



## UCL NEUROSCIENCE STUDENT TESTIMONIALS & ADVICE – FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

“My first year at UCL was a very nice experience! The Neuroscience community at UCL is very welcoming and extremely professional. Before coming here, I was scared from not knowing/remembering key facts from high school, but my initial fears faded away as the course started.

We started learning from the very basics, because we all came from a different background: not everyone learnt the same topics in high school, so there was time to fill in the holes in our memory.

The best thing in last year was all the different ways our learning was supported: apart from lectures, tutorials, lab sessions, museum visits, there were many talks by the faculty and special guests, and we could even have a look at some of the labs at UCL.

Long story short: coming to study neuroscience at UCL was one of the best decisions in my life so far.”

***Hannah***

"A piece of advice I would have found useful in my first year of neuroscience would have been this: don't panic! There is a lot of content straight off the bat - don't be put off.

That is one of the reasons why it is so exciting to study neuroscience at UCL: from the moment you start you will be hearing detailed lectures on complicated topics, and the lecturers don't treat you like an idiot.

You are shown information for which there is no textbook with which to easily follow along - it is often based on cutting edge papers and research. While that is very exciting, it does mean it can be a little intimidating to begin with.

My advice would be not to freak out. I can remember sitting through some lectures hardly understanding a word, walking out at the end and despairing.

But slowly, you take the time to read up, to work things out, to truly think about things, and eventually, it becomes clearer to you. And it is so rewarding when you get there.

That is one of the key differences you will find at university - it is down to you to understand things, and while it is more effort, it is infinitely more rewarding.

So - enjoy all the amazing things you are going to learn in your first year, and don't worry if at first it seems like nothing makes sense! I promise you it will, and once it does, you will be all the richer for it.”

***Isaac***

If I was to travel back a year in time, I would tell myself:

1. Don't bother getting an accommodation on campus if you have a home that is within the travel distance to UCL. Schools tend to tell you that by living in accommodation you can make friends more easily, I'd say there was no difference, so why spend the extra money.

Besides your home is so much more comfortable even if you get the nicest en-suite room.

2. Studying in London was harder than I thought because I have to commute a lot everyday. Figuring out your route to uni before fresher's week would have made it easier.

3. It's hard to get decent lunch on campus as the only options are baked good, junk food and sandwiches. Refractory does have good food but also a long queue.

So maybe learn how to make quick bentos e.g. onigiri, gimbap to bring to uni.

4. There's really no need to bring anything from home as you can get everything in London.

5. Don't worry too much about the huge amount of content, they don't expect you to know every detail.

6. If you are an overseas student, try to go home for Christmas. You don't want to spend your New Year in London alone, even if it's a splendid city, unless you are living with close close friends 😊

***Katrina***