

Application form for UCL postgraduate researchers

The Evaluation Exchange is open to applications from any postgraduate researcher at UCL who is keen to expand their skills outside of the university. It is an opportunity for you to enhance your research and evaluation skills - a real world application of your knowledge that can make an actual difference to a voluntary or community sector organisation.

THE EVALUATION EXCHANGE AIMS TO:

1. Increase the capability and confidence of voluntary and community sector organisations to use evaluation processes and tools, that translate into lasting change
2. Enhance the student experience, providing an opportunity for postgraduate students to build and develop their research skills and put their ideas, skills and expertise into practice
3. Increase understanding of the processes of knowledge exchange and collaboration, whilst sharing our learning

The Evaluation Exchange is worth 6 points on the doctoral skills development programme.

HOW WE WORK AND YOUR COMMITMENT

The Evaluation Exchange brings together postgraduate students and researchers who want to put their research and evaluation skills into practice in a real-life setting with voluntary and community sector groups in Newham or Camden who want to improve their capacity to evaluate their work. The Evaluation Exchange is delivered with Compost London and run with Voluntary Action Camden.

After matching your skills and interests with a suitable organisation and a small team of other students and researchers, you will work with them for a period of 6 months, from September/October 2021 – March/April 2022. During this time teams will have contact at least once a month and will work on a specific evaluation task or issue that will be agreed at the start of the project.

We will provide training throughout the programme to help you make the most out of your experience. We will also be on hand to provide ad hoc support and advice throughout the programme.

We ask you to be able to commit to a minimum of two days per month of the six-month project. Depending on if you are matched to an organisation in Camden or Newham, you will need to be able to attend the relevant full day training sessions below:

Groups in Newham: 23 September, 2021, 18 November 2021, 27 January 2022.

Groups in Camden: 14 October 2021, 9 December 2021, 24 February 2022.

We are likely to hold our joint symposium for all participants in April, 2022.

You will need to get approval from your supervisor or line manager to take part in the Evaluation Exchange.

The Evaluation Exchange is part of ISIKLE, a research programme of knowledge exchange activities. All participants will take part in the ISIKLE programme's evaluation. This year's Evaluation Exchange builds on a successful pilot in 2018. We hope the Evaluation Exchange will continue to develop into an ongoing programme.

COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION FORM

A webform and PDF version of this form are also available on our [website](#).

If you are completing this version of the form, please return your completed form to r.unstead-joss@ucl.ac.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please get in touch with Ruth via r.unstead-joss@ucl.ac.uk

1. First name:
2. Surname:
3. Your email:
4. Contact telephone number:
5. Student ID (if known):
6. Department in which you are based:
7. What is your position at UCL? (e.g. postgraduate student):
8. If a research student, what stage of your research are you at? (e.g. data collection, writing up):
9. What is your research topic/area?
10. How would you rate your skills in the following areas? (Please tick the relevant box for each area listed)

	Poor	OK	Good	Excellent
Analysing data				
Engaging sensitively with people from different backgrounds				
Leadership				
Thinking creatively				
Working independently				
Project management				
Social research methods (e.g. observations, interviews)				
Writing Surveys				
Using social media				
Writing reports				
Proofreading				
Team working				

Using databases				
Handling quantitative data				
Problem solving				
Reflective practice				
Critical thinking				

11. What other skills, knowledge or experience do you have that might be relevant for the Evaluation Exchange?

12. What subjects, topics or societal areas are you interested in? (Such as, but not limited to education, health, young people, disability, policy, housing, marketing, justice and inequality etc.?)

We ask all applicants to be very open minded to the type of organisation that you will be matched to and the evaluation challenge that the organisation has. Our understanding of your interests can help inform our matching process, but it is not possible to match you to an organisation based solely on your interest.

13. We'd like to know why you're choosing to participate in the Evaluation Exchange: What do you hope to achieve by taking part in the Evaluation Exchange?

What you write here will be sent back to you later in the process.

14. Where do you think you will be based geographically between September 2021 and April 2022?

(We are aware that travel restrictions may be in place over this period and if so, people may need to participate remotely in the Evaluation Exchange)

15. Are you available for the duration of the programme from September 2021 to April 2022?

Yes / No

16. If no, please let us know why

17. If you are matched to an organisation in Newham, the training dates will be:

23 September 2021, 18 November 2021, 27 January 2022

If you are matched to an organisation in Camden, the training dates will be:

14 October 2021, 9 December 2021, 24 February 2022

Is there any reason why you might not be able to attend any of the dates above?

Yes / No

18. If yes, which dates do you know you would not be able to attend?

23 September (Newham)

14 October (Camden)

18 November (Newham)

9 December (Camden)

27 January (Newham)

24 February (Camden)

19. Please let us know any access requirements

20. To help reduce barriers to participation, please let us know if there is anything else we can do to help you participate. We are keen to create an inclusive environment in which everyone involved is able to contribute and feel valued.

21. The Evaluation Exchange is part of a research study at UCL called ISIKLE, funded by Office for Students Research England. Once you have submitted your application to the Evaluation Exchange, we will contact you about the next steps. We'll retain your details for as long as it is required for the project. We'll take good care of your data – you can see full details in our data protection and privacy policy on our [website](#).

Agree