Why UCL? /

At UCL we’re proud of our pioneering history, our distinguished present and our exciting future. UCL is a great place to be a student – here are some of the reasons why.

About UCL

// UCL is one of the world’s very best universities, consistently placed in the global top 20 in a wide range of world rankings.

// We continually review all the teaching for our undergraduate degrees, to make sure that it includes the latest discoveries and developments in the field – so you’ll be on the cutting edge.

// UCL is a world-leader in research, with outstanding results in the latest Research Excellence Framework.

// We are London’s Global University – your studies will provide a global perspective that will help you understand the major issues facing the world and will equip you to contribute to solutions.

// We’ve found that intellectually curious students learn best when they experience first-hand the challenges of conducting research – so many of our degree programmes offer the opportunity to undertake original research alongside our world-leading academic staff.

// 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, so UCL has a cosmopolitan, friendly and inclusive atmosphere.

// We’re based in the heart of London – giving you outstanding academic, professional and social benefits.

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Research Excellence Framework

The Research Excellence Framework (REF) carried out jointly by the UK’s Higher Education funding bodies, assesses the research strength of UK universities.

In the latest REF (December 2014), UCL was the top-rated university in the UK for research strength, by a measure of overall quality of research multiplied by the number of staff submissions. Subject entries in this Prospectus give the percentage of staff producing research of ‘world-leading’ (4*) or ‘internationally excellent’ (3*) quality.

www.ref.ac.uk

www.ucl.ac.uk/ref2014
There has been at least one Nobel Laureate from the UCL community every decade since the establishment of the prizes in 1901.

- **1900s**
  - Chemistry: Sir William Ramsay
  - Sir William Ramsay discovered five noble gases (argon, helium, krypton, neon and xenon) in the 1890s whilst at UCL.

- **1910s**
  - Literature: Rabindranath Tagore
  - Physics: Sir William Henry Bragg

- **1920s**
  - Chemistry: Frederick Soddy
  - Physiology or Medicine: Archibald Vivian Hill

- **1930s**
  - Chemistry: Sir Friedrich Gowland Hopkins
  - Physics: Owen Willans Richardson
  - Physiology or Medicine: Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins

- **1940s**
  - Chemistry: Sir Otto Hahn
  - Literature: François Heymans

- **1950s**
  - Chemistry: Sir Paul Nurse
  - Physiology or Medicine: Sir Martin Evans

- **1960s**
  - Chemistry: Sir James Black
  - Physiology or Medicine: Sir Laurens Van der Ferde
  - Physics: Charles Kao

- **1970s**
  - Chemistry: Sir James Black
  - Chemistry: Sir Henry Hallett Dale

- **1980s**
  - Chemistry: Sir John O’Keefe

- **1990s**
  - Chemistry: Sir John O’Keefe

- **2000s**
  - Economics: James Heckman

- **2010s**
  - Physics: Peter Higgs

**UCL’s firsts**

- The first English university to admit students regardless of class or religion
- The first English university to admit women students on equal terms with men
- The first university to be founded in London
- The first in England to teach English Literature, French, Geography, German and Italian at university level, and the first to offer the systematic teaching of Engineering, Law and Medicine
- The first university in England to be the sole sponsor of an academy – a non-selective mixed state school in our home borough of Camden.

**Nobel Prize winners**

- There has been at least one Nobel Laureate from the UCL community every decade since the establishment of the prizes in 1901.

  - **1900s**
    - Chemistry: Sir William Ramsay
    - Literature: Rabindranath Tagore
    - Physics: Sir William Henry Bragg

  - **1910s**
    - Chemistry: Frederick Soddy
    - Physiology or Medicine: Archibald Vivian Hill

  - **1920s**
    - Chemistry: Frederick Soddy
    - Physiology or Medicine: Sir William Henry Bragg
    - Physiology or Medicine: Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins

  - **1930s**
    - Physiology or Medicine: Sir Henry Hallett Dale
    - Physiology or Medicine: Otto Loewi
    - Physiology or Medicine: Corneille Jean François Heymans

  - **1940s**
    - Chemistry: Otto Hahn
    - Chemistry: Robert Robinson

  - **1950s**
    - Chemistry: Sir Paul Nurse
    - Chemistry: Sir Martin Evans

  - **1960s**
    - Chemistry: Sir James Black
    - Chemistry: Sir Henry Hallett Dale
    - Physiology or Medicine: Sir Laurens Van der Ferde
    - Physics: Charles Kao

  - **1970s**
    - Chemistry: Sir James Black
    - Chemistry: Sir Henry Hallett Dale

  - **1980s**
    - Chemistry: Sir James Black
    - Physiology or Medicine: Bert Sakmann

  - **1990s**
    - Economics: James Heckman
    - Physiology or Medicine: Sir Paul Nurse
    - Physiology or Medicine: Sir Martin Evans
    - Physics: Charles Kao

  - **2000s**
    - Physics: Peter Higgs
    - Physiology or Medicine: James Rothman
    - Physiology or Medicine: John O’Keefe

*all figures correct as of 1 February 2016*