

## **UCL 200 Artist in Residence Student Community Brief**

### **About UCL200**

2026 is the year in which we mark 200 years since UCL's establishment as the first University in London. The ambition of the bicentenary is to celebrate and reinforce UCL's founding values, to highlight the excellence and impact of UCL's groundbreaking work, and to present an ambitious and inspiring portrait of our future. As well as reflecting on our past, we will use the bicentenary year to frame the future, to position ourselves as a forward-facing university and to convey the type of organisation we will become during our third century.

Alongside works on campus, staff and student activity, event, and publications - Public Art is one of the key activities in the bicentenary celebrations. The UCL200 celebrations offer us, the UCL community, a unique opportunity to invite artists to work with us, our complex communities from academic staff, students, professional service teams at the university and our vitally important local neighbours. As we re-visit our history and consider our future in the run up to and through the celebration year with a view to creating artworks that reflect the legacy of the University for the next 200 years.

Public Art will play a significant role in preparing and signposting UCL for its next 200 years a permanent Legacy artwork for one of UCL's campuses signposting the vision for the future whilst three artists in residence will explore, celebrate, and challenge the culture of the institution at this important moment in its history. These artists will be appointed with three key areas of focus; UCL's Student Community in partnership with UCLSU, UCL's new East campus and UCL's historic Bloomsbury campus.

### **UCL Student Community Artist in Residence (AiR)**

The artist in residence in partnership with the UCL Students Union will embed themselves within the UCL student body and alumni engaging with its community and using it as a tool to understand the student's key drivers which they identify with beyond their academic journey.

Using these learnings to create an artwork or intervention which benefits the Student Community, rather than interrogate UCL's past it will look optimistically to the future of UCL's student journey. The student community is central to the work of the University; its teaching and learning. It is crucial that we reach and engage them. This residency will look to an artist or collective to position themselves at UCL to be relevant and encourage engagement from the complex and diverse, 51,000+ strong student community at UCL.

Through the residency we hope that the outcomes can personify and express the student voice. Creating space, conceptually or physically, for the students to express themselves and their identity beyond their academic pathway. The Students Union exists to advocate for the student voice, and create opportunity – to make change, to expand their horizons and participate in this ephemeral community. The artist in residence we hope, will expand this offer widening the student voice, acting as a convenor, creating space for them to collectively come together.

The brief for what and how this artwork might manifest is being left intentionally open, allowing the appointed artist to learn from and be steered by the students they come in to contact with. Crucial to the residency is the sentiment that through engaging with a broad cross section of the student community the student voice will be centred, bridging disciplines and communities to stimulate curiosity, initiate conversation and embrace different perspectives.

Expressions of interests are welcome from artists of all disciplines, but with a particular focus on practices which are interdisciplinary, programmatic and participatory.

### **Scope of Work**

The residency will run for 9 months, preceded by a 3-month planning period.

### ***Planning Period (Oct 2025 – Jan 2026)***

Once appointed, the artist will begin an ad-hoc planning phase to collaborate with the Public Art team and prepare for the residency. This will include:

- Meetings with key UCL representatives
- Identifying access needs to sites, groups, or individuals
- Developing a framework for engagement

### ***Residency (Feb – June 2026)***

During the residency:

- The artist will deeply engage with UCL's student communities
- This phase encourages consultation, experimentation, and exploration
- Artists may host events, discussions, or workshops to support research and idea development

### ***Realisation (July – Sept 2026)***

The final 3 months are dedicated to developing and delivering the outcome of the residency—culminating in a public sharing moment in September 2026. This could take the form of a launch, unveiling, performance, or other suitable format.

Regular check-ins with the Public Art Producer will ensure continued support and progress throughout the project.

### **The artist will:**

1. Have a prolonged and embedded engagement with UCL and its student community.
2. Document and capture the research processes.

3. Develop an outcome which will be developed for presentation at the end of the residency which reflects this meaningful engagement.
4. Seek to engage with underrepresented student groups.

We are flexible with the artists approach - the artist may look to reach out and have light touch engagement with many students or work closely with a smaller particular community.

### **Offer**

- A fee of £12,000
- Artwork Budget of £3000, managed by UCL Public Art team
- An active staff card enabling access to all UCL campuses and its libraries.
- Induction to Institute of Making
- The appointed artist will have a base at the SU and could use SU spaces as a place to engage and reach students.
- A Students Union group who will work proactively with the artist to engage its members in the development of your residency work and the resulting outcomes.
- Production and Curatorial Assistance in the realisation of the work developed.

### **Timeline**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Oct 2025 – Jan 2026	Planning Phase
Feb – June 2026	Residency Period
July – Sept 2026	Artwork Development and Realisation
Sept 2026	Public Sharing / Celebration / Exhibition

We will be holding an information session for each residency on Thursday 5th June, to book on to a session please [click here](#).

### **References**

- [UCL Public Art](#)
- [UCL East: Public Art & Art on Campus](#)
- [UCL Bloomsbury Campus](#)
- [UCL Bicentenary \(UCL200\)](#)
- [UCL Students Union](#)
- [UCL Student Life Strategy](#)