



UCL



UCL STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES GUIDE

ENRICH YOUR
ACADEMIC JOURNEY

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YOU SHAPE UCL

Take a proactive role in your education – work in partnership with us to gather ideas and opinions that can shape and change the UCL experience for the better.

ucl.ac.uk/you-shape-ucl



Calling all UCL students:

This is an invitation to make your experience at UCL even richer.

You, our students, have already distinguished yourselves academically. Otherwise you would not be here. Congratulations on your achievements so far and for choosing UCL as your university. A UCL education will stretch you intellectually, your programmes influenced by world-leading researchers pushing the boundaries of knowledge. You will have access to excellent digital and physical learning resources as well as the taught curriculum that makes our graduates so employable.

But you can also go the extra mile to shape your education at UCL.

Become a ChangeMaker or an Academic Representative and work in partnership with academics to make your programme even better. Join the UCL Student Experience Panel and make your voice heard.

Take up some of the many opportunities to learn outside your degree programme. Address some of the world's most pressing challenges in our Global Citizenship Programme, free to all UCL students in the two weeks of summer term following exams. Get involved with amazing volunteering opportunities (coordinated by the Volunteering Services Unit) and make a difference locally. Tap into your entrepreneurial spirit through UCL Innovation and Enterprise. Engage with UCL Careers to develop your employability.

This booklet gives a brief overview of all the opportunities to enrich your academic experience. It tells you how they could benefit you and how to get involved.

Together we create a better education.

Professor Anthony Smith
UCL Vice-Provost
(Education and Student Affairs)



Hello and welcome from your Students' Union!

As your Education Officer for 2017/18 I am here to ensure that you have the best possible time here at UCL and to guarantee that you are getting the excellent academic experience that you expect from a world-renowned university. Being a UCL student means so much more than simply attending lectures and taking exams. The breadth of opportunities available across UCL as well as within the Union means you are sure to find something for you, whether that is volunteering in your local community, joining a club or society, or running your own campaign.

We are here to represent you and to support students in shaping their university experience. For that reason, we are very proud of the work our Academic Representatives undertake to improve the quality of education for UCL students, working alongside staff

to represent students' views and provide valuable feedback which continuously improves the student's experiences. Collaboration between students and staff, working together to implement positive change within your degree programmes, departments and faculties, is a vital relationship. We believe that our university community is better when students have the greatest breadth of interaction with staff, and work in partnership together.

Students will always be at the heart of the work of our Union, and we welcome you to explore all the exciting opportunities we have on offer and to get involved in making UCL the best it can be for you.

Sarah Al-Aride
Education Officer
(Students' Union)



ChangeMakers

Turn your idea into reality with funding and support

Do you have an idea that could make the education in your department even better? Could it change the way you and your fellow students learn? Or harness the knowledge of your teachers even more effectively?

UCL ChangeMakers is a programme where students and staff collaborate to enhance UCL education and make changes for the benefit of everyone in the UCL community. You can apply for a grant of up to £1,000 to conduct a UCL ChangeMakers project, which could be anything from working with departments to improve their assessment and feedback practices, to collaborating with staff to implement your creative teaching ideas.



Who is it for?

Any member of the UCL learning community – staff or student.



Benefits for you:

Develop project management skills; team leadership; the ability to communicate persuasively; build close relationships with academic staff; gain insight into UCL's operations; HEAR recognition; you'll also receive a stipend of: £50-£150.



Time commitment:

7 to 20 hours (project dependent).



Find out more:

ucl.ac.uk/changemakers



Student Quality Reviewer

Join staff to review UCL teaching and learning

As a Student Quality Reviewer you act as a consultant, teaming up with UCL staff to take an in-depth 'behind the scenes' look at different areas of academic practice. You'll utilise your analytical skills to give detailed feedback from a student perspective on UCL's work. You can choose to investigate quality, teaching practice, new programmes or the student experience. You'll be trained and supported to make sure you have the right skills to get stuck in.

Who is it for?

If you want to build strong relationships with senior members of staff or want to gain experience on a committee, and you want to make a real difference in how you are taught, this opportunity is for you.

Benefits for you:

Research skills; leadership; financial management; persuasion; HEAR recognition; critical thinking; build relationships with senior UCL staff; you'll also receive a stipend of: £150.

Time commitment: 10 – 20 hours.

Find out more: studentsunionucl.org/sqr



Academic Representative

Be the voice of UCL students

The Students' Union operates an effective network of over 1,400 elected Academic Representatives across UCL. By becoming a representative, you will be the voice of students; ensuring that UCL takes the student needs into account in its decision-making. You will work with staff to ensure students are listened to and shape their education for the better. You could represent students on a programme, in the department or across your whole faculty.

Who is it for?

If you want to represent your peers and directly influence change in your department or faculty, and if you want to work closely with staff and the Students' Union as well as other students to make education the best it can be, then this opportunity is for you.

Benefits for you:

Training; leadership skills; communication skills; HEAR recognition; relationship building with your fellow students and key staff members in your department and faculty.

Time commitment:

10 hours per term.

Find out more:

[studentsunionucl.org/
academic-reps](https://studentsunionucl.org/academic-reps)



Student Experience Panel

Shape student life at UCL

Use your personal perspectives, creativity and expertise to shape the UCL experience. As a member of the Student Experience Panel you will have the opportunity to have your say on a range of issues and help make UCL's services even better. As part of our panel, we will ask you to collaborate with us through focus groups, quick surveys, feedback on images or website user testing. These activities are usually one-off feedback sessions and are a great opportunity to meet with students who are studying other disciplines. As an incentive for shaping UCL, you will receive a free lunch or a voucher.



Who is it for?

If you want to shape UCL, but can't commit to a long-term project, the Student Experience Panel is for you.



Benefits for you:

Critical thinking; communication and problem solving skills; some activities offer training; cash, vouchers or free lunch.



Time commitment:

Activity dependent – 15 mins to two hours per opportunity.



Find out more:

ucl.ac.uk/you-shape-ucl/student-panel



Laidlaw Scholarship Programme

Become the leader of tomorrow

The Laidlaw Scholarship Programme aims to create the leaders of the future through a mix of training and intensive summer research periods. There are 25 fully-funded scholarships available for first year undergraduates. The programme runs over three years and it gives you the opportunity to be part of a high performing group from across UCL. You will be involved in research with a global impact while developing leadership skills for your future career.

Who is it for?

If you are an ambitious and curious first year undergraduate who wants to experience working on current, high-impact research projects with UCL academics, this opportunity is for you. You'll meet likeminded students from a range of disciplines and develop your leadership skills.

Benefits for you:

Develop research skills; undertake leadership training; develop close relationship with academics; receive a stipend of £3,300 per year in your first and second year.

Time commitment:

2 x 6-weeks summer research placements; 3 x 2-day leadership training workshops.

Find out more:

ucl.ac.uk/laidlaw-scholarships



Global Citizenship Programme

Explore a world of opportunity

The UCL Global Citizenship Programme brings together students from across UCL to explore our biggest global challenges. Over two weeks at the end of the summer term, you will discuss the world's biggest problems such as infectious diseases, rapid urbanisation or climate change. This is your chance to put your studies into a global context, learn new skills and see the world differently. There are nine different strands and your participation is completely free of charge.



Who is it for?

If you want to get a better understanding of what it means to be a global citizen; if you want to understand our most pressing problems and help to start finding the solutions; if you want to diversify your network and develop new skills, the Programme is for you.



Benefits for you:

Communication and collaboration skills; problem solving; networking; collaborate with businesses and charities.



Time commitment:

Two weeks after exams finish at the end of the summer term.



Find out more:

ucl.ac.uk/global-citizenship-programme



Other opportunities

UCL Innovation and Enterprise

ucl.ac.uk/enterprise

Develop the skills to translate your theoretical or research-based learning into practical experience. UCL Innovation and Enterprise offers a wide range of interactive and immersive experiences to enrich your time at UCL and prepare you for the world beyond.

Volunteering Services Unit

studentsunionucl.org/volunteering

The Volunteering Services Unit is the Students' Union's dedicated facility for students who want to get involved with volunteering projects in London. With a network of over 500 charities and not-for-profit organisations across the city, there are volunteering opportunities to match your interests and timetable. You will learn new skills, meet new people, and make a real difference.

UCL Careers

ucl.ac.uk/careers

Whatever you want to do in the future – whether you know the career you're looking for or not – UCL Careers is here to assist you. They are here, not just to help you find jobs or options for further study, but to advise you on the opportunities you have now – during your time at UCL – to develop employability skills and to undertake part-time work, holiday work or internships.



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AT UCL

We want you to have the best and most fulfilling time at UCL. Amongst other things, we pioneer creative interdisciplinary extra-curricular learning and bring students and staff together in formal partnerships to improve systems, processes and course content.

We would like to work in partnership with you to gather your ideas and opinions to make UCL education even better. We call this student engagement.

This guide lists opportunities for you to take ownership of your educational experience. These are not limited to academic opportunities – your student experience is a mix of academic and non-academic activities that both influence your education.

Your engagement could range from participating in surveys or focus groups to taking an active role on committees. It is up to you how you want to contribute as a member of the UCL community.

You can shape and change the UCL experience for the better by taking an active role in your education. You shape UCL!

ucl.ac.uk/you-shape-ucl