

We understand that you will be thinking about what will happen in the new academic year. We are writing with an update on how we are preparing to welcome you to UCL and ensure our campuses are safe.

At UCL, education is about making connections. Connecting with our research and our world-leading staff, connecting across disciplines to challenge your thinking and ideas and connecting with global challenges to prepare you for a great career. These connections are just as important for your learning through the global coronavirus pandemic.

Challenging, adapting and doing things differently have always been the UCL way and will be at the heart of what we do in the 2020-21 academic year. We promise that we will not compromise our academic standards, you will graduate with an excellent degree that is valued around the world and we're working hard to ensure you have a great experience.

Our campus will be open and term will start on 28 September 2020.

Your safety is paramount. We look forward to welcoming you to London if you are able to travel here. We are continuing to follow UK Government guidance, as well as the expertise of our researchers, including specialists in health, education, human behaviour and infection prevention to make sure UCL is as safe as possible. We are introducing a range of measures to protect everyone on campus, including asking people to use face coverings, deep cleaning our buildings and implementing a one-way system onsite. We're also making more soap and hand sanitiser available and encouraging people to check their temperature at least once a day.

As the pandemic progresses, social distancing requirements will guide how much teaching we can deliver in person at any given time. In order to give you the best education, we will support your learning through:

- **High-quality online lectures** to ensure you can get to grips with the material you're working on before you discuss your ideas with your tutors and your peers.
- **Interactive sessions**, online or in person, where you'll be guided and challenged in discussion with peers and experts in your field.
- **Small-group seminars, lab practicals and studio sessions on campus.** Here you will develop your ideas in discussion with others and collaborate to build on your learning. If you aren't able to join us in London immediately, we will provide alternative content so you can achieve the same learning wherever you are in the world.
- **A rich range of course materials in our libraries and online** to support you with independent pre-reading and analysis, developing your skills as an active researcher.
- **Our libraries will be open**, including our Student Centre and learning spaces alongside our huge range of electronic resources (e-resources) to support you in your studies.
- **Many opportunities to pursue your interests outside your programme**, including UCL volunteering and entrepreneurship programmes, and the clubs and societies run by your Students' Union.
- **We are preparing to deliver online enrolment, induction and welcome week** in the autumn.
- **En suite accommodation** will be available with 24-hour onsite staff, increased cleaning and guidance on social distancing, to make sure you are as safe as possible.

We've developed this connected approach to put you in control of your learning: you will have lots of flexibility to shape how and when you learn, and can try out a variety of ways of exploring ideas and concepts, with full support from your tutors and your peers.

Our flexible approach, which will be in place for Term 1, will also allow us to respond to the latest developments and official guidance. We will review our plans as the academic year progresses to ensure you receive the best education and university experience.

Our approach means that even if your arrival on UCL campus is delayed by travel restrictions, you can still join our academic community and commence your education with us, connecting with your tutors and fellow students both inside and outside of the classroom.

Our preparations have been guided by our own UCL Institute of Education, ranked first for education in the world*, so you can be confident that we've drawn on cutting-edge research to help you fulfil your potential over the next year and beyond. We're also ready to connect you with world-leading employers and with UCL's international alumni networks.

If you have any questions, please have a look at our FAQ, alternatively please call us on +44 (0) 208 059 0939. This phone line will be open from Tuesday 2 June 2020, 9am – 5pm (British Summer Time).

We look forward to welcoming you to the UCL community this autumn and rest assured we will do everything in our power to give you an outstanding educational experience and all the benefits of university life.

With very best wishes,

Professor Anthony Smith
Vice-Provost (Education & Student Affairs)

*Source: QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020