UCL Sutton Scholars is a free academic enrichment programme, delivered in partnership with the Sutton Trust, for students attending non-selective schools in years 8 and 9.

The programme develops independent research, group work, presentation and writing skills to support academic attainment. Students also explore GCSE and A Level choices, choose facilitating subjects and consider future study options.

Please note: students must meet our eligibility criteria, and be high achieving academically.
What is the UCL Sutton Scholars programme?

The Year 8 programme is a series of free Discovery Days held at UCL’s main campus during half-terms in February and May 2018, plus a three-day non-residential summer school in August 2018.

UCL Sutton Scholars:
// Supports students towards high attainment in their GCSEs.
// Introduces students to exciting new academic subjects and possible career paths.
// Develops the key skills needed to succeed at school and university.
// Provides valuable experience and guidance for further and higher education.
// Creates opportunities for students to meet and work with other young people from across London and the South East.
// Offers access to learning and teaching from staff, academics, undergraduate and graduate students at one of the world’s top universities.

Year 8 students will be invited to continue to our Year 9 programme 2017–18. This includes winter Skills Days and a four-day, non-residential Easter School.

How the programme works

Supported by The Sutton Trust and run by UCL, the programme is designed to stretch and challenge students academically across a range of science and humanities subjects. Every student is assigned a UCL student ambassador to mentor them through the programme, in person at events and via an online e-mentoring programme.

Students attend academically-themed Discovery Days at UCL for three consecutive days during February and May 2017 half-terms, each with a different academic focus. These are followed by a three-day, non-residential academic enrichment summer school in August 2018, which will have an overarching theme and more emphasis on group work and presentation skills.

Each Discovery Day focuses on an interdisciplinary academic theme covering a range of science and humanities subjects. Past themes have included ‘History of Medicine’, ‘Languages & Culture’, ‘Mission to Mars’ or ‘Ancient Worlds’, which are explored through taster lectures and workshops, and sessions on developing key skills.
2017–18 Year 8 Programme...

The basics
- Discovery Days run from 9:30am–3:30pm, with lunch provided.
- The third event day in each phase will be slightly longer (finishing at about 5:30pm) to include a celebration event to present awards and invite parents/guardians and families to see what students have been up to!
- During each phase, short homework assignments will be given so that students have the opportunity to practice the skills they’ve learned and receive feedback. Homework will be manageable around school studies and other commitments.
- Structured online mentoring will also be included in the programme, with current UCL Students providing support via an online e-mentoring platform called Brightside.
- Prizes will be awarded for the best homework assignments and most-engaged mentees.
- All events will take place at UCL's Bloomsbury campus in central London. UCL is within walking distance of Euston, Kings Cross and St Pancras stations and is easily accessible via many bus and tube routes.
- Students will have the opportunity to experience large lectures and smaller group work, supported by trained current undergraduate UCL student ambassadors and UCL staff programme coordinators.

Information evening
- Wednesday, 6 February 2018
  5:30–7:30pm
  Optional event for parents, students and teachers to learn more about the programme and meet UCL staff and students.

Induction day
- Wednesday, 14 February 2018
  9:30am–3:30pm
  Session for parents about supporting their child. Student ice breakers, orientation and induction activities.

Discovery Days
- 15 and 16 February 2018
  9:30am–3:30pm (each day)
  Themed Discovery Days on different academic topics (topics to be confirmed).

Non-residential Summer School
- 26–27 July 2018
  9:30am–3:30pm (each day)
  Three-day Summer School with an overarching interdisciplinary theme such as ‘Global Citizenship’ or ‘London Mayoral Elections’.

More information...

Go to...
- Introduction
- Applying
- What next?
How to apply

Please complete the online application form at:
http://bit.ly/2zaFy8T

Students must ensure that their parent/guardian completes the parental details in sections 4, 6 and 7.
When the form is submitted, we will also contact their teacher to request a Teacher Reference form. This is needed to complete the students’ application. We cannot accept applications without parental consent and teacher references.
Completed student applications must be received by 4pm, 4 December 2017, and accompanying Teacher References must be received by 4pm, 6 December 2017. Any applications received after these deadline dates will not be accepted.

Who can apply?

UCL Sutton Scholars Year 8 programme is for students who attend a UK non-selective state school, will be the first in their family to attend university (neither parent have been to university) and expect to achieve five or more GCSE grades at 7-9 (A*-A).

Priority will be given to students who meet one or more of the following criteria:
- Live in neighbourhoods with low overall progression rates to higher education;
- Are in, or have lived under local authority care;
- Have parents from non-professional occupations;
- Are currently eligible for free school meals;
- Are from an ethnic group underrepresented at UCL (currently Black African or Black Caribbean, White British students who meet our family background/neighbourhood criteria and students from Gypsy and Traveller communities);
- Are estranged from their family;
- Are a refugee;
- Are interested, motivated and able to commit fully to the dates of the Year 8 programme

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1. Support for parents
   On the first day of each Phase, we will hold a Parents Session in the morning to provide parents with information and support.

2. 2018–19 Year 9 programme
   All Year 8 participants that complete the Year 8 Sutton Scholars Programme 2017–18 will be invited to enrol for the Year 9 programme 2018–19. This programme includes winter Skills Days and a four-day non-residential Easter School. The content of events in Year 9 are themed on Skills Days that support attainment and study skills.

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Successful applicants notified

19 December 2017

100 students will be selected by the UCL Pre-16 Widening Participation team. Students, parents and teachers will receive application outcomes via email.

Enrolment and Induction process

1. Successful applicants and their parents/guardians will be sent enrolment forms via email and post to read, complete and sign, which confirm the student’s place on the programme.

2. Students and their parents/guardians will be invited to attend an Information Evening at UCL’s campus. The Information Evening introduces the programme and UCL, outlines the planned events and provides an opportunity to ask questions to UCL Staff and Student Ambassadors.

3. The programme will start with an Induction Day, which includes separate morning sessions for parents and students and afternoon sessions for students. The day will allow students to orientate themselves with our campus, and induct them to key components of the programme including their student ambassador groups and e-mentoring.

4. Directly following the Induction Day there will be two Discovery Days for students participating on the programme.

Please see page five for a full list of programme dates.

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What next?

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2017–18 Year 8 Programme
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Further information

If you have any questions please contact:

Abi Robertson
Senior Access Officer (Pre-16)
UCL Access and Widening Participation Office

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