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 2017, plus a three-day, non-residential summer school in July 2017.

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 Saturday Skills Days and a two-day, one night residential summer school in 2018.
The programme

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 will attend themed Discovery Days, each with a different academic focus, at UCL for three consecutive days during the February and May 2017 half terms. Each day focuses on an interdisciplinary academic theme covering a range of science and humanities subjects, which is explored through taster lectures, workshops, and sessions aimed at developing key skills. Past themes have included: ‘History of Medicine’, ‘Languages & Culture’, ‘Outer Space’ and ‘Ancient Worlds’.

The Discovery Days are followed by a three-day, non-residential academic enrichment summer school in July 2017 which will have an overarching theme and more emphasis on group work.
The basics

- Discovery Days run from 9:30am–3:00pm each day, with lunch provided.
- After each Discovery Day, 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, and managed via an online e-mentoring platform. Prizes will be awarded for the best homework assignments.
- 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 Co-ordinators.

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 has 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:

- Come from 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);
- Are estranged from family;
- Are a refugee;
- Are interested, motivated and able to commit fully to the dates of the Year 8 programme.
How to apply

Please complete the online application form:

www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90020007/Y8SS2017

Students must ensure that their parent/guardian completes the parental details section. When the form is submitted, the applicant will receive a weblink by email to forward to their teacher, as a Teacher Reference form needs to be completed to confirm the students’ application. We cannot accept applications without parental consent and teacher references.

Completed applications (including both the Student Application and Teacher Reference) must be received by Tuesday, 17 January 2017.

What happens next?

One hundred students will be selected by the UCL Pre-16 Widening Participation team. Students, parents and teachers will receive application outcomes via email by the end of January 2017.

If the application is successful, the student and their parents/guardians will be invited to attend an Information Evening on Monday, 6 February 2017 and an Induction Day on Wednesday, 15 February 2017 during February half term. The Information Evening will introduce the programme and UCL, outline the planned events and provide an opportunity to ask questions to UCL. The Induction Day includes a morning parents’ session about supporting your child, and a full day of activities for students, to orientate themselves with our campus, and induct them to key components of the programme including their student ambassador groups and e-mentoring.

The first Discovery days will take place on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 February 2017.
Further information

If you have any questions please contact:

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