What is UCL Horizons?

UCL Horizons is a free two-year Saturday programme for GCSE students, incorporating 20 sessions (2017–19) and a summer school at UCL in Summer 2018.

UCL Horizons:

- Supports students with attainment and ensures they remain on track to achieve their full potential at GCSE level.
- Introduces students to exciting new areas of learning and teaches them new skills.
- Provides valuable experience and guidance for further and higher education.
- Offers access to learning and teaching from people who work, study and teach at one of the world’s very best universities!
- Provides students with the opportunity to meet other young people from across London and the South East and make new friends.
The programme

Students have the opportunity to work with UCL students and staff to develop their academic skills and ensure they remain on track to achieve grades 7-9 or A* and A grades in their GCSEs.

The Year 10 programme will run every other Saturday from October 2017–March 2018, followed by an academic enrichment summer school, and has been designed to work over three phases (see right).

The Year 11 programme runs in two phases, during Autumn 2018, and Spring 2019, with the option to undertake an additional programme in Summer 2019 (see following page).

Academic skills

Students will be able to develop their study skills via a series of workshops and group sessions. Students will also be given homework to help them put theory into practice and receive regular feedback along the way from our trained UCL student ambassadors.

Debating and Public Speaking

Students work in small groups over the duration of phase two to develop their public speaking skills, culminating in a debating competition judged by debating experts. Homework during this phase involves working on a group project.

Academic enrichment Summer School

Students will have the opportunity to experience life as a UCL student, attending both Arts & Humanities and Science sessions and completing a group project. The summer school will be offered to 100 existing Horizons participants and will include a mixture of interactive workshops and lectures to help students explore a range of university degree subjects and develop their study skills.

Autumn 2017

Spring 2018

Summer 2018
Year 11 Residential Summer School

This four-day residential summer school will provide students with a real taste of life as a university student at UCL. The programme will consist of a mixture of lectures, workshops and tutorials covering a wide range of academic subjects offered at UCL.

Students work in groups to complete a project across the week and are supported by current UCL student ambassadors. The summer school will be offered to 100 participants attending schools all across the UK — it is a great opportunity for students to meet new people and make new friends. As this is a residential summer school, all students will be provided with accommodation at UCL Halls of Residences for the programme’s duration.

Year 11 Young Researchers Programme

This programme gives students the opportunity to attend an academic course over four weeks throughout the summer (one two-hour session per week). Students will be split into small research groups of 15 students from schools across London and the South East and each academic tutorial will be led by a current UCL PhD student.

This approach gives students the experience of studying a subject in depth, whilst developing independent research and academic writing skills. The programme culminates with students writing an academic research piece, which could be used to support their application to university.

Next Steps

With sessions led by experts in the higher education field, students will explore their next steps, such as choosing A-levels wisely, finding work experience opportunities, revision techniques and time management. There will be no homework elements for this phase of the programme.

Careers conference and revision courses

Students will get to meet employers from a wide range of sectors to explore different pathways into professions and get support with CV and job hunting preparation as part of the annual UCL Horizons careers conference. This phase also incorporates GCSE revision sessions covering Mathematics, English and the sciences. There will be no homework elements for this phase of the programme.

Summer programmes (optional)

Horizons participants will be guaranteed a place on one of the Year 11 summer programmes taking place at UCL. All students will need to complete a new application form and can choose to apply for a place on both summer programmes, but will only be offered a place on one. There will be a particular priority on the Year 11 Young Researchers programme.

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Autumn 2018 Spring 2019 Summer 2019
Who can apply?

UCL Horizons is for Year 10 students who attend a non-selective state school in the UK, will be the first generation in their family to attend university (neither parent went to university) and expect to achieve five or more grades 7–9 or A* and A grades at GCSE.

Priority will be given to students who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Come from neighbourhoods with low overall progression rates to higher education;
- Are in, or have lived under, local authority care;
- Have parents from non-professional occupations;
- Are currently eligible for free school meals;
- Are from an ethnic group underrepresented at UCL (currently Black African or Black Caribbean);
- Are interested, motivated, and able to commit fully to the Horizons programme.

The basics

- UCL Horizons Saturdays run from 9:30am–3:00pm, with lunch provided.
- There is some homework during Year 10, to give students the opportunity to practise skills and receive feedback, but this will be manageable around school studies and other commitments.
- The programme takes place at UCL’s Bloomsbury campus in central London. UCL is within walking distance of Euston, Kings Cross and St Pancras station and is served by many bus routes.
- Students will experience large lectures as part of the programme but will predominantly work in groups of 20, supported by a group of trained undergraduate UCL student ambassadors and the Programme Co-ordinator.
How to apply
Interested students should complete the online student application form via our website:
www.ucl.ac.uk/wp/horizons
Students must ensure that their parent/guardian completes the parental consent section. When the form is submitted, the applicant will receive a weblink by email to forward to their teacher so that he/she can provide a teacher reference. We cannot accept applications without parental consent and teacher references.
We must receive the completed application, including the teacher reference, by Monday, 25 September 2017. Any applications received after this date will not be accepted.

What happens next?
125 students will be selected by the UCL Widening Participation and UK Undergraduate Recruitment team, and decisions will be sent no later than Friday, 6 October 2017 to students and parents.
If the application is successful, the student will be invited to a Parent and Students Information Evening. UCL staff will answer any questions and students will receive all the practical information that they need to be involved in the programme. All information will be emailed to students as well.
The first full day of the programme will be Saturday, 14 October 2017.
Further information

If you have any questions, please contact:

Felicity Hayter-Gare
Access Officer (Pre-16)
UCL Widening Participation and
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