



The
UCL Academy

Sixth Form Prospectus 2012





We can offer you the chance to specialise in science and mathematics subjects



Stand out from the crowd

Welcome to the UCL Academy!

The UCL Academy can offer you an outstanding education: a chance to extend your knowledge and develop your character and your strengths. As a student at the Academy, you'll benefit from excellent teaching in an innovative environment, and have access to a huge range of opportunities designed to challenge, stimulate and inspire you to future success.

We are unique in London because we can offer you:

- The chance to specialise in science and mathematics subjects, with complementary options in the arts and humanities;
- Access to the facilities and expertise of our university sponsor, UCL;
- Personalised support through our Learning Advisor scheme and our Careers Service;
- The opportunity to take real responsibility for own learning as you work through our unique, Levels-based approach to study;
- Leadership opportunities, as a mentor to younger students at the school, and through volunteering and community work;
- A range of extra-curricular opportunities designed to give you confidence in your own abilities and to provide you with the kinds of experience that employers and university admissions tutors will really value;
- State-of-the-art facilities in a brand-new Academy building

Additionally, we can give you the chance to shape a brand-new school. The UCL Academy opens for the first time in September 2012 with a Year 7 group and its first Year 12 students. As a founding member of the Academy community, you'll have the opportunity to create an environment that will contribute to the success of students for many years to come.

Read on to find out exactly what we can offer you, and how you can apply. We look forward to meeting you!

Geraldine Davies

Principal

We will supplement lessons from your regular teachers with input from the world-class researchers and academics at UCL

Why we're different

The UCL Academy offers stimulating and inspiring teaching in a purpose-built, state-of-the-art new building. We can offer you a sixth form experience like no other:

Specialise in maths and sciences subjects

A range of maths and science subjects will be taught by teachers with proven expertise in these fields. We'll also supplement lessons from your regular teachers with input from the world-class researchers and academics at UCL, who will help to stretch your understanding of the subjects you're studying for AS and A2.

Add a complementary culture or humanities subject

The UCL Academy is a specialist science and maths school, and we will focus on these subjects in our sixth form. Nevertheless, we know that a grasp of ideas in the arts and humanities – and how they relate to the sciences – will be vital if you are to succeed in today's interconnected world. We'll therefore require you to study an additional humanities or culture subject to at least AS level. Additionally, arts and humanities options (including dance, drama, literature and history) will be key to the programme of extra-curricular activities that the school will offer.





Start later and get a head-start on your peers

Researchers in neuroscience at UCL have shown that 16-18 year olds perform best at school when they are able to start their lessons later in the morning. We want to give you every advantage, and so our sixth form classes will start at 10am, and run through to 5.30pm in the evening.

Learn independently – with us to guide you

Every student in the sixth form at the UCL Academy will have a Learning Adviser. Although you'll have a lot of freedom to decide how you work and about the programme of study you follow, your Learning Adviser is there to act as your mentor. You'll meet with them regularly to agree targets and to review your progress, and they will advise you on how to acquire the skills you'll need to succeed. You'll always have someone to turn to for advice and to work with you to determine how best to reach your goals.

Learning to make a difference together

An ability to work well in a team will help you to succeed with higher-level studies and in the world of work. At the UCL Academy, you'll be working regularly in groups in your classes, and with younger students in regular tutor group meetings, so we'll help you to understand your strengths and the contribution you can make to a group. You'll also have the opportunity to work with other sixth formers on a cross-subject challenge, solving problems for the community and for local businesses.

Partners with a world-class university

The UCL Academy is sponsored by UCL, one of the top universities in the world, and a member of the prestigious Russell Group of UK universities. You'll have the opportunity to attend masterclasses and lectures by some of UCL's most eminent academics as part of your Academy programme, and will have privileged access to UCL's campus in Bloomsbury, including the libraries and laboratories. Crucially, UCL's staff and students will be on hand to help you with advice and preparation when it's time to think about university entrance.

Your Programme of Study

The UCL Academy Sixth Form will specialise in the STEM subjects: sciences, engineering, technology and mathematics. We therefore particularly encourage applications from students who have already demonstrated a particular enthusiasm for these subjects. At least three of your AS/A2 subjects will be from STEM disciplines.

Academy sixth formers will also be required to choose a complementary arts or humanities subject. This reflects our sponsor university's commitment to encouraging students to develop a broad knowledge base, with the introduction of a new type of degree (the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences) giving undergraduates the option of continuing to study a mix of subjects at university.

In 2012-13, we plan to offer our sixth form students courses in the following subjects:

Choose at least 3 from:	Mathematics Further Mathematics Physics Chemistry Biology Engineering Electronics Psychology Product Design Geology Computer Science Statistics
Choose 1 from:	English Art History Geography Spanish Philosophy Economics Classical Civilisation

You must be able to offer at least at least 6 GCSEs at Grades B or above, with a minimum of a grade B in the subjects you have previously studied and wish to continue in the Academy Sixth Form.

Your programme of study will also include a number of elements which will make you attractive to future employers, and which will prepare you for your responsibilities as an active, ethical member of society:

- A programme of weekly seminars and activities designed to encourage you to understand the world around you and to put your learning into an international context;
- Beginner and intermediate classes in Mandarin Chinese for all sixth formers, leading to a qualification. These will give you an insight into what it means to communicate with individuals whose language and culture are very different from your own;
- Volunteering placements in the local community;
- A programme of enrichment activities at the end of each day, including opportunities to explore the creative and performing arts and to take part in a range of sports.

Your programme of study at the UCL Academy will therefore look something like this:





The UCL Academy
Sixth Form will specialise
in the STEM subjects



Together we are stronger

As one of the founder members of the UCL Academy, you will play a key role in establishing the UCL Academy community.

You will be part of an extended family which includes

- the younger students in our school
- the staff and students from UCL who will be working with you as mentors to help you achieve your ambitions
- the local community

Your Learning Adviser

Sixth form is a time when you are making some important decisions about your future. It's also a time when you should be actively involved in making choices about how and what you learn. Every sixth form student at the UCL Academy will have a Learning Adviser, who will meet with them regularly to talk about academic progress. Your Learning Adviser will encourage you to set ambitious goals for yourself, and will help you to resolve any issues that arise with your work and your other Academy activities.

Supporting your younger peers

The Academy will bring together younger and older students in mixed age tutor groups, under the guidance of the same Learning Adviser. Through these groups, you will be a role model for the pupils in Year 7, and we'll look to you to rise to the challenge of supporting and encouraging these younger members of the school to contribute to their community. You will also have the opportunity to undertake a useful additional qualification in coaching and mentoring to support you in this work.

Learning from those at university

The UCL Academy's unique links with UCL mean that we can put you directly in contact with students who have already made the transition from school to higher education. UCL students will act as informal mentors, helping you to navigate challenges in your studies, inspiring you to pursue your ambitions and advising you on how to negotiate the practical aspects of preparing applications for further study.

Giving something back

The UCL Academy expects its students to make a personal contribution to the local community. You'll have every opportunity to take part in volunteering projects, to put forward your own ideas for developing the school, and to explore ways in which you can develop your own skills and abilities by contributing to school and community projects. Our many links with schools in countries across the world will mean you'll be able to participate in activities and projects with partners from different cultures and backgrounds.



Planning for a bright future

The UCL Academy sixth form is ideal for you if you have a genuine interest in the world in general and in the sciences in particular. You'll also need to be community-minded, willing to work hard and ambitious for yourself and your future.

If that sounds like you, we can provide you with an excellent foundation for future success, whether you're aiming for university, or want to go directly into work after your A Levels. Our support with university entrance and with careers advice will be second-to-none.

University entrance: Our links with UCL mean that there's no sixth form better placed to prepare you for higher education. Regular visits to UCL will help you to become familiar with how a university campus works, and visits from academics to the Academy will give you experience of learning from teachers who are also expert researchers in their fields. UCL's academics and students will be regular visitors to the Academy, and you'll be able to talk to them about the subjects you're interested in and what it might be like to study them at university level. This experience will help to ensure you make an informed choice about the right course and university for you.

When the time comes to make an application to university, help from UCL's staff and students with your application will ensure that you make a good first impression on admissions tutors. We'll also help to prepare you for interviews and open days at universities across the country.

There are no special arrangements for UCL Academy students for entry to UCL – but the benefits of our link with the university will stand you in good stead wherever you decide to apply.

Careers: Students who want to go straight from the UCL Academy into the world of work will be able to draw on the resources of the Academy Careers Service. We'll have a dedicated careers resource centre and a team of knowledgeable staff who will help you to put together the application that will launch you into the world and on to great things.





Breadth and depth

At the UCL Academy, we believe that individuals must be educated in the round. We'll expect every member of our sixth form to participate regularly in after-school activities, and we'll offer a wide range to choose from, including sports clubs, debating clubs and clubs and societies linked to subjects you're studying. You'll have the opportunity to become involved in running these clubs and to start up new ones that reflect your own interests.

We will also strongly encourage you to undertake some voluntary work during your time with us. This could include working in the local community, giving your time to a cause you believe in, or working with students at Swiss Cottage Specialist School, which is located on the same site as the Academy. Voluntary work will give you a fresh perspective on the world around you – and on the things you take for granted – and will give you the chance to develop the time management and project management skills you'll need in the future. Additionally, having voluntary work on your CV will make you attractive to admissions tutors, and to prospective employers. Staff at the Academy will work with you to find the right placement.

One of the many opportunities the UCL Academy will offer will be the chance to develop skills which will improve your employability and increase your life chances. In addition to the four AS subjects, the Extended Project and the opportunity to learn Mandarin Chinese, you will have the opportunity to work in a Learning Set on real-life problems generated by local business or community groups. This year-long project will enable you to experience working as part of a team from a range of subject backgrounds. This project will also give you the opportunity to work with partners from business and the community and to gain valuable experience of collaboration, team work, project management, marketing and communication.



We believe that individuals must be educated in the round.

Join Us

Are you enthusiastic about the sciences? Interested in the wider world? Keen to get involved, make a difference, stand up and be counted?

In return for your commitment, energy and hard work, we can offer you a stimulating programme of study and the kind of opportunities that will really make a difference to the way that university admissions tutors and employers will view you.

To apply, download the application form from the www.uclacademy.co.uk website.

On the website you will find additional information on courses we plan to offer in September 2011. However, you will understand that specific syllabus details may change.

Application process

The UCL Academy Sixth Form website and application process will launch in January 2012. Please visit the www.uclacademy.co.uk website for details of Open Events at UCL and for application information or the paper booklets enclosed with this prospectus.



Case Studies – Early-Career Researchers at UCL

Meet some of the early-career research scientists who are working on projects of international significance at UCL.



Ayub

What inspired you to learn about science?

I was curious to see how the world works and how to make things better. I had awesome teachers in high school who made science a fun, interesting subject to learn.

How will research change the way we look at the world?

Research pushes the boundaries of how we see ourselves. This may not be ground breaking on its own but it is facilitative. Research is crucial, we need to question the status quo.

What would you say to a young person thinking about learning science?

I would absolutely recommend it. It's a fulfilling area as a lot of the research is tangible so we get to see the results of our studies. I find the sensation of getting something right is difficult to find elsewhere.

What is your favourite part of your job?

Experiments. Considering the experiment, running it and then seeing the realisation of that...or not!





Sheila

What inspired you to learn about science?

When I was younger I watched Apollo 13 and decided I wanted to be an astronaut – it felt like a very exciting career path. I had very supportive A level physics teachers who inspired me to study Physics with Astrophysics at university then Planetary Science for my PhD.

How will research change the way we look at the world?

Humans are curious – there is so much we would not know about the world if they weren't. I have always been interested in Cook and Columbus – the Final Frontier! I think space is the ultimate Final Frontier. We need to get the bigger picture to know where we come from. Detection systems used for looking into space are now being used to detect breast cancer.

What would you say to a young person thinking about learning science?

Pursue your dream, regardless of what anyone says. If you want to be an astronaut – do it! How and why things work and why we are here are fundamental questions that need to be asked. Be prepared – science is a male dominated area, but females should not be deterred, it will all be worthwhile at the end.

What is your favourite part of your job?

Data! It all begins with a seemingly senseless list of numbers – but these numbers come from Saturn – it's incredible. The Cassini spacecraft took seven years to reach Saturn but now it sends back data to us on a daily basis.

Jenny

What inspired you to learn about science?

My father was an engineer and he was always buying an airfix kit or taking me to the Science Museum - so I was thinking about science from an early age. My teachers also inspired me greatly. My 6th form physics teacher was the one who persuaded me to apply to Oxford University.

How will research change the way we look at the world?

In medical physics we find solutions to problems in hospitals. We're now doing research in proton radiotherapy which is a new treatment that can help cure difficult brain tumours.

What would you say to a young person thinking about learning science?

Do it! There are an awful lot of opportunities beyond science research and medicine even if you decide not to pursue it as a career after your studies. I have colleagues who have gone into very successful careers in the city after studying science.

What is your favourite part of your job?

I love writing research proposals and papers. It is satisfying bringing my work together and spreading the word and being heard. The deadlines are tight but it is a great feeling pulling all that hard work together at the end.



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Contact Us

For more information about the UCL Academy Sixth Form, please email us: 6thformadmissions@uclacademy.co.uk.

Our postal address until April 2012 is:

The UCL Academy

c/o CL U
Gower treet S
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WC1E BT 6

Our postal address after this date will change, please check on the website after this date for our updated details.

The Academy will
provide its students
with an education for
global citizenship.



For more information about
the UCL Academy, including details of open days, please
visit our website:

www.uclacademy.co.uk

If you have a question, or to obtain additional copies of
this prospectus, please email:

6thformadmissions@uclacademy.co.uk.