Uni-Link
2016-18 Parent and Guardians’ Guide
What is Uni-Link?

Uni-Link participants are linked with a department or faculty at UCL, related to the degree they would like to study at university and attend a series of subject-specific events across their final two years of secondary study. Participants have the opportunity to experience university life and study, and meet university students, academics and support staff along the way.

The Uni-Link programme builds in time for participants to prepare for exams with approximately one event per month during year 12, breaks during key exam periods, and fewer events in year 13. Events and activities vary, however all are designed to support critical aspects of a participant’s progression into study at a world-class university.

Uni-Link events take place on and off campus, and UCL offers financial assistance for student travel costs to and from events (see page 11 for more information). Attendance at Uni-Link events is free of charge and most events include complimentary lunch and/or refreshments. Some events are also open to parents and guardians, so you’ll also have the chance to get involved the Uni-Link programme too.

Uni-Link can be challenging, but is equally rewarding, and the Uni-Link team is here to provide additional advice and support throughout the journey. You are welcome to contact the team (see page 11 for details) with any questions or concerns you may have about the programme.

Key benefits

- The programme is designed to provide guidance about, and an insight into, university life and study, while offering activities and events to enrich participants’ skills and experiences.
- Participants will have a clearer and more coherent understanding about what they want to study at university and what career path they would like to take, by the time they complete the programme.
- Meeting different students from different schools, getting involved with academics and engaging with current UCL students also helps to boost participants’ confidence.
Commitment / 

Commitment to the programme is vital. Attending events and activities ensures every Uni-Link participant gets the most out of their programme. Uni-Link participants are required to attend events roughly once a month during term time in year 12. These events may take place on weekdays or weekends. We try to limit events during exam periods.

All participants must be released from school to attend Uni-Link events and teachers will be aware of this. We also require notice when participants need to miss events. Participants who consistently miss events may be removed from Uni-Link (in rare cases).

It is recommended that parents/guardians help participants manage their commitments and particularly, help them to avoid committing to a number of programmes during this busy time.

Uni-Link stories /

“I took a year out to gain work experience and travel a bit. I’ll be starting Chemical Engineering at UCL this summer. It’s funny because had I not been a part of the Uni-Link programme, I wouldn’t of (sic) realised I loved chemical engineering - I instantly felt that UCL was the place for me.”

Joseph Simeon
Former Uni-Link participant

“Uni-Link really helped me enhance my CV and the lectures and workshops gave me great cultural and commercial awareness which was invaluable for interviews. I’m currently studying Law at Warwick University and the support from Uni-Link was the foundation to me securing internships at Rothschild, Lloyds, The Economist and Baker & McKenzie. I’m also working as Campus Ambassador for Ashurt and Deutsche as well as part-time work within my SU — Uni-Link gave me the confidence to do so.”

Nahim Miah
Former Uni-Link participant
The Uni-Link programme /

**Uni-Link Launch**
Participants kick off their Uni-Link experience and find out all they need to know about the journey ahead.

**Explore UCL Day**
A taster session led by our academics and PhD students, and opportunity to explore the campus and interact with our student ambassadors.

**Team-Building Day**
It’s time for some fun and exciting team building activities.

**Subject Masterclass**
A masterclass to delve more into their chosen courses.

**Student Finance Presentation**
A session to find out more about finance and settle a plan to pay for university study.

**e-mentoring**
Participants become paired with e-mentors and begin asking them questions about university.

**Careers Day**
A chance to learn more about prospective careers in a chosen field and how university study fits in to a participant’s career plans.

**Summer School**
A three day non-residential summer school where participants have the opportunity to work on a short project in their course areas.

**Personal Statement Workshops**
A chance to find out how to write a winning personal statement as well as UCAS application information.

**Graduation**
It’s been a long journey and this will be Uni-Link participants’ opportunity to let their hair down and celebrate their success.

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Expenses /  
Uni-Link participants can claim back any additional travel costs incurred when attending a Uni-Link event. Participants will not be able to claim travel costs to non Uni-Link events that they choose to attend independently.

Staying informed /  
All participants receive a Uni-Link electronic newsletter approximately once a month. The newsletter includes details about upcoming Uni-Link events and activities, as well as other relevant UCL events. The newsletter also includes student support information throughout the key touchpoints of years 12 and 13.

Contacts /  
The Uni-Link team is here to support both participants and parents along the way.
You can stay in touch during the programme via the following channels:
Questions about Uni-Link  
Uni-Link@ucl.ac.uk  
+44 (0)20 3108 7679  
Our website  
www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/widening-participation/activities/uni-link  
Follow us on Twitter  
@UCL_UniLink
About the Uni-Link programme with UCL is a choice to get to more know about university with one of the world’s leading universities.

Founded in 1826, UCL’s pioneering vision, led by its spiritual founder Jeremy Bentham, was to ensure that everybody could access higher education. Today, UCL is among the world’s best, and leading the way in London for its multidisciplinary nature.

Find out more about UCL at: www.ucl.ac.uk/about-ucl

UCL by numbers

- UCL has 840 professors and more than 6,000 academic and research staff who are dedicated to research and teaching of the highest standards (HESA 2013).
- Students from 150 countries study at UCL, making up more than one-third of the student body.
- UCL’s academic structure consists of 11 faculties, each home to world-leading research, teaching and learning in a wide-ranging variety of fields.
- At 1:10, UCL has the lowest academic to student ratio in the UK, enabling small class sizes and outstanding individual support (Times 2013).

7th among the world’s top 10 universities (2015/16 QS World University Rankings)
Advice and resources

The following advice can be passed on to help students prepare for university.

// Plan ahead – Help your child plan from month to month this will ensure all university processes are covered.

// Research – In addition to the Uni-Link events we will also send information about other UCL events. Visiting a number of university open days also allows both parents/guardians and students a chance to see how universities differ.

// Commitment - Please ensure your child fully commits to the programme so they can get the most out of it. It is strongly advisable to avoid overcommitting to similar programmes where possible.

// Study Skills – Ensure your child is well prepared and they know the dos and don’ts of how to study effectively to achieve optimum results.

// Encourage progression – A level studies can be tough and exhausting, it is important to encourage and push your child to achieve the best of their ability while ensuring that they also have time to rest too.

// Finance – Make sure your child understands the financial implications of studying at university. Do they need to get a student friendly bank account? What about a student rail card?

Online resources

www.ucl.ac.uk/srs/parents - Information for parents and guardians from UCL.

www.ucas.com – There is a section for parents (visit this site and search for ‘Parent Information Tool’) to help you support your son or daughter throughout the application cycle.

www.parentadviser.co.uk - Parent Adviser provides useful, up to date advice for parents about the career options available to their children.

www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes - Student finance myths explained.