



UCL Culture Statement on Human Remains

UCL Culture holds human remains which have been collected to support teaching and research at the University since its foundation in 1828. Some of these collections are now important historical collections in their own right, at the heart of public museums, while others continue to contribute to diverse and dynamic programmes of object based learning.

UCL Culture uses the term human remains, in line with The Human Tissue Act 2004, and DCMS 2005 Guidance for the Care of Human Remains in Museums; to mean the bodies, and parts of bodies, of once living people from the species *Homo sapiens*, including osteological material (whole or part skeletons, individual bones or fragments of bone and teeth), soft tissue including organs and skin, embryos and slide preparations of human tissue. UCL Culture holds a Public Display Licence awarded by the Human Tissue Authority, the public body that regulates the use of human remains under 100 years old in the UK. The Licence is a legal document that allows us to display and store recent human remains, and also to facilitate their use in teaching for students who are not studying for medical degrees.

UCL Culture staff collaborate with individual researchers and larger departments to run exhibitions and events where human remains maybe displayed for research, education and inspiration. In addition to maintaining professional standards of collections care and sensitive management of such material, we are committed to engage with ethical issues. We believe that the collections we work with are held in trust for future generations and our work is to make them useful and meaningful to wide audiences. We are aware that human remains have the capacity to evoke powerful reactions from our audiences, and that this experience may be challenging for some. UCL Culture is committed to an open and transparent conversation about how and why we use human remains in research, education and public engagement at UCL.