Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurial skills have many uses, whether you’re starting a business or dealing with the challenges of everyday life. They can give you the confidence to try out new ideas, take risks, explore the unexplored and work with other people in a range of different situations.

Transferable skills from entrepreneurship will not only improve your understanding of how business works, but can help you succeed academically during your time at UCL, and in your future career. UCL Innovation & Enterprise offers a wide range of interactive and immersive experiences designed to enrich your time at UCL and prepare you for the world beyond. For example:

**Entrepreneur Challenges**
UCL students can generate, validate and launch their business idea with our Entrepreneur Challenges programme, with three phases covering idea generation and validation, validation and prototyping, and a start-up Launchpad.

**Business advisers**
Our business advisers can provide you with expert, practical and confidential advice to help you start, build and grow your business. They’re known for their no nonsense, pragmatic guidance that fully takes your personal aspirations and goals into account.

**UCL Innovation & Enterprise Hatchery**
If you’re looking for somewhere to run your start-up business we can provide you with free office space in the UCL Innovation & Enterprise Hatchery located in King’s Cross, close to Bloomsbury.

Contact us to find out more or explore how we could help you!

**Case study**
Nafisa Bakkar, Natural Sciences BSc (2014)
Post-graduation I worked for UCL Innovation & Enterprise, running programmes to help students start their big idea, or alternatively to learn skills through entrepreneurial programmes. Because of my own entrepreneurial journey throughout UCL I am passionate about entrepreneurship being a great tool for personal and professional development.

I then founded my own start-up, amaliah.co.uk. We curate the best in modest fashion from well-known high street retailers, independent fashion brands and straight from what bloggers are wearing on Instagram. It’s incredible that we have been able to hire a team and scale up just a year after graduating. UCL really helped to nurture my idea and confidence in being able to do it.
Set for success

2015/16 was a fantastic year for UCL Innovation & Enterprise, with success stories including:

- 51 new businesses started by UCL students
- 307 students with business ideas advised

Case study

Charlotte Leiferman, Archaeology BSc (2016)

In the Global Citizenship Programme I took the Social Start-up strand. I undertook a two-week course in social enterprise which covered a number of components in starting a business including business modelling, understanding market segments, pitching, and what constitutes a social enterprise. We assembled into teams to devise a social enterprise to solve a global problem. At the end of the two weeks, we pitched our idea to a panel of judges. It was great to have the chance to work on a risk-free project with students from other disciplines and backgrounds.

I also took a three-day Business Boot Camp with UCL Innovation & Enterprise, which covered all aspects of business including company types and structure, financial accounting principles (such as profit, depreciation, financial ratios, and efficiency), and organisational psychology and company culture. I found these courses invaluable for gaining commercial awareness and debunking business jargon.

2016 has been a great year for UCL start-up bio-bean (founded by Arthur Kay, Architecture BSc 2013), which turns waste coffee grounds into green biofuels. bio-bean won the Virgin Voom 2016 Grow Award, which recognises businesses with good growth potential, and has recently signed an agreement with Costa Coffee to recycle over 3,000 tonnes of coffee grounds per year into low-carbon fuel.