Solving everyday challenges for people with disabilities

Teams of UCL students are designing and building a variety of assistive technology equipment to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities in London.

Project Impactive is an umbrella for teams of UCL students who design and build customised equipment and accessories that increase the independence of people with disabilities across London.

Since its foundation in 2016, the project has had 30–40 volunteers each year, who have since delivered more than 20 items of bespoke assistive technology equipment. They include: a device that can activate the pedals of a piano for a wheelchair-bound person; an adapted exercise frame for someone with repetitive strain injury; and a camera holder for someone born with no fingers on her left hand (pictured).

Challenging racial inequality and hierarchy at UCL and beyond

The Sarah Parker Remond Centre was established at UCL in 2019 to harness expertise and experience from across the university in the critical study of race, as well as the history, theory and politics of racism and its effects.

“We want it to become a hub for radical scholarship and engaged thinking.”

Professor Paul Gilroy, Director of the UCL Sarah Parker Remond Centre

The centre focuses on the research of race and the history, theory and politics of racism. It was established in response to student-led demands for changes to the curriculum that acknowledge the colonial and imperial histories of UCL, London and the UK.

“We want it to become a hub for radical scholarship and engaged thinking, drawing in scholars, activists, policy-makers and students from across UCL, London and beyond,” says Professor Paul Gilroy, the centre’s inaugural director.

Helping to achieve Target 10.3

Improving access to life-changing assistive technologies

Almost a billion people around the world need assistive technology (AT). Wheelchairs, prosthetics, hearing aids, glasses and digital technologies are critical in enabling equal access to employment, education and independence for people with disabilities.
The UCL-based Global Disability Innovation (GDI) Hub is leading AT2030, a £20 million UK aid-funded programme to test ‘what works’ in getting access to AT for millions of people worldwide. The GDI Hub is working in partnership with UN agencies, global academic institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), bringing together partners who have not traditionally worked in AT with those who have to test new ideas with users, experts and innovators.

Testing community-led, systems-focused and market-driven approaches in more than 35 countries, AT2030 is supporting innovations and entrepreneurs, field-testing solutions, influencing policymaking, and exploring new ways to deliver AT.

For example, the GDI Hub is developing a new model for wheelchair provision in Kenya in collaboration with Motivation, an NGO that aims to change the way wheelchairs are provided around the world.

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**Building a more equal and inclusive society in the UK**

A five-year review, commissioned by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, will build a comprehensive and coherent picture of which inequalities matter to people and why, what causes them and what we can do about them.

Members of UCL Economics joined other world-leading experts in sociology, epidemiology, political science, philosophy and economics on a panel overseeing the project.

The review aims to understand and report on the inequality of income, but also of health, gender, place and political participation. A large team of experts will look at a range of policy areas, from taxes and benefits to trade policy, education, the labour market, competition and regulation.

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**Charter mark recognises UCL’s commitment to race equality**

UCL’s ‘Bronze’ award from the national Race Equality Charter (REC) scheme was renewed in 2020 for a further five years. In 2015, it was one of just eight institutions to receive ‘Bronze’. REC provides a framework through which institutions work to identify and self-reflect on institutional and cultural barriers standing in the way of black, Asian and minority ethnic staff and students and seek to improve their representation, progression and success.

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### Taught modules at UCL supporting SDG10 in 2021–22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UCL faculty</th>
<th>Number of modules</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematical &amp; Physical Sciences</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social &amp; Historical Sciences</td>
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Source: PPMI, a partner in the UN AI Lab – more details in the methodology.
“We will draw on expertise from across the social sciences to piece together what is going on and provide recommendations for policy changes to ensure everyone is better off in future,” says Professor Sir Richard Blundell, one of the UCL economists on the panel.

5,698
SDG10-related policy citations in 2016–20
Source: Overton – see methodology

24.7%
of UCL’s SDG10-related publications are in the top 10% most cited for all research of similar papers in 2016–20
Source: Scopus and Clarivate – see methodology

52.8%
of UCL’s SDG10-related research publications are international collaborations, 2016–20
Source: Scopus and Clarivate – see methodology

DISCOVER MORE
Read more on these activities and other examples of how UCL is helping to achieve SDG10 are on the UCL SDGs Initiative website.