UCL Student Journalist Scheme

The VPEE Student Journalism Scheme is a programme from UCL's Central Communications Team that fits around your studies and allows you to upskill in writing and people management. The scheme will run until September 2024.

We are recruiting five paid Student Journalists (alongside 25 Content Writers) for the scheme. The Student Journalists will manage five Content Writers each. It is a paid opportunity and is open to all UCL students (from first-year undergraduates to PhD students) on all courses.

The Student Journalist's role

You will be trained by our team to be able to pitch and write as well as brief and manage the Content Writers pool. By the end of the programme, you will have a portfolio of articles for UCL Student News, which you will be paid for, and you will have completed training in key aspects of journalism.

You will meet the rest of your cohort as well as the Social Media Content Creators to discuss the scheme, how you would like to collaborate and to get to know each other.

On completion of the programme, you will have a portfolio of written articles, a written reference from the UCL Student Communications Team that you can use in future job applications, experience collaborating across teams and experience managing a team.

Training

Successful applicants are required to complete training to become a Student Journalists. This training is compulsory and paid at the current hourly rate (see below). You will also be assigned a key contact from our Central Communications Team who will support you in your role.

Payment

On the VPEE Student Journalism Scheme, you will be paid as a causal worker. You will be paid £13.53 per hour of work completed. It is expected that an approximately 500-word article will take 5-6 hours and a 750-word article will take 7-8 hours. Payment is made one month in arrears on the last working day of the month and is administered by Unitemps. For every hour that you work you will accrue £2.53 holiday pay. Details of how to claim payment will be given to you during the introductory session.

Timescale and hours

Students on the VPEE Student Journalism Scheme are current UCL students that are employed on a zero-hour contract to write articles for UCL channels and manage the Content Writers.

On this scheme, writing articles and briefing others will be the bulk of the role.

There is no minimum time commitment on the scheme, but you will be expected to pitch and write 1-2 articles a term, attend training and manage five Content Writers' work.

If you are a Tier four/Student visa holder, [please click here for more information](#) on the hours you are allowed to work per week.

How to apply

We are looking for great writers who are curious about what's happening at UCL, want to improve their journalism skills and get paid for doing so.

If you wish to apply, please complete the following two tasks:

1 – List three topics you would enjoy writing about that will also be relevant for the UCL student audience.

2 – Write a one paragraph response to the following message from the UCL Central Communications Team. Also write the title and subheading for the article.

> *"Hello Student Journalists!*
>
> *We are looking for content based one of the following:*
>
> *Disagreeing Well in Higher Education - https://www.ucl.ac.uk/events/events/2023/nov/disagreeing-well-higher-education*
>
> *Content about living in London*
>
> *Content about student wellbeing*
>
> *Can you please give us an idea of which one you would like to write about and give a brief rundown of the content. Thanks!"*

Please keep in mind:

- the piece needs to be relevant in some way to UCL
- your audience is UCL students
- it needs to be timely and topical
- include who you would approach for interview.

Please send your response to studentcommunications@ucl.ac.uk

Deadline: 11.59pm Sunday 29 October 2023.

If you have any questions, please email studentcommunications@ucl.ac.uk.

Successful students will be required to work within VPEE's Code of Conduct, which requires students to work collaboratively with the VPEE Comms Team, listening to and creating content that meets their briefs and expectations, and meeting the deadlines set by the Communications team.