



Slade Operating Model 2021/22

Though there is still some uncertainty about how the coronavirus pandemic will continue to affect us all, we are planning an exciting academic year for you and I wanted to share some of the details. This email sets out how we plan to operate next year; please bear in mind that this may be subject to change as Covid regulations are updated.

This document is long and contains lots of information. We recognize that this may not be the most accessible format for some students, and is likely to prompt questions. Therefore, we shall read the document live over Teams, and then take questions 9.00am-10.00am (BST) on Friday, 9th July. If you wish to join, here is the link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NWJkMjM2YzktYzA0MC00YmMzLWExMzktZjVjYWRjZTcyZWE0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221faf88fe-a998-4c5b-93c9-210a11d9a5c2%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2276a5e1f7-d745-441b-ad3b-944ef34e8916%22%7d

A recording of the live reading will then be made available and a summary of the Q&A provided.

UCL Plans for Teaching and Learning

UCL education in 2021-22 will be campus based, as UCL strongly believes in the benefits of attending university in person. The last year has taught us a lot about how to support our students' academic progress with digital technology and some students have told us that they have enjoyed the flexibility of online lectures and having access to content and activities that they can work through at their own pace. Learning in this way also prepares our students for the increasingly digital-first environment that students will encounter after graduation. However, students and staff alike agree that meaningful face to face education is the priority, so that they can interact more easily with fellow students and teachers and be part of a community that is alive with research and academic scholarship.

UCL-Wide Information

As UCL has previously announced (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/academic-support/your-ucl-education/your-ucl-education-202122-academic-year>), and in line with most UK universities, most programmes will be a blend of in person and online teaching and learning, designed to support students to progress and succeed academically. The 'blended by design' approach responds to the feedback of students – and builds on the continuous refinement of UCL education over the last year.

Across UCL, most small group teaching - including seminars, workshops, laboratory - will be in person and most of your large group teaching will be online. Most of your written assessments will also be completed online on our bespoke assessment platform or our learning platform, Moodle. Programmes with practice based or professional accreditation requirements may also include on-campus assessments - please continue reading for details.

We will write to you in August with updated details about your programme and again in early September.

Our students and staff place value on in-person interaction with fellow students in and outside their academic programme, and you will have many opportunities for informal learning, networking and connecting with your fellow students, on campus and online. The Students' Union is arranging a comprehensive programme of in-person events for the new term, including all of our club and society activity. In addition, we have been working closely with UCL Libraries to make sure you have good study facilities on campus and the physical and digital materials you need for independent study and analysis, developing your skills as an active researcher.

Slade-Specific Information

At the Slade, the physical space (studios and workshops) is connected with the teaching (tutorials, seminars, crits). Studio space at the Slade will be allocated on an operational basis in line with UCL's and the Department's Health & Safety requirements.

Building Operations

The Slade's planning is centred around the following four principles:

- 1) Ensuring staff and students remain safe, can work/study safely and are provided with appropriate support;
- 2) Ensuring we can offer an exciting and enriching program of study for all;
- 3) Ensuring we do our best to continue operations, activities and support our community in challenging circumstances;
- 4) Ensuring we carefully plan changes to accommodation and communicate these changes in a clear and timely fashion.

During academic year 2020-21 we operated at a reduced (scheduled) occupancy of our buildings in line with guidance on social distancing. We hope to ease these arrangements in 2021-22 but a final decision on building occupancies cannot be made at this stage. We will continue to review this over the summer and will update you on our arrangements before the new academic year begins.

Building Opening Hours

- We intend to move to a standard for opening hours across all our buildings.
- Opening times will be confirmed once UCL has completed its room allocation process later in the summer.

Technical Facilities

- Access to technical areas, equipment, tools and face-to-face inductions can be booked through our online booking system (SISO)
- Inductions will be required to access technical facilities, equipment and processes, some of which can be completed remotely while others require face-to-face instruction and demonstration
- Occupancy in technical areas will be capped (maximum numbers will be reviewed at regular intervals)

Final Show (for 2021/22 Final Year Students)

We aim to offer a complete face-to-face show experience in 2021/22 and to open our summer shows to the public. This will be subject to the Covid guidelines at the time and we will continue to review and update this as appropriate.

Fire Safety Works

Phased building works will take place in the main building (Slade North Wing). This is part of life safety systems work to install a sprinkler system in the Slade building. As part of this, the Slade plans that:

- Works, and temporary studio relocations will be planned and described with as much notice as possible;
- Works will be scheduled with appropriate contingency time to avoid delays to published completion dates;
- Porterage and moving arrangements will be scheduled in advance of all relocations;
- Further information about these works will be provided in August.

Student Study Plans

Whilst we expect that students will be on campus and engaging in studio activity as much as possible, we are looking at contingencies for those who may be unable to for short periods of time, especially international students who may not be able to travel here for the start of term. If students have specific needs, we will aim to develop work plan options to support individuals.

As with 2020/21, the operations will be subject to continual review, with the Slade Status tool updated to reflect new developments. The Slade Status tool helps to explain the actions we will take should circumstances change. It describes our arrangements for the start of the term and what changes might occur if restrictions increase or relax.

Term One Teaching

The following table outlines our current plans for the 2021/22 academic year. These are subject to confirmed space allocation once UCL has completed its room allocation process later in the summer. Please bear in mind that individual staff members or groups of students may need to shield or isolate and this could change the planned teaching delivery.

Teaching Type	Level	Description
One-to-One Tutorials (including History and Theory of Art and Critical Studies tutorials)	BA/BFA	These will normally be conducted face-to-face, except where individual circumstances prevent this.
	MA/MFA	These will normally be conducted face-to-face, except where individual circumstances prevent this. Graduate <i>diagnostic</i> tutorials will take place online.
Group Tutorials	BA/BFA	Tutor group meetings will normally take place face-to-face, except where individual circumstances prevent this.

	MA/MFA	Tutor group meetings will normally take place face-to-face, except where individual circumstances prevent this.
History and Theory of Art Lectures and Seminars (including BA/BFA1 Core Course)	BA	Years 1 and 2 History and Theory of Art will be a blend of face-to-face and online lectures and seminars.
	MA	Years 1 and 2 History and Theory of Art will be a blend of face-to-face and online seminars.
Critical Studies	BFA	Years 1, 2 and 3 Critical Studies will be a blend of face-to-face and online lectures, seminars and workshops. Critical Studies Presentations will be held online.
	MFA	Critical Studies Presentations will be held online.
Area Critiques (Crits)	BA/BFA	<i>Information about Crits will be provided as soon as we can.</i>
	MA/MFA	<i>Information about Crits will be provided as soon as we can.</i>
Whole School Events	BA/BFA	Large events such as Contemporary Art Lectures (CALs), Staff Talks and Lunchtime Lectures will take place online.
	MA/MFA	Large events such as Contemporary Art Lectures (CALs), Staff Talks and Lunchtime Lectures will take place online.
	MPhil/PhD	Large events such as Contemporary Art Lectures (CALs), Staff Talks and Lunchtime Lectures will take place online.
Across School Seminars (2.00pm-5.00pm on Mondays and Fridays)	BA/BFA	Across School Seminars will take place online.
	MA/MFA	Across School Seminars will take place online.
	MPhil/PhD	Across School Seminars will take place online.
PGR Supervision	MPhil/PhD	PGR Supervision will take place either face-to-face or online
Fora	MPhil/PhD	The PhD Fora will take place online.
Upgrade Workshops	MPhil/PhD	Upgrade Workshops will normally take place face-to-face, except where individual circumstances prevent this.

	BA/BFA	All meetings and committees will take place online
Meetings and Committees	MA/MFA	All meetings and committees will take place online
	MPhil/PhD	All meetings and committees will take place online

Term One begins on 27th September 2021. Induction Activities begin on 27th September and teaching formally starts on 4th October.

We are planning for our campus to be open to all students for the start of the new academic year. We expect you to come to campus for face-to-face teaching and it will not be possible to study entirely online.

As there may be continuing coronavirus travel restrictions in some countries at the beginning of term, we have planned to minimize possible disruption by running department induction meetings online. Workshop inductions will take place in small groups, face-to-face.

International Students

Please ensure that you plan your arrival in the UK so that you can attend your on-campus activities.

Currently, everyone planning to travel to the UK, whether vaccinated or not, must still follow the traffic light system of rules(<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/international-students/orientation-and-entering-england/preparing-arrive-england-travel-advice>). We are continuing to develop our support package for international students, but we can confirm that if you are an international student joining us for Term One from a country where hotel quarantine in the UK is required, you will be able to apply for a means-tested financial contribution towards your quarantine costs. In addition, students who are in quarantine or are self-isolating will have remote access to our support and wellbeing service, while students in UCL student accommodation will receive assistance from the student residences team.

UCL's International Student Support webpages (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/international-students/orientation-information/preparing-arrive-england-travel-advice>) have more information on the advice and support available as you prepare to arrive to London, as well as orientation activities (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/international-students/orientation-and-entering-england>) available to you as a new or returning international student. The traffic light system is likely to change before September and we will update you as soon as possible.

International students at UCL on all visas and of all nationalities will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Students who have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine overseas that is also available in the UK should receive the same vaccine for their second dose here. Students who have received the first dose of a vaccine not available in the UK should contact a GP (doctor) surgery when they arrive and inform them which vaccination they received as early as possible. If the vaccine they received for their first dose is not available in the UK, the most similar alternative should be offered.

Students who have not received any COVID-19 vaccine dose before arriving in the UK are eligible to be vaccinated here and must register with a GP as soon as possible. This guidance is likely to be updated nearer to the start of term and updates will be provided in future communications. Find out

more about student vaccinations (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/support-and-wellbeing/health-care/vaccinations>).

We recognise that some students may not be able to join us in London at the very start of the year, because of continuing coronavirus travel restrictions. If this affects you, we will support you as best we can to start your UCL studies remotely for a short period of time until you are able to join us in person.

Please note that current UK Government guidelines state that if you are a returning student cannot travel to the UK before 27 September, your existing Tier 4/Student Visa will become invalid. If you can travel to the UK at a later date, you will be required to apply for a new Tier 4/Student Visa. Find out more about student visas on our website (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/immigration-and-visas/student-visas>).

Joining UCL for the first time or joining us in person for the first time

From now until the start of the academic year, look out for regular emails from the UCL Welcome team, which will guide you through the process of becoming a UCL student, including enrolment, visas, fees and funding, accommodation, getting to know UCL and our great city, making the most of all the opportunities there are to develop your networks, skills and interests.

Your safety

Our blended model of education will help us adapt through the coronavirus pandemic. By conducting most large group teaching online and limiting some class sizes, we are confident we can continue some interactive face to face learning, even if social distancing is required at some point in the year.

A resurgence of coronavirus is always a possibility at some point in the next academic year. However, we have robust contingency plans, based on our experience and the resources we developed this year, and we are confident that you will be able to engage with your education with us whatever the circumstances.

Find out more about the safety measures we're putting in place on campus and what you can do to help keep our community safe (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/coronavirus/keeping-safe-campus>).