



UNI-LINK PROGRAMME 2014

Application notes for Year 12 students, teachers and parents

What is Uni-Link?

Uni-Link is a long term project, designed to offer support and guidance to students throughout Year 12 and 13 so that they are better prepared to apply to UCL and other competitive universities. The programme runs from February of Year 12 (2014) until March of Year 13 (2015).

This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about higher education and increase awareness of different degrees so that students can make an informed decision about university. Students are supported through the UCAS process and can attend personal statement clinics where they will receive one to one guidance on improving their application. The Uni-Link programme also allows students to improve essential academic skills such as academic writing, time management, presentation skills and revision techniques making sure they are well prepared for the transition from school or college to university

Students will attend:

- Taster lectures in a variety of academic subjects to help explore a range of degree subjects. Topics are yet to be confirmed, but last year's sessions included such themes as:
 - Medicine lecture, 'Could You Run the NHS?'
 - Psychology lecture, 'What do Babies Know?'
 - Law lecture, 'Torture in the 21st Century'
 - Physics lecture, 'The Science of Light',
- Guidance sessions to improve their UCAS applications to UCL and other competitive universities and receive support with writing the UCAS personal statement
- Academic skills sessions to develop essential study skills for university such as independent research, academic writing and presentation skills

All sessions will be held at the UCL Bloomsbury Campus, near Euston Station in Zone 1, mostly on Wednesday afternoons.

Uni-Link Timetable

Event	Date	Time
Launch event (students, parents and teachers are welcome)	Thursday 6 February 2014	18.00 – 20.30
Induction day : Students will be introduced to UCL with a guided campus tour, meet current UCL student ambassadors and learn more about the Uni-Link programme	Thursday 13 February 2014	15.30 – 18.00
Weekly taster lectures (subjects TBC)	Wednesday 26 February 2014 until Wednesday 2 April 2014	16.00 – 18.00
UCAS workshop: Learn how UCAS works, how to pick your five university choices	April/May 2014 (dates to be confirmed)	16.00 – 18.00
Personal Statement workshop: The 'do's' and 'don'ts' or writing a personal statement, practical tips and advice	June/July 2014 (dates to be confirmed)	16.00 – 18.00
Other UCL Year 12/13 summer activities (such as summer schools)	Various dates throughout the summer to be confirmed	tbc
Academic skills workshops (TBC, previous sessions included presentations and public speaking, time management and academic writing)	Throughout July/August 2014 (dates to be confirmed)	16.00 – 18.00
Personal Statement clinics: Students have a one to one appointment with a member of UCL staff to receive feedback on their statement and suggestions for improvement	September/October 2014 (dates to be confirmed)	tbc
Student finance talk: Information about the student loans system, bursaries and scholarships (parents welcome)	December 2014/January 2015 (date to be confirmed)	tbc
Close of programme celebration event: Certificate and award ceremony (students, parents and teachers welcome)	March 2015 (date to be confirmed)	tbc

Attendance

Students should think carefully about making a commitment to the programme before applying to make sure they are able to fit Uni-Link activities into their schedule. Students who do not complete the required number of sessions will not be able to graduate from the Uni-Link scheme.

The Uni-Link officer will be in regular contact with students via e mail and text and will also contact schools/colleges regularly to advise on students' participation.

The following events are **compulsory**:

- Launch event
- Induction day
- UCAS workshop

- Personal Statement workshop
- Presentations and public speaking workshop
- Time management and revision skills workshop
- Academic writing skills workshop
- Close of programme celebration event

Students are expected to attend at least four of the six taster lectures

Uni-Link students will also be given priority when applying for other UCL Year 12/13 activities over the summer months such as summer schools and conferences and **must participate in at least one of these activities**. Students will be emailed about these opportunities when booking opens.

The Learning Journal

Students will complete a Learning Journal throughout the programme to reflect on their own academic development. Journals will be given out at the induction event and students will be expected to bring them to every Uni-Link event. Entries in the Learning Journal will help students to produce a successful personal statement and increase the chances of being made an offer of a place at UCL or other competitive universities. Students will submit the completed Learning Journal at the end of the programme for assessment by UCL staff. A prize will be awarded for the best journal at the celebration event.

Survey Monkey Assignments

Students will be asked to complete on-line Survey Monkey surveys at the start of the programme and at the end of each term. This will allow further reflection on the activities and the chance to provide feedback. Links to the surveys will be sent via e mail and student will be expected to complete them within a set deadline. Each assignment will take about 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

Application process

Uni-Link is open to academically high achieving Year 12s from inner London non-selective state schools who also meet specific demographic criteria outlined below.

Entry to Uni-Link will be competitive: students, parents and teachers must be aware that **places are not guaranteed**, as there may be high demand.

To apply, students must complete an on-line application on-line and teachers must complete a reference to be sent by email.

Once application forms and references are received we will assess them as a group. We will offer places to students who meet several or all of the academic and demographic criteria listed below:

Academic Criteria

- Students who achieved a minimum of 5 A* or A grades at GCSE in any subjects
- Students who achieved Grade B or higher in GCSE Maths and English Language
- Students who are predicted a **minimum** of ABB for their A levels and who are taking a fourth AS subject, or minimum 34 points for IB
- Students who have written persuasive personal statements in their application form, explaining why they want to join the Uni-link programme
- We will also consider relevant comments about individual students' circumstances made in the teacher reference

Social Criteria

- Students who are in local authority care (these students will be given a high priority)
- Students who come from lower income backgrounds (we assess this by looking at parental occupation, parental unemployment and students' eligibility for free school meals)
- Students who come from families with no history of higher education (this means neither parent has been to university)
- Students who live in neighbourhoods with a lower rate of participation in higher education (this is assessed by looking at the student's postcode)

Applications which we will not consider

We cannot accept applications from students who do not attend non-selective state schools in London.

What happens next?

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 17 January 2014. We aim to process the applications as quickly as possible after this date. We will contact students (and teachers) to advise whether or not they have a place on the scheme no later than **Friday 24 January 2014.**

When we contact students to offer a place, we will send them full details of the programme and an enrolment form which requires a parental signature. Returning the form guarantees the student's place on the programme.

Enrolment forms must be returned to UCL no later than **Thursday 6 February.**

Students and parents will be invited to an evening launch event at UCL on **Thursday 6 February.** This will include light refreshments and the chance to meet UCL Student Ambassadors who will support students throughout the Uni-Link programme.

Any questions?

If you have any questions about Uni-Link 2013/14 please contact:

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