Advancing Research-based Education at UCL
1. UCL’s vision for research-based education

The UCL 2034 strategy describes our institutional vision of becoming:

A global leader in the integration of research and education, underpinning an inspirational student experience.

The commitment to research-based pedagogy is made explicit in the strategy. The traditional practice of ‘research-led teaching’, through which students learn about some of the latest research in their field, remains important. However, the ‘research-based education’ approach articulated in UCL 2034 takes us into a new era. Now students themselves, at all levels of the curriculum, will learn through actively participating in research:

Our students will participate in the research process and the creation of knowledge, supported by our academic and research staff. They will understand the ‘edge of knowledge’ and learn how to deal with uncertainty.

Through investigating within their discipline and through interdisciplinary challenges, students will develop deep understandings, ethical approaches and a wide range of skills for life and for employment.

www.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-2034

2. How will we get there? Three key initiatives

Three major developments at UCL are enabling staff, students and alumni to work together as partners to make this vision a reality:

**Connected Curriculum**
This sector-leading initiative offers an innovative framework for developing programmes of study which are truly research-based, and which enable students to become part of a vibrant learning and research community. Please see the website for full details.

www.ucl.ac.uk/connectedcurriculum
Twitter: @UCLConnectedC

**UCL Arena**
This ‘arena’ is a space in which all those who educate our students – whatever their job title – can gather and learn from one another through an exciting series of events and opportunities, run by colleagues from across UCL. UCL Arena welcomes staff at all stages of their career. The scheme offers professional recognition awards, Fellowships of the Higher Education Academy, for all who teach, support students’ learning and lead on education at UCL. Fellowships are in line with the UK Professional Standards Framework and recognised nationally.

www.ucl.ac.uk/arena
Twitter: @UCLArena

**UCL ChangeMakers**
This initiative recognises our students as partners in our learning community, providing a range of opportunities for students to take a lead in changing learning at UCL for the better. This includes funding for student-led projects, aimed at improving education and the student experience.

www.ucl.ac.uk/changemakers
Twitter: @UCLChangeMakers
3. How can staff, students and alumni get involved?

**Connected Curriculum**

The large and lively Connected Curriculum Development Group (CCDG) is taking forward the initiative. It’s a creative forum for making the vision a reality across our rich spectrum of academic disciplines, reporting back to a Steering Group and UCL’s Education Committee. A team of Connected Curriculum Fellows, seconded from across UCL’s faculties, is working together to inspire and share good practice, and form the core of the Development Group.

We need your contribution in a number of areas. CCDG Working Groups are looking at topics such as UCL’s Digital Infrastructure, Connecting Assessment and Feedback, and Personal Tutoring. Other key themes include extending UCL’s Global Citizenship opportunities and Liberating the Curriculum. Staff, students and alumni are warmly invited to get involved in these and other activities. Please email ConnectedCurriculum@ucl.ac.uk to add your name to the CC Partners’ newsletter. You’ll hear all about opportunities to get involved and upcoming events.

**UCL Arena**

This is a meeting place for colleagues to share approaches to teaching and learning in our research-intensive university - a conceptual space for debate and exploration. We invite you to come and participate.

As well as coming along to UCL Arena events – Exchange Seminars; Arena Essentials; Summits and Horizons - you can:

- Suggest ideas for – and lead – events on topics of particular interest to you
- Come to ‘Initial Guidance’ and ‘Developing Your Application’ Workshops, for advice on applying for Arena and Higher Education Academy Fellowships,
- Get online - UCL Arena Digital offers opportunities to develop your use of technologies for learning
- Find out about examples and approaches in other departments – the UCL Teaching and Learning Portal is a window on case studies of good practice.

To hear more or get more involved, email arena@ucl.ac.uk to add your name to the list of UCL Arena partners, and to hear more about opportunities and events.

**UCL ChangeMakers**

This initiative, launched in April 2015, aims to empower students not only to have a voice in the affairs of UCL but also to engage as partners in bringing about changes to enhance the quality of their education and the student experience. Pilot ChangeMaker projects are already underway, and showcase events are planned which will disseminate findings and celebrate students’ achievements.

Whether you’re a student with an idea for change, a member of staff who would like to recommend students or partner with them, or one of UCL’s alumni who’d like to contribute, you can find out more and get involved by emailing ChangeMakers@ucl.ac.uk and following us on Twitter: @UCLChangeMakers
Connected Curriculum, UCL Arena and UCL ChangeMakers are all facilitated by CALT, a team of Senior and Principal Teaching Fellows and professional staff based in Torrington Place. We partner with academic and professional colleagues from across UCL to take forward UCL’s vision to be a world-leader in research-based education, aiming to

- ensure that UCL offers the best possible education for its students, by forging creative connections between its research and its education at all levels of the curriculum, and by enabling students to learn through participating in research and collaborative enquiry (see Connected Curriculum);

- provide rich opportunities for all staff who teach, support students’ learning and/or lead on education to develop their academic, professional and leadership practices, and to gain appropriate qualifications and reward (see UCL Arena);

- work with students as partners and ‘agents for change’ through the UCL ChangeMakers initiative;

- influence and contribute to the higher education sector nationally and internationally in relation to the development of research-based higher education, academic practice and academic leadership.

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