

UCL VPEE Student Journalism Scheme – CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

The VPEE Student Journalism Scheme is a new **one-year journalism training programme from UCL's central communications team** that fits around your studies.

It is open to all UCL students (from first-year undergraduates to PhD students) on all courses.

The programme

Each term, you will focus on a different aspect of journalism, giving you a chance to train in a range of skills that are essential for a career as a journalist.

By the end of the programme, you will have a portfolio of articles for UCL News, which you will be paid for, and you will have undertaken training and Masterclasses in key aspects of journalism.

Introductory session:

Meet the rest of your cohort to discuss the training programme and get to know each other (on Teams).

Term One: Pitching and getting commissioned

Pitching is the backbone of journalism. Whether you're in-house or a freelancer, pitching skills are all-important. You are going to need to advocate for why your articles should be written.

You'll also accept commissions and carry them out so that they fulfil the brief set by your editors.

Includes:

- Learning how to hone your article pitches by developing a strong news sense and understanding what's involved in a successful story
- Honing your skills so you're pitching articles that are newsworthy, timely and relevant to UCL
- Following through with commissions to write (paid) articles for UCL Student News and other UCL channels
- A Masterclass on an aspect of journalism from a professional journalist and/or members of UCL's Media Relations Team

Term Two: Reporting, interviewing and writing

Reporting, interviewing and writing are at the heart of any good journalist's toolbox. As a journalist, you need to confidently set down what you have witnessed in words, knowing what needs to go in – and what to leave out.

You also need to be an effective interviewer. Who should you interview, what questions do you ask them, and how do you turn a transcript into a great article?

Writing is a journalist's fundamental skill. The more fluent you are as a writer, the better, but it's a craft that can always be improved on.

Writing combines the skills of reporting and interviewing with a sense of style and an awareness of audience. In this term, we look at how you can write the best possible articles.

Includes:

- You will continue to pitch and be commissioned to write UCL Student News stories – these might be features, or reports on events happening at UCL, interviews, and more.
- You will hone your reporting skills – learn how to gather information, talk to key people, follow up story leads, and plan and shape an article.
- You will practice writing from a strong news angle and writing from a human-interest angle.
- You will learn UCL's house style, including creating headlines and standfirsts.
- A Masterclass on an aspect of journalism from a professional journalist and/or members of UCL's Media Relations Team

Term Three: Editing

Whether or not you dream of editing other people's copy, you still need to be able to brilliantly edit your own. Nothing is more appreciated by an editor than a journalist who sends them clean, precise copy.

You will have hands-on editing help so you can organise your own writing better. You will learn to create a clear through-line in an article, to structure your work better, and to know what can be cut.

Includes:

- In-depth edits and editing advice from the UCL Student Journalism Programme team.

- You will practice editing your own articles to make them more concise and engaging.
- You will bring together all the skills you've learnt over the past year to pitch, write and edit your own exemplary stories for UCL Student News and other UCL channels.
- A Masterclass on an aspect of journalism from a professional journalist and/or members of UCL's Media Relations Team

On completion of the programme:

You will have a portfolio of written articles, and a written reference from the UCL Student Journalism Programme Team that you can use in future job applications.

Payment

On the VPEE Student Journalism Scheme, you will be paid as a casual worker. You will be paid £11.55 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 £2.23 holiday pay.

Details of how to claim payment will be given to you during the introductory session.

Timescale & Hours

Students on the VPEE Student Journalism Scheme are current UCL students employed on a zero-hour contract to write articles for UCL channels through VPEE.

On this scheme, writing articles represent 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 and attend 1-2 Masterclasses a term.

If you are a Tier 4/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 journalism task:

You are responding to a call for pitches for articles to be published on UCL News in December 2022. Please send in a pitch for a piece you would write for this.

You need to bear in mind:

- The piece needs to be relevant in some way to UCL
- It needs to be timely and topical
- Include who you would approach for interview for this piece.

Where to apply: Please send your finished pitch to Eli Lee, Communications Manager, VPEE, at eli.lee@ucl.ac.uk

Deadline for entry: Monday 7 November 2022

Email eli.lee@ucl.ac.uk with any questions regarding the scheme.

The same code of conduct applies for this scheme as for those who are VPEE Student Ambassadors. It is important that students 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.