in the booklet is correct at the time of publishing (May 2017), it may not be at the time you undertake the tour. In particular, departments and facilities may relocate (whether temporarily or permanently) from time to time.
Starting with your back to the main gates...

...you are now facing the domed Wilkins Building which houses UCL’s Main Library.

Construction of the Wilkins Building began in 1826 and the last stone was laid in 1985. The neo-Grecian design was the vision of architect William Wilkins, who is also credited with designing the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square.

The Front Quad and Portico are places where students meet to socialise, study or take a break in between lectures. The Front Quad and Portico host numerous events at UCL, including the Welcome Fair, Graduation Ceremonies, Christmas Concert and the Bartlett’s Architecture Show.

The two small observatories in the Front Quad were built between 1905–1907 and were used for astronomy and surveying until the Second World War. They have been used for teaching classics, as a bank and as tool sheds.
Front Quad

Walk towards the Portico…

… to your right is the Chadwick Building where UCL Civil, Environmental & Geomatic Engineering is located.

Go left across the Front Quad towards the Wilkins Building.

On your left across the grass is the Slade School of Fine Art and Department of Geography.


In 1833 UCL became the first university in Britain to appoint a Professor of Geography, Captain Alexander Maconochie.
**North Cloisters**

Enter the door on the far left into the North Cloisters.

Inside (on your right) you’ll see the Pigment Timeline – a project establishing connections between all UCL departments that involve pigment and colour in their research. Exhibitions on life at UCL and its history are also held here.

**Library**

Walk through the North Cloisters until you reach UCL’s Main Library.

UCL’s Library contains millions of books and thousands of journals. There are 18 specialist libraries in total including discipline-specific collections. The Donaldson Reading Room (below) forms part of the impressive Main Library.

The Welcome Fair is held in the Cloisters at the beginning of each new academic year. At the fair, students have the opportunity to join over 250 different clubs and societies, with interests covering music and drama, religion and politics, sports and social activities.
Octagon
Continue walking past the Main Library entrance…
…standing in the middle of the Octagon, if you look up you will see the Flaxman Gallery.

This domed gallery houses the single most important collection of sculptural work by John Flaxman (1755-1826), in particular the central plaster cast of St. Michael overcoming Satan.

The Octagon Gallery, directly under the dome, provides a space for exhibitions highlighting UCL’s current research and showcasing UCL’s rich collections. Exhibitions are chosen through twice-yearly competitions. Each exhibition runs for six months.

South Cloisters
Continue walking straight ahead and go through the set of double doors…

…you are now in the South Cloisters.

Behind you, you’ll see the Marmor Homericum (bottom left) by Baron Triqueti. It depicts scenes from the works of Homer created out of marble.

As you are walking through the South Cloisters you will see the Wilkins Roof Garden on your left. This is where you will find the monument to the Choshu Five. The Choshu Five were Japanese students who studied at UCL from 1863 and were influential in the development of post-Meiji Japan. One of them, Ito Hirobumi, later became Japan’s Prime Minister.
The stone lions, situated opposite Jeremy Bentham, were discovered in the Temple of Min at Koptos in Egypt by Sir William Flinders Petrie in 1894 and are over 5,000 years old.

...when facing the Koptos lions, go to your right and at the end of the corridor turn left into the South Wing.

Jeremy Bentham and the Koptos Lions

Walk to the end of the South Cloisters...

...on your left, in the cabinet, is Jeremy Bentham (pictured), whose utilitarian philosophy influenced UCL's founders – Thomas Campbell (a poet) and Henry Brougham (a lawyer).

Bentham asked upon his death that his body be preserved as an ‘auto-icon’. His skeleton is preserved in the display case but his head is kept in special environmental conditions in the UCL Institute of Archaeology. It is a popular myth about the auto-icon that he has attended committee meetings, noted in the minutes as being ‘present, but not voting’.
South Wing

Go down the stairs until you see the UCL Shop. Turn immediately to your right and go through the double doors into the South Quad where you’ll find the outside seating area of the Print Room Café.

The UCL Shop sells a wide range of UCL merchandise as well as stationery and snacks. It is open weekdays between 9am and 5.30pm during term-time and 9.30am–5pm at all other times.

The Print Room Café provides an informal working space for students and takes its name from its former use as a print room.

South Quad

Formally opened in 2005, UCL’s Andrew Huxley Building houses several neuroscience research centres. It is named after UCL’s 1963 Nobel Laureate Professor Andrew Huxley, in honour of his contribution to UCL and the study of physiology.
Physiology Arch
Walk straight ahead to the Physiology Arch...

Founded in 1830 by UCL, University College School used the space now occupied by the Physiology Arch (pictured) as its playground. In 1907 the school relocated to Hampstead in North London.

Malet Place
Continue straight ahead under the Physiology Arch...

...the DMS Watson Building (on the right) houses the Science Library and the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology. Foster Court (on the left), houses the departments of English and Hebrew & Jewish Studies among others.

With over 80,000 objects, the Petrie Museum holds one of the largest collections of Egyptian and Sudanese archaeology in the world.

Serving over 35 academic subject areas, from anatomy to zoology, the Science Library houses computer clusters for use by all UCL students.

The Darwin Building, on the right, honours naturalist Charles Darwin who occupied a house on this site between 1838–1842. The building now houses several research departments including Structural & Molecular Biology and Genetics, Evolution & Environment.
Malet Place
straight ahead to the end of Malet Place…

…on your right you will pass the Institute of Making. The institute is a multidisciplinary research club for those interested in the made world. It offers masterclasses and public events and has a Materials Library and MakeSpace where members and guests can build and create.

The Malet Place Engineering and Engineering Front Buildings on your right house the Departments of Biochemical, Chemical, Electronic & Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, as well as Medical Physics, Computer Science and parts of the School of Management.

The Engineering Front Building (above) provides flexible space for study or socialising. Arts and Sciences and European Social & Political Studies are located in the building opposite.
Gordon Square

When you arrive at the gates at the end of Malet Place, turn left. Keep to the left and walk past the church. Carry straight on ahead and take the second turn on your left…

…into Gordon Square (pictured). Here you’ll see one of the several green spaces surrounding the campus, favoured by UCL staff and students. On the other side of the park is a row of terraced houses, home to UCL’s Departments of History, Philosophy, History of Art and Science & Technology Studies.

There are two self-catered Student Houses (Campbell House East and West) on Taviton Street. These provide accommodation for students in single or twin rooms.

Gordon Square/Taviton Street

Continue walking along Gordon Square, becoming Taviton Street…

…on your left you will pass the UCL Institute of Archaeology which holds artefacts and extensive library collections.

Taviton Street houses UCL’s Department of Anthropology and the School of Slavonic & East European Studies (SSEES). Look up to see if you can spot the swift nest box installed as part of UCL’s biodiversity strategy and action plan.

SSEES is the largest centre in the UK for the study of Central, Eastern and South-East Europe and Russia.
Endsleigh Gardens

At the end of Taviton Street turn left into Endsleigh Gardens.

Behind you, in Endsleigh Gardens, is Bentham House. This building is closed for renovation until 2018 when it will become home to UCL’s Faculty of Laws, (now temporarily located in Bidborough House).

Continue left along Endsleigh Gardens to Gordon Street.

On the corner of Endsleigh Gardens and Gordon Street, Drayton House housing UCL Economics is on your right. When you reach the end of Endsleigh Gardens turn left onto Gordon Street.

Gordon Street

Continue along Gordon Street…

…as you walk down Gordon Street you will pass the newly refurbished 22 Gordon Street (right), home to The Bartlett, and the Christopher Ingold Building, home to UCL Chemistry. Just before you cross the pedestrian crossing is Gordon House containing the Department of Greek & Latin.

Go across the road, turn right.

UCL has a tradition of pioneering new academic disciplines. Appointment to a new chair of Political Economy in 1828 established the first Department of Economics in England. Similarly, architectural education in Britain began at UCL in 1841 with the establishment of the first Chair of Architecture.
Continue along Gordon Street…

The Bloomsbury Building is home to UCL’s own West End theatre, the UCL Bloomsbury Theatre. It hosts a series of performances and events and reserves 12 weeks for student productions.

The theatre is undergoing major renovation works and is due to open in early 2018. The Bloomsbury Studio, a flexible performance space, is open and operating as normal.

To reach the Bloomsbury Theatre Café go up the stairs into the Bloomsbury Building and turn right.

The Rights and Advice Centre run by the Students’ Union is located inside. The centre offers all UCL students free, confidential and impartial advice on issues such as visas and immigration, employment, housing, academic problems and financial matters.

The building also houses the Bloomsbury Fitness Centre which provides a variety of equipment, two squash courts, a dance studio, a martial arts Dojo and weekly fitness classes.

If you feel like some light refreshment at this point, you can stop off at the Bloomsbury Theatre Café.
London Centre for Nanotechnology (LCN) and UCL Union

...as you continue down Gordon Street you will pass the LCN and the UCL Students’ Union.

The LCN is a multidisciplinary enterprise for nanoscience and nanotechnology. The purpose-built eight-storey building was designed to allow the public to catch a glimpse of its researchers at work.

Gower Place

Turn left onto Gower Place...

As you continue walking down Gower Place you will pass the Kathleen Lonsdale Building, home to UCL Earth Sciences. The building is being refurbished and will provide a new space for the Rock Room, a display for UCL’s geology collections.

At the end of Gower Place, turn left into Gower Street. On the corner, you’ll pass the Lewis Building housing a café, bar and study space.

Professor Kathleen Lonsdale studied the formation and structure of crystals. In 1945 she was the first woman tenured professor at UCL, one of the first two women elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and the first woman president of the International Union of Crystallography and the British Association for the Advancement of Science.
Gower Street

Continue until you reach UCL’s main gates once again.

Opposite is the Cruciform Building (pictured). Housed inside is the Cruciform Hub, a blend of heritage and cutting-edge design. The hub incorporates a modern library and innovative teaching and study spaces.

The Cruciform Building was the original home to University College Hospital. Many of the original features of the hospital have been kept, including nursery mosaics (left) in a part of the building which formerly housed the children’s ward.

The building also provides space for teaching laboratories as well as the UCL Medical School and the Wolfson Institute of Biomedical Research.

Sadly, your self-guided tour ends here but do take the opportunity to explore UCL’s museums and collections; their details can be found on the following pages.
UCL Art Museum
For current exhibitions and opening times go to: www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/ucl-art-museum
Email: college.art@ucl.ac.uk
Tel: (0)20 7679 2540
Open Monday to Friday 1–5pm (UCL term time only)

Grant Museum of Zoology
www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/grant-museum-zoology
Email: zoology.museum@ucl.ac.uk
Tel: (0)20 3108 2052
Open Monday to Saturday 1–5pm

Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology
www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/petrie-museum
Email: petrie.museum@ucl.ac.uk
Tel: (0)20 7679 2884
Open Tuesday to Saturday 1–5pm

Lunch Hour Lectures
www.ucl.ac.uk/lhl
Email: events@ucl.ac.uk
Tel: (0)20 3108 3841

Bartlett School of Architecture Summer Show
www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/architecture/events/summer-show

Slade School of Fine Art Degree Shows
www.ucl.ac.uk/slade/events/degreeshows
We hope you enjoyed your visit to UCL

Further information
You can pick up a copy of our latest UCL Prospectus from the Front Lodge (small building on right when entering through the main gates to UCL). Staff are available to answer general prospective student enquiries between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays and UCL closure days).

Studying at UCL
www.ucl.ac.uk/study
Email: study@ucl.ac.uk
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