LIVING
LEISURE AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

As befits a large community such as UCL, we provide our students with a wealth of services and facilities to meet their cultural, social, and leisure interests as well as their practical needs. In addition to those facilities outlined below, the UCL Graduate School organises welcome events for new students, and lends its support to a number of postgraduate societies catering for a range of interests. There is also a Postgraduate Association within the UCL Students’ Union which represents graduate students both on UCL committees and in the Students’ Union.

Sports and exercise facilities

UCL provides high-quality facilities and plentiful opportunities for everyone to get active, whether you are a competitive player of team sports, or interested in a yoga class to aid relaxation and suppleness. Run by the UCL Students’ Union, different venues cater for a huge number of activities, from personal fitness routines in the gym to football on outdoor pitches. You can also use the 33-metre swimming pool in the University of London Union building adjacent to UCL.

The Bloomsbury Fitness Centre, located on the main campus, houses a variety of equipment, including treadmills, cycle machines, crostrainers and fixed resistance machines. Qualified and friendly instructors provide a free gym induction session and follow-up advice. The centre also includes a warming-up/stretching area, two squash courts, a dance studio and martial arts Dojo, and offers weekly fitness classes.

The Somers Town Community Sports Centre is just a short walk from UCL’s Bloomsbury campus. A variety of indoor sports are catered for including basketball, badminton, netball, football, volleyball, table tennis, short tennis and trampolining as well as fitness classes.

UCL Union Sports Clubs offer many different activities, including all those you might expect, such as football, tennis, hockey, athletics and nine different martial arts. There is also an array of clubs which have access to specialised facilities: rowing, horse riding, mountaineering and ice skating, for example. Dance, from ballet to salsa and hip hop, is also on offer. Competitive fixtures for team sports are held at UCL’s outdoor pitches and courts in Shenley, Hertfordshire. With provision for rugby, football, netball, lacrosse and cricket, there is a free bus service on match days.

A full list of clubs can be found at www.uclu.org/clubs-societies.

Julia Klippert
Molecular Medicine MSc

During my undergraduate studies I consolidated my interest in the molecular basis of disease, in particular I am intrigued by the molecular pathways underlying neurological diseases. Following this I chose to continue my studies at UCL to broaden my knowledge of molecular biology. I was always fascinated by the complexity of neuroscience; however, in order to get a thorough and broad understanding of the molecular processes in the body I decided to do my Master’s in Molecular Medicine rather than in a more specialised programme. In my opinion a broader knowledge may be more beneficial, as the body is not just composed of different separated units. To keep this in mind is thereby essential in order to fully understand a single disease, which may not even be connected to a particular research area in the first place. After my studies at UCL I intend to pursue my PhD, as I am determined to stay in the field of science. I really enjoy science and UCL helped me to get the best out of my passion.

I receive funding from my home country, Germany. The scholarship I receive is from one of the twelve biggest institutes which award motivated students with a scholarship throughout the duration of their studies. I highly encourage future students to apply for a scholarship in their home country as many institutions also support studies abroad.

The wide range of societies at UCL provide a great opportunity to meet new people from other courses and to get involved in UCL’s social life. I am in the Walking and Hiking club and I really benefit from it as I get to know English cities besides London. The trips on weekends are a great opportunity to get some exercise and to meet new people. Since I have been in London I have also met some very close friends, with whom I often meet for coffee and a chat.
**UCL Bloomsbury Theatre**

The Bloomsbury Theatre, owned and run by UCL, is a professionally equipped theatre located on the main campus with a seating capacity of over 530. It is reserved for student performances for 12 weeks each year. The remainder of the year it hosts professional performances – often focusing on innovative and contemporary productions – including stand-up comedy, drama, dance and music.

**Societies**

UCL Students’ Union runs over 140 societies which are open to undergraduate and graduate students alike covering politics, culture, the arts, religion, performance and campaigns. Full details of the individual societies and their contact details can be found at [www.uclu.org/clubs-societies](http://www.uclu.org/clubs-societies).

**Music**

You will find plenty of opportunities to develop your musical interests at UCL, whether through finding others who share your musical tastes, discovering new styles, or playing an instrument yourself. From DJing with the Urban Music Society, to performing with the Chamber Music Club or University College Opera, there is something to suit all tastes. Bookable rehearsal rooms are available on campus and in some residences.

**Community activities**

Many of our students are keen to employ their talents to contribute towards the benefit of others in their community. At the same time, such experiences can help skills development and bring satisfaction and enjoyment. There are opportunities to provide support and guidance to students in local schools as a Student Mentor (one-to-one meetings). Furthermore, UCLU’s Volunteering Services Unit co-ordinates opportunities to volunteer your time and effort to a huge range of activities, either on an ongoing or one-off basis.

**Social activities, eating and drinking**

Many opportunities exist for you to meet your fellow students and participate in UCL’s thriving community. Departments and postgraduate academic societies organise a number of events, such as visiting speakers and topic-based seminars, which allow for both intellectual stimulation and friendly discussion with staff and students. The Graduate School encourages and supports events which promote networking and socialising beyond the boundaries of your chosen discipline.

In addition to the sports, cultural and social activities described above, UCL aims to provide the essential services and facilities you will need. UCL’s buildings house a number of cafés, refectories and bars. There are shops on campus stocking everyday stationery and refreshments as well as specialist supplies such as artists’ materials.