



**The Editors' Edition**  
Issue 721





# Letter from the editors

Issue 721  
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Oct 2018

Hello and thank you for picking up *Pi Magazine*. This issue's theme is simply 'UCL' - we're getting back to our roots as UCL's official student media platform. The first issue of the year is traditionally the Editors' Edition, which is why our new editorial team have written pieces for their respective sections. Our team has covered everything from pressing issues of the moment to reflections on UCL culture; from the cloisters to quiet spots on campus, from the university's history to suggestions for its future, our editors have found inspiration in their daily surroundings.

For the new academic year, we're back with a new logo and a complete redesign of the magazine. This means that not only were the pieces written by students, but the artwork and photography were contributed by students too. *Pi Magazine* is now a truly student-orientated publication - if you'd like to get involved in future designs, flick to the back of this issue to find out more.

*Pi Magazine* has been an integral part of *Pi Media* for many decades. It's made by and for all UCL students, whether you're only just starting your time here (be that as an undergraduate or postgraduate), or graduation is on the horizon. We hope you enjoy reading the first issue of the year!

**Georgina Bartlett & Laura Riggall**  
Editors-in-Chief, *Pi Magazine*

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# Internships: for the many?

Internships provide vital work experience. Yet, they can also be beyond reach

words by benedict holzmann  
art by rhianna betts and laura riggall





**T**here was something quite pertinent about last year's penultimate episode of *Game of Thrones*, as Jon Snow and his gang of underprepared misfits ventured blindly into the dark fog beyond the wall. As melodramatic as this may sound, it's an analogy that will no doubt resonate with plenty of second and third years as they look towards their post-uni future. Many don't know what they want to do in the afterlife, and even those who do have a field or industry in mind often have no idea what it's like to work there.

It's a problem that's become synonymous with university life, but it has its roots in earlier education. An increasingly overburdened classroom situation has made it nearly impossible for schools to bring in a suitably wide range of people with different working experiences that will interest all students. According to the Prince's Trust, a charity that helps young people aged 11 to 30 to get into jobs, education and training, around one third of this country's youth say they have never met anybody with a job they themselves would like to have.

**Unfortunately,  
employers know  
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internship in the  
capital can be**

Summer internships in London provide the perfect antidote to this 'beyond the wall' perception of the working world. They're great not only for adding another section to your CV, but also because they represent a 30 to 60 day no-commitment trial of postgraduate life. They can help you understand not only what kind of field you want to work in, but also how you'd like to work within that field; whether you work best in a small group, a large company, working from home, commuting in and working 9-5, and so on.

And at UCL, in the heart of London, there is no better scope of opportunities. For a month or two you can become that important-looking person who walks a little more urgently than you up the Warren Street escalators, or a member of that loud group of work friends having a pint on Camden High Street at five o'clock on a Friday. Even if the work ultimately isn't for you, there will always be a wide array of skills you pick up on the job that are transferable and, yes, look great on your CV.

There are endless lists online of top tips

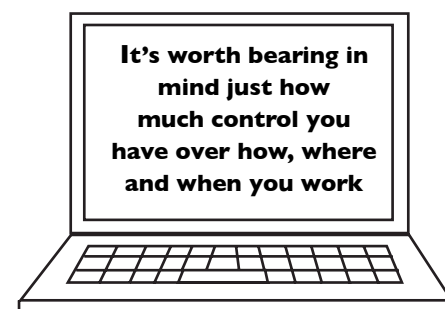
for nailing an application or interview, but two pieces of advice have helped me considerably more than the others. Firstly, make yourself seem valuable. Okay, sorry, that was horribly worded. You are valuable – but you can always come across as more valuable. And this doesn't require a vast back catalogue of experiences and skills.

My boss always told me that there's nothing more impressive than when an interviewee becomes the interviewer, and starts to examine whether the role is good enough for them rather than them being good enough for the role. If you can make clear that you have some firm goals in mind for what you want to achieve, and that you are thinking about the internship in the wider context of your career, you'll set yourself firmly above the rest. And secondly, being able to prove that you can learn new skills quickly is often more desirable than having a few skills you have previously been taught. So if you've ever taken on a challenge you had no idea how to do – whether it's using a certain software, or managing a team in any capacity, or organizing an event with no guidance or prior experience – make sure to emphasize how fast and eager you were to pick up the necessary skills. In a world that ceaselessly reinvents itself through automation, the ability to adapt and learn is a far more valuable trait for industry roles than a pre-existing bank of knowledge.

Unfortunately, employers know all too well how enticing a summer internship in the capital can be, and frequently offer placements that only pay for travel expenses or, worse still, 'pay with experience' – in effect, not at all. Whilst this is a viable option for some, it is commonly an illegal practice. If an intern is working set hours and providing value to an organisation, they are considered workers and are entitled to the minimum wage as a matter of law. It is extraordinary just how many of these unpaid internships there are; a 2014 report by The Sutton Trust, a social mobility charity, suggested that 22,000 summer interns out of 70,000 were working for free.

There has been far more resistance to unpaid internships in recent years. For many, they have become emblematic of a world of diminishing social mobility. A NUS survey conducted in 2012 showed that whilst one in ten people in the upper or middle class bracket took on unpaid internships, only 3 percent in the working class bracket did the same. The Sutton Trust have found that unpaid internships in London cost over £1000 a month, placing them out of reach of students who cannot receive financial support from their parents. Indictments of these placements have ranged from 'unfair' to 'illegal', but no-one has encapsulated the issue as eloquently as Lord

Holmes of Richmond, who claimed last year that unpaid internships "leave young people in a *Catch 22* situation", and the whole practice should be consigned to "the novels of Dickens" (we get it, Lord Holmes, you like books).



So where does UCL stand on the matter? In 2013, a Union policy was passed ruling that no unpaid internships should be advertised through their career services. The Union was emphatic in its support for the policy, underscoring its belief that such internships "will undermine the rights and status of existing workers (as previous paid positions become unpaid), will entrench certain sectors as the preserve of the economic elite and inculcate a disregard for basic labour rights in a whole generation of workers". Yet from my own experience of applying earlier this year, there is still a significant number of internships advertised via the UCL Careers Services that don't pay the minimum wage. On two occasions this only transpired at the interview stage.

It's difficult to attribute the full blame to UCL for this. They offer thousands of internships each year and inevitably amongst those will be some offered by organisations that are either unaware of the laws or exploiting their ambiguity. Vogue, for example, advertised an internship as 'work-shadowing' – one of the loopholes companies use to avoid paying workers – when their role was fixed-hours and involved tasks that most would consider valuable and important to the company. Ironically, the issue extends as far up as HMRC, whose complaints process has come under fire this year for being slow, unresponsive, and reliant on interns themselves to come forward. In response to this criticism, the government admitted that there had been no prosecutions, but have since sent over 550 warning letters to organisations and establishing enforcement teams.

There are, however, more honest circumstances for unpaid work where organisations or people offering internships cannot guarantee a return on their investment in you and cannot pay the requisite wage. If you are willing to work on a voluntary basis, then it's worth bearing in mind just how much control you have over how, where, and when you work.

# TAKING MENTAL HEALTH SERIOUSLY

As another year of university commences, will there be any progress in the sufficiency of UCL's student mental health services?

words by georgia gee

art by serena wong and laura riggall

**B**ristol University was placed at the forefront of the student mental health care crisis after experiencing 11 student suicides in just two years. However, it is not an anomaly, and the prominence of student mental health care and the inadequacy of university welfare services is not exclusive to a singular institution. In fact, it has become an increasingly prevalent and troublesome topic throughout the UK. According to Universities UK, over the past five years 94% of universities has seen a 'sharp increase' in the number of people trying to access student wellbeing services - services that are underfunded and therefore ill-equipped to sufficiently handle the soaring demand. Universities minister Sam Gyimah said that universities risk "failing a generation" if students are not given access to better mental health care.

**The student mental health crisis has become increasingly prevalent throughout the UK**

This failure to provide mental health care, and most importantly enough of it, has already become extremely evident. UCL is no exemption in its shortcomings on wellbeing services. Last December, I reported on the student protest organised by the campaign 'UCL: Fund Our Mental Health Services.' The campaign was started in order to call for an expansion of the Student Psychological Services. They were demanding a £340,000 investment and an additional 6.5 FTE counsellors. On the same day of the protest, deliberately held on Postgraduate Open Day, UCL released a list of plans to 'revamp' their services. Whilst



it was an acknowledgment of the necessity for change, these improvements read as seemingly vague and indefinite. They included a new phone service, the development of an information app on mental health services, and the expansion from "one to six of the number of student support and wellbeing advisers and coordinators." This served more to highlight the deficiency of the services rather than as an act of reassurance and development.

After I contacted UCL directly for a response on the insufficiency of the SPS and their plans for improvement in the future, I received back a single statement from the Director of Media Relations: "We take mental health extremely seriously and have adapted our service to meet

the increasing demands."

Since then, there has been progress. After months of grassroots campaigning from students and activists - including the launch of open letter to the student management on the Union website signed by a number of UCL counsellors and professors - UCL approved an investment of £140,000, and agreed to bring the current waiting time down from up to 20 weeks to a maximum of six. They also agreed to table a request for two additional counsellors and a mental health specialist. It was a success for the campaign, but only to an extent. The funding would meet merely a third of what had been requested.

As another year of university commences, I



can't help but remain sceptical of the statement I received back in January and fearful of the consequence of such striking shortcomings. UCL has approximately 41,500 students, one of the largest populations in the UK. From 2015-17 they employed just 13 FTE practioners, 12 FTE counsellor/therapists and '0.8' FTE psychiatrists. That's around 3,200 students for one FTE practioner.

With such a large student body and escalating mental health rates - in the past 10 years it is estimated that there has been a five-fold increase in the number of students disclosing mental illness to their institution - it could not be more discernible that the figures don't match up. UCL also does not offer any out of hours, weekend or crisis support. On their website under the subtitle 'Helping students in crisis' it states, "The best way to manage a crisis is to avoid it developing." A 20 week waiting time hints at the irony.

**A failure to provide enough mental health care has already become evident at UCL**

**UCL must be held accountable and implement these changes rather than providing lip service**

More significantly, this is a situation that affects an undercurrent that is deeper than troubling statistics. I, alongside many others, have personally seen or experienced the tragic reality that lies behind the numeric figures. At the end of last year a close friend of my housemate's, a 1st year UCL student, was found after committing suicide in his halls for residence. From what I had heard about him he was an outgoing, popular young man with a bright future ahead of him. He had been on the waiting list to receive help from student services. Whilst mental health is a dense and complex issue, it does beg the question - would someone with a broken bone be forced to wait that long before seeing a professional?

**Students need to have a transparent and accessible support system**

The campaign is restarting this year but does not yet have any detailed or specific plans. I was told that it is unlikely the new funding will come into effect anytime soon because it will take time to hire new people and implement changes. Their immediate plan is to chase up the funding bid and its timescale.

This is an issue, you could say a pandemic, that is evidently not being allocated the necessary resources. University is stressful, particularly at the start. You are thrown into a foreign environment, away from your family and friends, with a newfound, overwhelming independence. Students need to have a transparent and accessible support system. UCL, alongside other universities, must be held accountable and implement these changes rather than providing lip service, before it, like it tragically has for others, becomes too late.



# Green champions?

It's never been more important to make effective environmental changes.

Is UCL rising to the challenge?

words by timothy sung  
photography by estelle ciesla, freya parkinson

In a recently published ThoughtWorks survey, the need to reduce plastic packaging and use recyclable materials came out on top, over price, as the most important driver of British consumer behaviour in the next ten years. With tackling climate change on people's minds, there is a feeling of increasing responsibility to make changes ourselves, rather than just leaving it to big businesses and governments. As an institution of education, UCL must also make efforts to educate and encourage its students to take a more pro-active role in environmental management.

UCL is currently placed 26th in the People and Planet University League rankings, with an 100% rating in environmental policy and sustainability staff, as well as accreditation in its adherence to internationally recognised standards for sustainability management. Although its reputation is commendable, students may have a different impression regarding UCL's environmental work and its impact.

Almost half of UCL's funding comes from tuition fees, and it is only right that we, as fee-paying students, know how UCL manages its finances. Some of this money is invested in markets as part of a long-term funding strategy, but not necessarily in sustainable and renewable energy resources. As a result, UCL Fossil Free, a student led society, have been campaigning for UCL to divest from fossil fuels since 2013. Only in October 2017 did UCL start to take ethical considerations on board when making investment decisions, with the appointment of an ethical investment manager, CCLA, for its £160m endowment funds. However, we still do not know whether the university has fully divested from fossil fuels.

Trust is further diluted with the choice of Sodexo to provide soft services including cleaning and waste management. Despite Sodexo's appointment of a sustainability and waste manager to take charge of reducing the impact of its operations, UCL is losing direct oversight of a part of its estate's environmental impact. Sodexo's credentials on ethical issues have previously been heavily questioned, following chaos in Sodexo-managed prisons and the implication of their catering services in the

horsemeat scandal a few years ago. Faith in Sodexo's ability to help make UCL a greener place is, therefore, clouded with doubt. The way UCL management has dealt with both the divestment and sub-contracting out of services to Sodexo places a great amount of scepticism over whether money is still the main driver behind its decisions – even if it can still manage its money and services in a more environmentally friendly way.

In contrast to the rest of UCL's management team and non-academic departments, Green UCL is solely focused on sustainability and environmental wellbeing. Set up in 2011, it has conducted numerous campaigns over the years; some of the most recent includes Ditch the Disposable, which aims to promote the reduction of waste and reusing of coffee cups by charging for the use of disposable cups across all cafés at UCL. Reduce the Juice has also been established as a competition between UCL's Halls of Residencies to reduce their energy and water usage. Green UCL hope that by adding 15p to the cost of using a disposable cup, this will lead to at least 30% of all café customers using reusable cups. In the old discount scheme, where lower prices were offered if a reusable cup was used, only 5% of people used their own cups.

However, the deterrent factor has one major snag – the SU will not present the change as a charge, lessening its strong message and quite possibly leading to little more impact in comparison to the old scheme. A target of a reusable cup usage rate of just 30% is also not that inspiring, as it leaves a vast number of disposables still in use. This will not change attitudes and behaviours to the extent of making a sizeable and noticeable difference in the grand scheme of things.

Similar accusations can be charged at the Reduce the Juice scheme. While some students at halls were active in promoting the campaign last year, engaging in the distribution of leaflets and other promotional activities, it went over the heads of many busy students. If it's aimed at changing the attitudes of people in the long-run, then the cash prize of £250 for the winner is not the right mechanism to do so. As nice as it is to fund a halls party, this unsustainable, short-term solution only encourages people to save resources for the wrong reason. What's more is

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that it only happens during the Spring Term – a lack of consistent incentive may only serve to discourage a continuation of whatever energy saving techniques people put into place during that period.

Fundamentally, the impact of such a scheme is severely minimised when the windows in some accommodation, like Max Rayne, are still single glazed. Heating systems are also inefficient, leading to further unnecessary energy usage – surely this should be addressed first. Both aforementioned schemes are essentially about changing attitudes but produce no mass change in behaviour. Only the most engaged seem to participate, negating the potential for green thinking to be transferred into daily life at university.

Being a relatively new scheme, Green UCL's engagement with the student population is still creditable. A team of staff and student 'Green Champions' help reduce UCL's environmental impact and promote related issues. With growing interest in the topic, this network could be crucial to promoting any future schemes that Green UCL is engaging in and its attempts to get more people on board. In a signal of growing responsiveness from Green UCL, Ditch the Disposable was partially set up in response to enquiries from waste-conscious students and staff who are becoming increasingly exposed to media coverage of the topic. Hopefully, with extensive promotion and the support of the team's Green Champions, the scheme can engage more people in the issues and debates surrounding waste and the environment.

**ONLY THE MOST ENGAGED SEEM TO PARTICIPATE, NEGATING THE POTENTIAL FOR GREEN THINKING TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO DAILY LIFE AT UNIVERSITY.**

UCL Changemakers also offers a pathway for students to launch initiatives promoting protection of the environment, hopefully diffusing such ideas around campus. We must not forget that societies also have the potential to play a key part in greening UCL: the UCL Green Economy Society and UCL Climate Action Society (UCL CAS) both engage in environmental issues, and provide support for Green UCL's schemes. These societies provide a key way for students to engage with environmental management, and this is further being enhanced with direct engagement between societies and university departments. One example includes the Sustainability Steering Group, a new partnership between Green UCL, UCL CAS and any student that is interested in sustainability issues. It looks like Green UCL is taking strides to engage students in areas where the university once failed, which can only result in positive knock-on effects.

The university's standing in environmental management can only be enhanced if it engages with a greater number of its staff and student body, benefitting both UCL's publicity and the environment. With initiatives such as those promoted by Green UCL, the university is increasingly becoming more sensitive and open to the concerns some students have for the environment. In turn, by engaging with more initiatives, students will hopefully become increasingly aware of their own environmental responsibilities.



# U



# IN RETROSPECT

# C

One final year student reflects on what it means to attend UCL

# L

words by [lydia bews-fullilove](#)  
photography by [estelle ciesla](#)

UCL is often touted as a byword for progressive values, a globalist enclave where free-thinkers of all stripes converge to bump together their brainy heads and take their first toddle into adulthood. There is the usual objective rationale that draws students to UCL; its enviable perch atop university rankings, and the employability bar none. But there is also its intrinsic emotional appeal, what it means to attend UCL, and what it says about you.

As the third oldest university in England, save for Oxford and Cambridge, yet the first to admit all - regardless of race, gender, creed or political belief - attending UCL seems to be an indicia of anti-elitism in itself. Yet, however many times something may be cited as a calling-card for liberal values, that does not automatically entail its abidance. The lumbering bureaucratic machinery of any university can only do so much, even with a flurry of directives and policies, to direct the culture of its thousands-strong student body. Although to live by the core tenets that underlie liberalism absolutely (in a nutshell: integrity, fairness, and tolerance) would take an almost religious effort, like does after all attract like. Those who find UCL's forward-thinking values appealing, or at least wish to be associated with them, seek a spot for themselves within its cloisters.

Though it will undoubtedly prove to be disconnected from your actual university experience, an alluring prospect that draws many students to UCL is the institution's link to great names. UCL holds pride of place as the alleged alma mater of Gandhi, as well as by its proximity to Bloomsbury's famed literary circle, and all under the fatherly watch of Jeremy Bentham's beady gaze. They are famous names as unspoiled as they can be, after being dragged through the muck of time and stood beside the squeaky-clean public images of the present.

The most practical of all my own impractical reasonings was the lure of living in London. To study here seems to instill fear in the uninitiated - none of my family have visited the main campus, as though unable to prepare themselves for what they might find, or for fear of being scoffed at by tough city-swinging intellectuals. Before I began university, I was given the heads up by my English teacher that UCL was "cold"; it was a suggestion I blithely brushed aside with the correct assumption that it is best to keep one's head down and dole out few smiles on the streets of London unless you wish to get accosted. Of course, now I can understand her perspective, because at a massive inner-city university one never happens across the same face twice in a day, or even a week if you're lucky. At its finest, you're spared the petty micro-dramas of an insular campus, and on the flip-side, you must prepare to cling to the friendships you make lest you lose sight of them across the sprawling vastness of London.



While averse to letting this article lace off into some sort of dewy-eyed UCL love letter from a final year student, the aesthetic look and feel of the campus is one of its best features and a contradiction in terms, which is happily one of the very best subjects to write about. UCL manages to dodge an air of exclusivity whilst also pulling off the pristine grandeur of the portico, because it makes no attempt to shut out and claw itself back from neighbouring modern London. The prim squares and tree-lined groves of Bloomsbury are crisscrossed by hulking great big thoroughfares always heaving with traffic and time-dependent tides of backpack-lugging students. The university's dignified townhouses encase warrens of stripped back and functional corridors, and one of the prettiest Waterstones in London comes face to face with blocky concrete and glass-cased monstrosities.

Oddly enough, these jumbled patches of newfangled architecture seem to be mirrored by the fashion sense of the student body, with UCL-goers leaning towards a more casual, gritty style. By contrast, along the opulent stucco and balustrades of the Strand, its ancient rival King's College is all blazers and satchels. If, indeed, my long and treacherous history degree has taught me anything, it's that every institution tends to breed its own sense of conformity, and UCL is no exception. The summer before I started my first year at university, my 19-year-old brain ran riot with the expectancy of being thrown together with a dizzying mish-mash of colourful personalities. I imagined that among them would be a fair share of eccentrics, insufferable geniuses and neurotics, finally freed from the hidebound school curriculum and childhood cliques to 'find themselves' at last. But I was instead surprised by the similarities as opposed to the differences that the students, particularly in my first year, seemed to cling onto for comfort.

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Matters could not have been helped when, in our first lecture as history freshers, it was announced that being a UCL student would require a painful ego-adjustment; at secondary school we may well have been used to being top of our class, but now we were all just small fish in equal competition. It was far from a reassuring tone to strike before hundreds of nervous teenagers huddled together in a room.

Perhaps it's no surprise that the rule of the day, as in any other environment where a bunch of disparate personalities are shoved together and told to play nice, was to blend and settle in or stand out and be noticed. Just keep up the stultifying conversations about how many nights out you had this week and how many dirt cheap shots were nabbed, then everyone will accept you - that seemed to be the ruling internal mantra. Being seen to have fun was of great importance, because no one wanted to seem at all disappointed in the glossy student experience they had been sold; as if to do anything other than have the time of your life would be a deep admission of personal failing. Naturally, we all masked being young and unsure by acting apathetic and cocksure, and in hindsight, it's perversely amusing that we were all pretending to be normal when we all happened to be insanely interesting.

Perhaps expecting any given place or group of people to embody an ideal or share a common strain of reasoning is a fool's errand, and all the UCL student body have in common is good grades, a smattering of ambition, and the will to brave at least three years of steep London rent. But if you do call yourself a student at UCL, one thing is beyond all doubt: if you can get to grips with university in London, sans distractions, you can make it anywhere. You're far from coddled, and by refusing to get waylaid amongst the streets paved with gold amidst the millions losing their footing and themselves along the way, it bespeaks resilience, and the courage not to be stunted by one's own comparative insignificance as a small fish in a big pond. Rather than offering up some syrupy advice to just 'be yourself', the closing point to take away from my personal experience is rather to keep evolving. Nothing lasts forever, not a three year nor seven year degree, so make like the shifting sands of time and let the inevitable transformations commence.

**BUT IF YOU DO CALL YOURSELF  
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# Should we keep pretending Jeremy Bentham founded UCL?

words by claudie lynch  
art by carol bartlett

Jeremy Bentham has long been considered the 'founder' of UCL -  
so why do we preserve this myth?

Jeremy Bentham, the man, the myth, the legend; long has he been the go-to figurehead of UCL, leaving his mark on official documents, at least one function room, and the entire university's philosophy. And yet, the latest exhibitions in the Cloisters make a point of doing away with Bentham's significance, dispelling half-truths and outright lies about his dealings with UCL. No, they don't roll the auto-icon into meetings. No, Bentham didn't really invent utilitarianism, and no, he didn't found UCL either. Less man, more myth. But perhaps this legend is one worth preserving, given the alternative: if Bentham didn't really found UCL, then who did? And why don't we venerate them in the same way?

For starters, it's worth taking a short history lesson. According to a mural painted in 1923 by the Slade professor Henry Tonks, the four founders of UCL (then simply the University of London) were architect William Wilkins, poet Thomas Campbell, lawyer Lord Henry Brougham, and diarist Henry Crabb Robinson. Of these, it was Campbell and Brougham who really pushed forward the idea of a London university; this idea first arose in an open letter in the Times from the former to the latter. They later worked together to get the issue into Parliament, which led to Brougham's expulsion as an MP for recommending the creation of a university separate from the Anglican Church. Our contemporary Atheist Society's slogan, "Godless of Gower Street", was

originally an insult used to discourage the creation of Brougham's proposed university. The roots of this atmosphere of academic tolerance were the study of universities in Scotland and Germany: Campbell's alma mater was Bonn, Robinson's was Jena, and Brougham was schooled in Edinburgh.

Barring Wilkins, then, none of the founders were Oxbridge grads – but crucially, not one of them was a Londoner, and they held few firm connections to the capital. However, being local isn't exactly imperative to founding an academic institution, especially if you happen to be filthy rich. It's hardly a surprise then, that all of UCL's founders were of the wealthy, land-owning upper middle classes, or philanthropists in their own right. Although UCL was far beyond its rivals in holding the moral high ground, its origins were hardly wide-ranging. Back then, the university was less "global", more provincial.

But maybe this isn't giving its founders enough credit. If we account for James Mill, one of Bentham's students and the father of philosopher John Stuart Mill, we can establish connections to the Indian subcontinent. The issue is that most of these connections, based on Mill's penchant for ethnic segregation in India, invited racial profiling and disrupted local identities; like a subcontinental Sykes-Picot, his machinations gave rise to the vast diaspora following the split of the British Raj into India and Pakistan.

Say we keep Bentham, then. Say we abandon UCL's true founders and stick to the myth. What then? The problem is that Bentham's myths stretch far beyond his academic patronage. First and foremost, Bentham wasn't actually the first man

unfettered 'reason' bred fascism.

However, it's not just utilitarianism that poses problems for Bentham's legacy. As our poster next to his auto-icon so carefully explains, Bentham invented the Panopticon – a way of designing buildings,

collection on social media, the Panopticon is increasingly embedded – in ways that would royally ruin a utilitarian calculus.

Of course, most of the criticism levelled at Bentham here would have been impossible during his lifetime. In the absence of CCTV,

to come up with utilitarianism. The phrase, "the greatest happiness for the greatest number", was in fact first coined 50 years before his time by Scotsman Frances Hutcheson. And, like most Western philosophy, it can for the most part be tracked back to the Ancient Greeks, with Epicurus' doctrine of a happy life that avoids pain and seeks sustainable pleasure. While Bentham was by far the most important proponent of utilitarianism, especially as a response to the philosophy of Kant, he was only the latest in a chain of philosophers stretching back millennia, who have continued theorising since without managing to topple Bentham's crown.

But is utilitarianism that incredible anyway? It's not exactly a complex moral theory, which is why one of the key complaints aimed at utilitarianism is that it can't deal with more complicated issues by making snap judgements about who or what factor is most valuable – most famously articulated in the Trolley Problem. We venerate Bentham as if he was some master philosopher, but his *Principles of Morals and Legislation* is totally incapable of articulating the value of pleasures, and how to its natural conclusion,

usually prisons, such that all prisoners can be viewed from a single space in the centre of the prison, which cannot be seen into itself. Pentonville Prison is one such example of this design. The postmodern philosopher Michel Foucault would later go on to show that the idea of a panopticon is a symbol of a "surveillance society"; as no one prisoner can ever be sure whether they are being watched, they must always act under the impression that they are.

Therefore, prisoners in such an institution are conditioned to feel inhibited and oppressed, automatically enforcing good behaviour.

If this sounds fair when applied to convicted criminals, it probably wouldn't be fair when applied to an entire society – which is what Foucault suggests is happening all around us.

Today, in Bentham's own country, having the most CCTV cameras in the world and with ever greater concerns over data

Facebook, or "Trolley Problem Memes", Bentham's theories seem hardly malicious. In his time, he was a serial innovator, and after all, he did patronise UCL to no end.

But if we decide our spiritual founder on the basis of what they symbolise now, Jezza and his curious cadaver aren't the best examples. And yet, the conscious choice by UCL to purchase his auto-icon is testament to our desire to use Bentham as a figurehead. Perhaps if the Four Founders themselves had followed Bentham's mummified lead, things would be more representative. Five waxwork heads are better than one, after all.







# ***UCL student politics: an illusion of political diversity***



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In the wake of October's Student Representative elections,  
the EU Students' Officer gives her opinion  
on the effectiveness of Union politics

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words by carmine greusard-deffeuille  
photography by estelle ciesla

Nearly two hundred years ago, UCL was founded on the principles of meritocracy, inclusiveness, and secularism. The idea that every deserving student should have access to higher education regardless of social background was revolutionary at the time, and UCL's spiritual founder Jeremy Bentham strongly believed in inclusion as a mean of progress for society. While Oxford and Cambridge excluded students along the lines of religion and sex, UCL provided opportunities for deserving students who did not fit the mould. The intersection of cultures, experiences, and views is the DNA of UCL. It is what makes our university strong and unique.

However, behind its apparent diversity, UCL is in many ways a clear representation of what must be addressed within today's society: a superficial promotion of inclusiveness that disguises a lack of engagement. Our current Students' Union politics are seen by many as made by and for specific students' groups. We are, of course, products of our experiences, and inter-society lobbying is going strong at UCL; groups such as the Islamic Society, one of the most pro-active on campus, is known for having its members elected to some of the highest positions of the Student Union every year.

The use of iPads as a means of securing quick votes on campus is another critical issue. In short, candidates without the backing of the most active societies have practically no chance of being successful at the polls, often regardless of their engagement or ideas. This is a democratic flaw that should be addressed; people of all perspectives should be able to express their ideas without fearing personal backlash or lobbies' influence.

Across the political spectrum, there is hypocrisy; conversation about increasing inclusivity is important and needed, but paradoxically it has left many students feeling unconsidered. Ayo Olatunji's case has embodied this ongoing frustration; the former UCL BME officer expressed hostile views towards the Jewish community he was supposed to represent as part of his role, and later during his (short) time at the National Union of Students.

Representation is achieved by those in positions of authority standing up and defending the people they have been elected to represent. The aforementioned Twitter case is analogous to a disturbing trend amongst past Sabbatical Officers to give their own personal politics, and those of their affiliated groups, priority over the welfare of a minority community that they are paid to represent. Under these circumstances, it is unsurprising that many have been left cynical about the relevance and effectiveness of the Union.

The lack of candidates for most university positions and the apparent disinterest for representation is telling, and it is worrying to see that a good number of positions at this year's Representative elections have remained vacant. Students feeling that they can't express themselves is a problem. Disengagement is not always a sign of carelessness, but rather one of helplessness caused by a flawed system. In other words, it is not the lack of political engagement from students that is to blame (posts on UCLove show the eagerness of students to debate), but a lack of space for inclusive conversation.

So what can the Union do to open its politics to all students? The ethical line between effective marketing and disrespecting the democratic process is an easy one to cross. Should 'blind' elections be organised with manifesto-only-campaigns and no endorsement from societies? No names, no pictures? Or maybe regulations invalidating elections if votes come from one pressure group only?

The founding purpose of UCL is to provide deserving people from different backgrounds with opportunities to build a more progressive society. The fault of today's politics, and arguably of our Union, is that it has become more a question of a fight for power rather than of progress. Most of the University sees the Union as useless at best, or are not aware of its workings. Students politics has become increasingly emotional, one-sided, and cyclical in its debate – whereas university education encourages open-mindedness and challenges upheld truths. There is nothing wrong with influential groups and convictions, but as the UCL founders would contend, we must build a more progressive world together. The task of political institutions is to serve the people, and it is up to us to decide on the kind of representation we want: a clash of egos, or compromises that could lead to unity. Balance is not easy to achieve, but it is necessary. We should all strive to provide each and every student with a voice and not settle for less.

***“The ethical line between effective marketing and disrespecting the democratic process is an easy one to cross.***

***Should ‘blind’ elections be organised with manifesto-only-campaigns and no endorsement from societies?***

***No names, no pictures?***

***Or maybe regulations invalidating elections if votes come from one pressure group only?”***

# *140 years of women in science at UCL*

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UCL has seen many brilliant women walk through its doors, but they were not always considered equal to their male counterparts

words by corlett novis  
art by carol bartlett

**M**any of the UK's most important social milestones have been achieved at UCL. Since its inception in 1826, UCL has been an important progressive force within higher education and science. The university was founded on the radical and secular principles of its spiritual founder, the philosopher and social reformist Jeremy Bentham, who sought to make education more widely available to the public. It was the first university to offer degrees to students regardless of their religion and, in time, regardless of sex.

Exactly 140 years ago, in 1878, UCL became the first university in the UK to allow women to study on the same terms as men, and today the principles that Bentham espoused two centuries ago could not have made a more obvious impact. Vast parts of the student body are made up of people who would traditionally be excluded from education in the past. International students now make up nearly half of all of those enrolled, and 56% of students are women, a fitting testament to Bentham, the outspoken social activist who inspired the creation of the university.

Through becoming the first British university to admit women to study science, UCL opened the door for the UK's first professionally accredited female scientists, a huge stepping stone towards equality, both for feminism and the scientific community.

In modern times, we often like to think that the benefits of equality are clear to everyone,

but there are many which are not immediately apparent.

There are the obvious points. First of all, keeping women out of science in the past was simply unfair. Disallowing the participation of women prevented them from being fully active and respected members of society, and crippled their ability to make meaningful impact: banning half of the population from participation prevented intelligent people from making vital contributions

**Many of the world's most  
important  
female scientists have been  
educated here  
at UCL**

Perhaps a less obvious advantage is the benefits of diversity in creating objective science. One of the most important aspects of science is its impartiality and objectivity: science and scientists can never totally remove their own personal bias and can only ever seek to minimise it. A scientific community composed entirely of white, middle class British men, for example, will mean that everyone in the community will share many of the same cultural biases which can remain unchecked. This was particularly pronounced in the case of early Darwinian evolutionists who used to believe that men were the driving force behind evolution and were superior to women. Their reasoning was

that men were bolder and took more risks, a theory which catered very well to the dominant sexist views held by most Victorians.

Since the rise of women in science and of suffragism, however, this bias has since been corrected. Today, women in the scientific community can recognise and correct male-centred bias in order to strengthen the objectivity and validity of scientific theories, and therefore have enhanced the quality and diversity of scientific research.

Despite being founded on progressive foundations, it took 52 years following the establishment of UCL before the university acted on the important benefits that women had to offer and allowed them to participate with their male peers. It isn't difficult to see the tremendous contributions of these female scientists over the last century, and many of the world's most important female scientists have been educated here at UCL.

For example, Hertha Ayrton, who earned her BSc in 1881, was elected the first female member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1899. In 1902 she became the first woman nominated a Fellow of the Royal Society of London. Although she could not be elected to this position because she was married, she later received the Royal Society's Hughes Medal for her investigations in 1906.

Yvonne Barr, as another example, was an accomplished virologist who graduated with a PhD from UCL in 1966. She jointly discovered



the Epstein-Barr virus, a common form of herpes, two years earlier.

**Even after women formally entered the world of science, glass ceilings still required shattering**

Another noteworthy female UCL graduate is Dame Kathleen Lonsdale. Lonsdale was a celebrated x-ray crystallographer who was well known for her work in establishing the structure of organic chemicals. She is, in addition, perhaps the most accomplished female scientist which UCL has ever produced, having achieved several milestones for female scientists. She was the first female president of the International Union of Crystallography and of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Additionally, she was one of the first to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1945.

Even after women formally entered the world of science (and nearly every faculty at UCL in fact), there were still glass ceilings which required shattering; it took a further 39 years before women were granted access to the Faculty of Medicine in 1917.

Today, however, medicine at UCL has seen a great deal of reform, with well over 50% of medical students being female. Other fields, like the natural sciences and psychology, have also seen a dramatic increase in female enrolment. However, some other disciplines, like engineering and physics, still lack strong female representation. In addition, though many women participate in undergraduate science, far fewer study towards postgraduate research. Fewer still achieve PhDs or become tenured professors, a clear indication that there is still a great deal of work to do for women to achieve real equality in science.

With this in mind, UCL is continuously striving to give women confidence and support in the scientific community. In addition to being one of the first universities in the UK to sign on to the Athena SWAN Charter for the equality of women in STEM and higher education, UCL also aims continue its support for equality through organisations such as the 50:50 Gender Equality Group and UCL Women for academic staff.

Over the last 140 years, the scientific community at UCL has been enriched and enlivened due to the participation of female scientists. From laboratories to lecture halls, UCL's progressive legacy survives via the varied and numerous contributions of its female members in academia and beyond, and will continue to do so for the many years to come.



Dame Kathleen Lonsdale



A PhD student gives her advice to those who may be seeking a project supervisor

# How to choose the right research supervisor

words by anna mallach  
photography by rawpixel

**W**elcome back to UCL! With the new term starting, the time is approaching for some of you, be you final year undergrads or postgrads, to think about choosing a supervisor, as well as a topic for your research project. But with roughly 2,500 researchers spread across 11 different faculties, this choice can be difficult. To make this process easier for you, I have summarised, below, my top tips to lighten the burden when making these important decisions.

## Make a short-list

Where to even start? For most programmes, there is a list of suggested projects already drawn up and just waiting for students to pick from. Here, the focus mainly lies with the projects themselves, so it is worth reading through all of them and deciding which 2-3 projects you like the sound of the most.

If you are not blown away immediately by what is on offer, check whether you can contact supervisors of interest directly and come up with a project between the two of you. If that is allowed through your course, the world (or at least UCL) is your oyster: check out Iris, which has the details of all of the researchers working at, or associated with, UCL. You can use this approach to read the research summaries of the academics you are interested in according to your own interests.

## Do your research

A good way to get to know your supervisor's research in more detail is to have a look at their most recent publications. Research summaries of supervisors can be very broad, which leaves out the specific details as to how exactly they approach their broader aims. On the other hand, recent publications will give you a good insight into the methods currently used in their group.

If you don't have the time to read through all of these, focus on finding a recent review your supervisor or a member of the group wrote. This will give you a clear insight into the area of research and will also inform you of your supervisor's take on some of the theories in

the field. This will make excellent reading before meeting a supervisor, as reviews are written for researchers with little prior knowledge, aiming to provide you with a succinct summary.

## Face-to-face meeting

Probably the best way of determining whether you could get along with a potential supervisor is meeting them face-to-face. This will give you a better idea on a number of things.

Firstly, you will get to hear more about the potential research project. This will most likely be more detailed than the description you were given and will give you an insight into the research methods used, the exact timeline for the project, as well as the supervisor's expectations. Also, if there are any special circumstances surrounding your ability to do the project (such as work requirements or planned holidays), this would be your chance to discuss them.

**With roughly  
2,500 researchers,  
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different faculties,  
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Maybe even more important than the project itself, this meeting will give you a chance to get to know your supervisor personally. During a project you will work closely with them, and so it is important to figure out whether



you are comfortable with their personality for a prolonged period of time. Particularly important is to figure out their work rhythm: do they expect you to work their working hours? Are they available at any time for a meeting or should this be arranged beforehand? Will they be in the office every day of your project or are you expected to work on your own?

**The better you know yourself, your research interests and way of working, the easier it will be to find what you are looking for**

All of these questions deserve to be considered by you, and just as important as your supervisor's answers are your own to these questions. Depending on whether you have previous experience working in a research group, you may already have a good idea of your preferred working style and the level of supervision needed.

#### Meet group members

After a long informative meeting with your potential supervisor, most students are too distracted with their own thoughts to pay attention to the last part of every good initial discussion: meeting the group members. If the supervisor does not offer this, ask whether it

would be possible. These researchers, post docs and other postgraduate students, can give you a more honest indication of what it is like to work in this group than maybe your supervisor can. Whilst they will probably not tell you about any drama, try to read between the lines. Lastly, it is also very important to meet the members of the lab when your supervisor tends to work from home; these will be the people you will have to turn to with everyday basic questions during your project, and will support your personal development and training when your supervisor isn't around.

Another good way to figure out the social dynamics of any group is getting a commentary from your friends. Find out amongst your friends and acquaintances whether anybody has ever worked with your supervisor of choice. Similar to current group members, this will give you a better idea of how the supervisor treats members of the research group and whether there are any other skeletons hiding in the closet.

#### Be flexible

Even once you have settled on a supervisor, it may be that they cannot take you on after all, due to extenuating circumstances. If that is the case, don't despair. Despite the fact that these researches could seem intimidating to you, most of them are very nice people, willing to help as much as possible. One possibility would be to ask for suggestions regarding another potential supervisor. Your supervisor of choice will know your interests (that is why you chose them in the first place) and will direct you to their applicable colleagues.

However, if you are desperate to work with your selected supervisor, it may be possible to be primarily supervised by someone else but via a collaboration. With longer projects, this becomes more and more feasible. For just a few months, it may be a pipe dream, but if you are in a research group for a prolonged period, your ideas could carry more weight.

#### Trial period

This is predominantly important if you really cannot make up your mind, have some spare time and the project lasts for an extended period of time. The longer your project is, the more vital it is to end up in a group you can flourish in. If you have difficulty deciding between several groups or just aren't sure whether your chosen group is really the place for you, it could be worth asking whether you could shadow your supervisor or a member of the group for a day or two. This will give you an immediate idea of what a day in the group will look like and whether it is the place for you. You may not be able to get a deep insight into your own potential project, but it could give you an idea of the environment you are about to join.

Overall, finding a good research group to conduct your project in can be daunting, but it is definitely not impossible. The better you know yourself, your own research interests and preferred way of working, the easier it will be to find what you are looking for. Also, no supervisor is perfect! Annoying habits and strange behaviours are a fact of life, so my final advice would be to find a supervisor with whose quirks you can live with. Looking for perfection will only mean you will run into disappointment.





**T**he word 'banter' is often misleading. It is a phrase which encompasses a wide range of activities and actions, and often involves light-hearted teasing. It is often good-natured, and found to be funny by all parties involved. It is intended as a joke. After all, a bit of banter never hurt anyone. But that word is not a banner under which any type of insult can be placed. It is not a free pass to say whatever you like, nor can it be used as an excuse to justify inappropriate behaviour. If this sounds obvious, for many it is not. In the summer term of the 2017-18 academic year, the UCL Men's Rugby Club were accused of racist chanting and harassment on a bus. This is a real issue. This is not a joke.

It's the final semester of the academic year. You have slaved through hours of revision and have been sleep deprived for almost two months. This final semester at university is always the most challenging. It pushes you to the limit both physically and mentally. But it does have its redeeming factors.

Upon finishing your final exam, the majority of students are free for a period of time - summer officially begins and internships and summer jobs start. For most, it is a time defined by a lack of academic work, little to no responsibilities, and a chance to relax.

And perhaps one of the highlights of this period is the final sports night of the year, held on a Wednesday, at the legendary Loop.

**THE WORD  
BANTER  
IS NOT A BANNER  
UNDER WHICH ANY  
TYPE OF INSULT CAN BE  
PLACED**

This night is a special occasion for so many reasons. For most sports clubs, it is their final social of the year before many members graduate, and the make-up of the club changes. Several members would have spent years together in the same team, giving them one final chance to come together and reminisce, leaving UCL with fond memories.

At the very least, it is an event enjoyed by all, sportsperson or not, as a finale for the academic year.

However, the events of this night began on the free bus that ferries students to Loop from

Phineas at 10pm. The UCL Men's and Women's Hockey Clubs were the first to board, members of the latter accounting for most of those present, and took to the back of the bus on the upper level. A short while afterwards, The UCL Men's Rugby Club joined and also headed to the upper deck. According to reports, the rugby team were not best pleased that the back of the bus had been taken by a different club. In response, the rugby boys began to insist that the hockey players move towards the front of the bus, intimidating the other students both verbally and physically. After refusing to budge, certain members of the rugby club began to sit themselves on the girls who would not move.

**THIS NIGHT IS A  
SPECIAL OCCASION  
FOR SO  
MANY REASONS**

But don't worry, it was all in good spirits. An 18 stone lad putting his whole body weight on a complete stranger because he wants to sit in that seat is totally normal, justifiable behaviour. Of course it is!

Witnesses on the bus confirmed that this behaviour persisted for a good few minutes. It could have been that those girls were seeing each other for the last time, or that it was their last ever Loop - a night to savour for all. Instead, it is now tarnished by memories of one club taking things too far. It was harassment: there is no other way to view these events. Yet, there was more to come.

**BUT DON'T WORRY,  
IT WAS ALL IN  
GOOD SPIRITS**

A video of the events began to do the rounds on social media in the following days. It shows members of the UCL Men's Rugby Club

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chanting together on the upper deck of the bus as it was travelling to Loop. Each club has their own unique chants, and for the most part they are light-hearted and genuinely quite amusing. The chants captured on video were, to put it politely, culturally offensive:

"Jesus can't play rugby because he's nailed to the post. Mohammed can't play rugby because his head gear is illegal. Vishnu can't play rugby because he's got too many hands."

These were just a few of the lines used in the chants, and they were repeated for a period of around a minute. The people listening are visually shocked by the singing and at one point an individual can be heard saying "There is a minority ethnic [on board] and they're singing this song".

Perhaps more disgusting than the chant itself, is how loudly and proudly the song was sung on public transport where minority ethnic individuals were present. It is one thing to be offensive in private (which is still not condoned), but another thing entirely to be openly racist and culturally belittling in a public setting.

IT WAS  
HARRASSMENT:  
THERE IS NO OTHER  
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TO VIEW THESE  
EVENTS

The video ends with one of the rugby club members pointing at the camera when he realises that filming is taking place: "Sorry, we've got someone breaking some UCL personal relations there. We didn't really say anything." There is a smug wink at the camera to go with a truly obnoxious comment. Throughout the entirety of the video, there is nothing on display from any one rugby club member to suggest that their actions are at the very least slightly unacceptable.

The chants are delivered in such a way that it appears every thought, no matter how inappropriate, has to be heard by all. For the rugby team, it all appears like one big joke, just standard banter on a night out; the greatest injustice of all was filming the actions, not the actions themselves.

Two members of the rugby club have since been banned from club socials and from the Loop bus.

It is a worrying trend across the UK involving societies taking 'jokes' too far. A Durham University rugby team was banned in 2017 for mocking the local miners' strikes. A University of Leeds hockey team was banned from competition after throwing a 'chav social'. Further, two members of the University of Exeter's Bracton Law Society were expelled in summer 2018 for racist messages on WhatsApp, messages that one individual states "went from crude humour to racial slurs". All of the following are culturally inappropriate, and the clubs in question should have done more to prevent such incidents from happening.

THERE IS A SMUG  
WINK AT THE  
CAMERA  
TO GO WITH A  
TRULY OBNOXIOUS  
COMMENT

Yet, in a time of heightened political awareness, societies can struggle to put on events without offending someone. A UCL club social entitled 'Around the World' had to be cancelled after many complained it would be racist or culturally inappropriate, given the list of countries included was shortened to the likes of Switzerland, the UK, and Australia.

AFTER ALL,  
IT WAS JUST A  
LIGHTEARTED  
JOKE

But the events of the final Loop of the year was not a case of exaggerated political correctness. This was harassment followed by a crass display of racist chanting. There was no remorse, no guilt, and no regret when they were caught on camera. After all, it was just a light-hearted joke. But incidents of university racism are up 60% since 2016, according to the Independent, and harassment cases are on the rise too. Clearly, this is a serious issue. This is not banter. This is not a joke.

# AN INTERVIEW WITH UCFC'S FINEST

UCFC's goalkeeper, Jonny Harvey, gives us the run down

words by shyaamal solanki  
photography by UCFC



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**We were unaware of what had happened until we got a call confirming us as champions. That night ended up being a pretty good one**  
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**A**head of the 2018-19 UCL sports season, there is much to look forward to, as well as look back on as we prepare for the beginning of the new year. Somehow, I managed to secure an interview with University College Football Club's finest Welsh goalkeeper that happens to be on a year abroad (no, there wasn't a wide plethora of choice). Yes of course, I'm talking about the infamous Jonny Harvey – with over 2,000 friends on Facebook as well as shamelessly posting and plugging every single project he's involved in, you must've heard of Jonny Harvey. If not, then you must know him as the Gordon Banks of the record-breaking UCFC 1st XI.

By season's end, this team capped off the most successful season in UCL 1st team football history, pulling off the incredible feat of retaining the LUSL League and Cup double, claiming the elusive BUCS League title and ascending to Division I. It truly was a fantastic season and who better than to speak with the man who kept seven clean sheets across the season, including one in the LUSL Cup Final.

***So Jon, if you can, summarise for me just how well the firsts did last season and what you think was key to that success?***

We were coming off the back of a really successful season the year before, but our main aim was always to win the BUCS League so to achieve that was great. In all, we managed to retain the LUSL Cup for the third year running, the LUSL league for the second year running and became the first team in UCFC's history to win the BUCS League and get promoted to Division I.

I think our success came down to a couple of factors, perhaps most obviously Alex Kozak and Dr Goals [Viktor Kärcher] combining to score over 100 goals between them in the season. It was also a massive boost having so many incredible freshers (both first year and masters) join the squad to fill the holes that were left from other departing members. Otherwise, we really couldn't have done it all without Cockers'



captain Noah putting his massive head to good use to lead us through the season.

**What were the best and worst moments of the season?**

The best was without doubt the moment when we found out we'd won the BUCS League. We'd lost to Essex the week before, perhaps due to my own fault, meaning that if Kent beat LSE we'd have to go up to Kent and get a result there to win the league, which was a pretty stressful prospect. That day, we had just beaten Chichester 8-1 but we were unaware of what had happened elsewhere until Noah got a call from the LSE captain saying they'd beaten Kent, confirming us as champions. That night ended up being a pretty good one.

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**To find myself walking out of the tunnel as a fresher was an incredible experience**

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Worst, I'd have to say, is losing Varsity. We'd beaten them earlier in the season, we'd won the LUSL Cup two days earlier and we really should have put them away to top off the best season ever, so to lose on penalties was a really, really bitter pill to swallow.

**The 1st XI is known for being a tight-knit group of lads with a lot of banter. What was the funniest moment of last year?**

[Harvey laughs] I think that a lot of our funny memories are the sort of 'you had to be there' moments, and just general football banter. That being said, one of my favourites had to be when Noah [1st XI captain] had to turn down a girl's advances in Loop because "Kristian Bell's come out with the boys and he never comes out!" Also, there was the crazy time when George Hick was escorted out of a Chinese restaurant at 4am at knife-point. It's a long story.

**A cup final, albeit for any team, is a huge deal. Describe what it was like to play in Varsity as well as the cup finals two years in a row?**

When I first came to UCL, I had the goal of making the Varsity team in my final year, so to find myself walking out of the tunnel as a fresher was an incredible experience. I'll never forget the rush of stepping out onto the pitch and hearing the crowd go absolutely wild... there truly isn't anything like it. The cup finals are amazing as well, and for the last couple of years they've come two days before Varsity,

which makes for a pretty intense weekend, especially if you win! Yeah, there's really not a lot better than a Varsity or cup final clash.

**What makes UCFC such a great club compared to other sports at UCL?**

Well, for starters, we're the biggest club week in week out in terms of active members, fielding seven teams. I'd also say we're just a huge club of really good mates - of course we do have the typical hierarchy of freshers and seniors, but we don't treat the freshers badly like some other sports clubs do. Most importantly, and especially this year, we've worked on making UCFC a club rather than a collection of teams. Our teams are really successful, our socials are great, and our tours are even better - I wouldn't want to be part of any other club.

**On your year abroad in Australia, what will you miss the most about UCFC?**

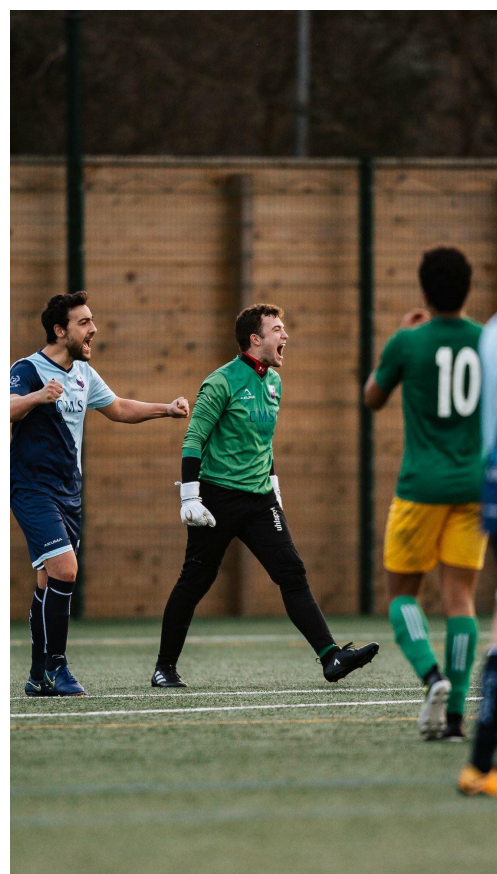
Football is such a massive part of my week at UCL. I train on a Monday, and then play on a Wednesday and Saturday, meaning the footy lads have become some of my closest [and only] mates, so I'll really miss the bus journeys, the banter, and the very high standard of football. Also, I loved being social sec this year and seeing the socials just get bigger and better every week, so it's going to be sad seeing pics and videos of all the boys at socials and Loop while I'm stuck in a Thursday morning tutorial, time difference and all.

**Your good mate and former fellow social sec Max Tyson will begin his time as president of the Men's FC. Although you're not going to be a part of it, what can footballing freshers expect under the reign of President Tyson?**

Yeah, thanks for rubbing that in. Tyson absolutely loves the club, he really helped drive it forward last year and will continue to do the same this year. To be fair, Fridge [former president Kurt Heaven] did some amazing work so Tyson is just standing on the shoulders of a giant, but he'll be sure to put his own spin on things - picture a really camp dictatorship. He's got a real focus on getting as many freshers into the set-up as possible because they're just so important to the club, so if I was a fresher I'd be really excited at the prospect of trialling and getting into UCFC.

**And finally, what are you looking forward to upon your return next year?**

Socials, Loop and finally returning to a country where you can buy VKs.



# Will Brexit steal Erasmus from us?

With Brexit on the horizon, what does this mean for the future of the Erasmus programme?

It's that time of year again; when we wistfully wave goodbye to a few UCL friends as they begin their year abroad in another country, whilst excitedly awaiting the return of those who have spent the last year having the adventure of a lifetime. Will these experiences be a defining moment of our younger siblings' return to university each year? With Brexit around the corner, it appears the answer could be no.

The Erasmus Programme (EuRo-pean Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students), named after the infamous Renaissance philosopher, was founded in 1987 to facilitate student exchange within the European Union (EU). With 4,000 students involved in the programme at any one time, it gives a significant portion of UK students the chance to study somewhere other than their home institution for a year, with a small monthly grant. In return,

we benefit from a host of EU students coming to the UK to study. Students may choose to study or work, gaining the unique opportunity to live and socialise in a foreign country.

**Erasmus years are both a vital cultural exchange, and a unique experience of another way of life**

Initially, the scheme focused on language students and the benefits that a year abroad would have on their fluency. However, over the years UCL has enabled students from all faculties to take up this opportunity. This can only be indicative of just how important these

Erasmus years now mean for students, as both a vital cultural exchange and a unique experience of another way of life. A unique experience that is now under threat from the isolationist ideals of Brexit. Recently, Erasmus+ was launched, the 14.7 billion amalgamated programme for education, training, youth and sport, further highlighting how people are increasingly valuing student exchanges as an important part of university life. It is hard to imagine how universities in the UK will cope if they are eliminated from the Erasmus+ programme due to Brexit.

The first thing mentioned in the 'Welcome Talk 2016' for UCL's School of European Languages, Culture and Society (SELCS) after the referendum vote, was that language students needn't worry about Brexit affecting their compulsory Year Abroad: negotiations wouldn't have concluded by the time third year came around.

words by catrin harris  
art by georgina bartlett and laura riggall



Their prediction was correct, and now the third 'post-Brexit' Year Abroad cohort are currently jetting off to their Erasmus+ locations, seemingly undeterred by the threat of Brexit. Having said that, we can't be sure that future SELCS students will get a similarly bold welcome into the faculty, as UCL cannot be so sure what the next few years will hold in terms of their relationship with the Erasmus+ programme.

In 2016, when the immense gravity of the referendum result began to sink in for UK universities, there was general concern, reported in both the Independent and the Guardian, that British students would immediately be excluded from the Erasmus+ scheme. It was, as Erasmus' UK director, Ruth Sinclair-Jones, stated "a sad moment of uncertainty" - an uncertainty that persistently lingers on, as each cohort of students deliberates whether they will be the final one to benefit from Erasmus+.

The British Council also issued a statement

explaining that the UK's involvement in Erasmus+ "will depend on the exit negotiations", which only allows this uncertainty to loom on. Their survey confirmed the importance of Erasmus+ to young people, as 74% of respondents aged 18-24 wanted to see international exchange schemes, such as Erasmus+, maintained post-Brexit. Given its obviously vital role in the university experience, especially for language students for whom time in a foreign country to practice their classroom vocabulary is paramount to their learning, we are left to wonder where Erasmus+ stands in the UK Government's deliberations over Britain's eventual exit from the EU.

Theresa May echoed the statement published in the joint progress report during Phase I of negotiations, confirming that the UK will continue to take part in the Erasmus+ student exchange programme until at least the end of 2020.



Initially, in August 2016, the Government announced its promise to underwrite the payment of awards for UK applicants for successful bids to EU funding, encouraging businesses and universities to continue applications for EU funds. In extension, the Government is now discussing the measures required to stay true to their word, and ensure that UK organisations can participate in Erasmus+ until the end of 2020.

In August, as the (joint) hottest UK summer on record came to a close, and we began preparations for the third academic year under Brexit negotiations, Erasmus+ published their document "Erasmus+ in the UK if there's no Brexit deal." This explicitly detailed that the October 2018 call for bids will take place as usual, regardless of UK-EU negotiations. Furthermore, they stated that the Government has welcomed their proposal for the 2021-2027 successor scheme to Erasmus+, and will begin discussing it while the UK remains part of the EU.

However, it is important to note that if Britain

does lose its place in the Erasmus+ scheme, it may be worth following other countries in finding alternate ways to provide a similar opportunity. Norway, for example, is not a member of the EU, yet maintains freedom of movement and thus continues to be a part of the Erasmus+ programme. However, given that the Leave campaign capitalised on the closing of borders to avoid migration, it is unlikely that the UK will accept such an open arrangement.

Furthermore, Switzerland founded the Swiss European Mobility Programme, making agreements with individual universities to facilitate a student exchange mirroring Erasmus+, which has proved an effective substitute for the original framework. The difficulty is that without funding from Brussels, the programme relies heavily on Government resources and thus comes at a very high financial cost to incoming students. Therefore, Erasmus+ is undoubtedly the best option for students at UK universities.

UCL has been decidedly vocal about its hopes for the Erasmus+ scheme in the face of Brexit, as last year approximately 350 UCL students took part in the Erasmus+ scheme, benefitting them both academically and personally, in wider preparation for their future lives. Our President and Provost, Michael Arthur, spoke

to the Guardian back in June 2016 about his concern regarding Brexit's effect on Erasmus+: "Does it look a little bit like England is closed for business and we are not interested in the rest of the world?"

Unfortunately, it seems he is right about the image that Britain (rather than England) presents to the rest of Europe: that we don't want to be involved anymore. But a resounding chorus of students in UK universities would beg to differ. The Brexit vote may want us to turn our back on such invaluable cultural exchanges as Erasmus+, but we are not ready to give them up just yet.

**UCL has been decidedly vocal about its hopes for the Erasmus+ scheme in the face of Brexit**



# A flight to the unknown

A UCL student wins a trip of a lifetime.

Here, he discusses the unforgettable experience

words by isobel helme  
art by ashley broom

Many a student dreams of a spur of the moment, all expenses paid, getaway to an exotic beach location. Delusional? Too good to be true? Most figure that the fantasy is unfeasible. However, this summer, one intrepid UCL student achieved the impossible. He won a one of a kind competition, earning him and a fortunate friend the trip of a lifetime. The only catch: he wouldn't know where he was going until he got there.

Recently, I had the opportunity, as Pi Media's Travel Editor, to interview seasoned globetrotter and second year biotechnology student Jacopo Gabrielli, about his extraordinary adventure on the first ever 'Flight to the Unknown'. The scheme was conceived by one of Europe's fastest growing airlines, Hungarian low budget company Wizz Air, whose 'Let's Get Lost' campaign is "aimed at encouraging people to embrace the unknown and live life to the fullest".

The 90 lucky winners and their fortuitous friends received free flight tickets, two nights' accommodation and travel insurance; all they had to finance themselves was spending money once in the destination. Before departure, all they knew was that they needed to be at London's Luton Airport on the 2nd August, prepared to embark on a 'Flight to the Unknown'.

Gabrielli discovered the scheme when a friend tagged him in a post on Wizz Air's Instagram account; keen to throw his hat into the ring, his interest was instantly piqued. He told me, "A friend of mine tagged me in Wizz's Instagram post in which they were announcing the competition, and she told me to try because

I might have a chance of winning. I was interested right away." In order to enter, contestants were judged on their own social media profiles, with the most creative, humorous, adventurous or exciting submissions earning a seat on the Flight to the Unknown.

Gabrielli tagged Wizz Air's account in a picture from his Jailbreak experience around Europe earlier this year, during which he raised £1,000 for charity. Together with another UCL student, he had made it to Budapest in 36 hours spending no money, with 100% of all donated funds going towards PHAB and the Sickle Cell Society. Clearly no stranger to unconventional methods of travel, it is no surprise that Gabrielli's application attracted Wizz Air's attention.

Each of the lucky winners received two tickets, and Gabrielli, wanting to share the unforgettable experience, took a colleague he met at a laboratory where he was working at the beginning of summer. He told me, "It was definitely a surprise to find out that I'd won, and even more so for my friend who won a free trip out of the blue." During the build-up to departure, they were given few hints about the surprise destination. They were informed that there would be an average temperature of 25-35°C, so, feeling optimistic, they packed accordingly, taking with them summery clothing and swimming attire, which Gabrielli described as a "sign of hope".

At the airport, and for the majority of the flight, they remained clueless as to where they were going; the tickets, signposts and announcements gave little away, saying only 'Mystery Flight'. Instead of the usual in-flight entertainment, Gabrielli and his companion spent the whole journey using a compass and an altimeter to track the flight, desperately attempting to guess their destination.

When the pilot announced that they were half an hour away from landing, the plane was turning southwest over Albania and the Adriatic. This was when they finally understood where they were heading: Gabrielli's native Italy. When I asked him if this was a disappointment, he explained, "I wasn't at all disappointed, because the city we visited was very far away from my town: eight hours by train. Also, I hadn't been there in ten years, so I have no regrets."

**All they knew was that they had to be at London's Luton Airport on the 2nd August**

They disembarked in the southern city of Bari, a picturesque historic port in the region of Puglia, the largest urban area on the Adriatic.

Much of Bari's tourism comes from the Basilica di San Nicola, an important site of pilgrimage for Eastern European Catholics and Orthodox Christians. Part of the skeleton of Saint Nicholas (Father Christmas) can be found, and it is said that his bone fragments emit a liquid that possesses supernatural powers. Every year on Saint Nicholas' feast day, the 6th December, the clergy of the Basilica collect a flask of the substance, which is available to purchase from the gift shop.

**"Almost 5,000 people entered the competition, meaning that the flight could have been filled 26 times"**

Gabrielli also told me that the trip reminded him of how much he missed Italian cuisine. Bari's gastronomy is largely centred on its three main local products, wheat, olive oil and wine, complemented by its extensive selection of indigenous fruits and vegetables. For the travellers on the Flight to the Unknown, breakfast was included: a rich buffet that ranged from very traditional and classic southern Italian delicacies to a simple continental breakfast.

Upon arrival, they left their luggage in their hotel, a four-star establishment outside of the city centre, and took a train approximately thirty kilometres south to Polignano A Mare, a nearby coastal village, steeped in rich history, and settled atop of a 20-metre-high limestone cliff. In fact, due to the success of The Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series, Polignano A Mare is now "a regular stop for the cliff diving elite", because its "turquoise cove creates a natural amphitheatre for the crowds who flock to watch the divers in action". Once there, they discovered a secluded beach, and visited the Old Town, with its narrow whitewashed alleys and three panoramic terraces, each with a view of the Adriatic and its craggy ravines.

Keen to know more, I contacted Wizz Air for comment about the success of the scheme. A representative told me, "almost 5,000 people entered the competition, meaning that the flight could have been filled 26 times". However, due to the challenging and somewhat daunting nature of the trip, only the most intrepid and outgoing of travellers applied for the experience. Because the selection process was based on social media images, all of Gabrielli's fellow contestants were similarly interested in photography and art, as well as travel. Gabrielli explains that he met many interesting and like-minded people as a consequence, and will remain in contact with them.





Follow @j\_gabbus on Instagram for more insight into Gabrielli's global adventures  
Follow @ajbroom\_art on Instagram



# The introvert's guide to: **term one**

Freshers' Week can be draining for introverts, but this experience doesn't have to define the term

**F**reshers' Week is a thing of legend among students. Second and third years impart wild accounts of 36 hour parties, enigmatic initiation ceremonies, waking up in a skip next to the Thames in someone else's shoes, endless sexual encounters, and of course – booze, booze, and more booze. For lots of people, this sounds like a week spent in heaven, but for the more introverted souls amongst us, the allure of Freshers' Week sounds like nothing short of a nightmare.

Not sure what an introvert is, let alone know whether you identify as one? No bother, let's do a quick break down of introversion versus its counterpart, extroversion. Whether you're an introvert or an extrovert depends on where you get your energy from, and how much energy you expend in social situations. For example, extroverts tend to crave the company of others, prefer having large groups of friends and extended social circles, and find that spending too much time alone drains them of energy.

Being introverted means pretty much the exact opposite. An introvert may enjoy spending time with others, but gets tired after extended periods of socialising, and so needs time alone to 'recharge'. It seems like the most natural thing in the world to most introverts, having sought quieter spaces and moments their entire life. Being an introvert is in no way a hindrance, nor does it mean that there's something wrong with you. In fact, it's estimated that introverted people make up 40% of the population – so introverts are not alone, even though we often prefer to be.

If you think that you're someone who needs solitude, prefers quiet nights in rather than all-night parties, or if you're someone that has a few close friends as opposed to hundreds of acquaintances, then you might be an introvert! If so, welcome to the club. We're a quiet, sensitive, and analytical bunch but amongst close friends you can find us being quite the loudmouth.

***"If you're introverted like me, be assured that friends don't have to be made at Egg or a boat party, trapped in a mob of sweaty students with beer on your jeans and some sort of niche house music assaulting your ear-drums. "***

Fellow introverts, if Freshers' Week was your idea of hell, please read on, because you're not alone.

Just over one year ago, I was sat on my bed at home trying to decide whether or not it would be worth buying a Fresher's wristband. I've never been one to actively choose a night out of clubbing, nor a person who chooses to make a whole new group of friends unless it was 100% necessary. Yet, here I was, biting my nails and wondering if I should spend fifty of my hard earned pounds on an entry bracelet, or instead buy entry to club nights separately at the door.

Why was I willingly handing over my cash to attend events I knew I wouldn't enjoy, meet people I have little in common with, and end up with a week-long hangover? Because I genuinely believed that clubbing was the only way to make friends in Freshers' Week. And it wasn't just the clubbing I was psyching myself up for. It was the evening socials, the welcome drinks at halls, and the departmental parties. I told myself it would all be worth it once I had acquired a solid gold group of friends, and a repertoire of wild stories to impart on my future grandchildren.

Flash forward a fortnight and Freshers' Week is coming to a close. I've made precisely zero friends from clubbing – mainly because I attended only one club night on Monday, and I hated it. I spent way too much money, left early, and got lost on the way back to halls. Flash forward a year and I have a collection of wonderful close friends, none of whom I met clubbing and many of which are introverts themselves.

Is Freshers' Week the road to friendship? Maybe for some. But if you're introverted like me, be assured that friends don't have to be made at Egg or a boat party, trapped in a mob of sweaty students with beer on your jeans and some sort of niche house music assaulting your ear-drums.





# *survival* *guide*

LIFESTYLE



*step one: make the most of campus*  
*step two: recharge your batteries*  
*step three: find your space*  
*step four: trust yourself*

Societies are great places to make friends, especially if you're in the market for befriending other introverts or like-minded people. If you didn't catch the Welcome Fair, scroll through the Union website to see which societies you may be interested in joining for the rest of the year – it's not too late! It's a myth that the Student Union only host sports clubs or that socials are centred around drinking and nights out. Explore the likes of the Art Society or Yoga & Meditation Society, which host peaceful and relaxing events that help you escape the sometimes overwhelming noise of London.

UCL and Bloomsbury are littered with peaceful places that are ideal for introverts. Check out Waterstones opposite Malet Place, where you can grab a coffee at Dillons (its groundfloor café) or utilise one of its many reading nooks upstairs. UCL has some of the best libraries in London, as I'm sure you'll find out later in the year. For the most relaxing experience, get some library-hopping in before exam season hits.

If you're in need of some solitude but still want to get out and experience London, you're in luck. There are lots of 'introvert friendly' locations close to campus for you to explore. Soak in some silence at the British Library near St Pancras Station, or fuel your curiosity in the British Museum, just a ten minute walk south of UCL's main campus. If you don't mind going further afield, then visit the Barbican Conservatory, or one of London's many parks for some peace and quiet whilst getting back to nature.

By doing so, you'll attract like-minded people. It's kind of obvious when you think about it; if you go out clubbing every night, you'll meet people who like going out clubbing. If you hang around your flat in the evenings with a cup of tea and a Netflix show on the go, you'll probably find people doing the same thing. If you're looking to befriend more introverts, be on the lookout for people doing what you want to be doing. Freshers' Week might be an extrovert's dream, but trust me, there are hundreds of introverts wanting a quiet night in and a chat over a bowl of pasta.

Like many times in life, the start of university is the perfect opportunity to challenge yourself to try new things, meet new people and wade out of your comfort zone. UCL is a fantastic place to do just that, but always remember that first term, and the rest of your time at university, is meant to be enjoyable. If you really don't want to do certain activities, set boundaries and listen to your gut feeling.

Everyone's university experience has the potential to be memorable in some way or other.

# HAVE WE LOST SIGHT OF SELF CARE?

words by sophie large

photography by lauren faulkner (instagram: @shallowfocus)

Self-care remains an important part of the student lifestyle, but have we moved away from its true meaning?

First term can be a tricky one for all of us, at any stage of our degree (I'm about to start my third first term and believe me, they never come without a challenge). You've had the summer to reflect on what you'd change about the last year, and the improvements you want to make for the future. Perhaps you've made a list of societies you want to join, club nights you want to book, and grades you want to achieve.

However, during this first term, many people admit to feeling down. You may feel stressed about upcoming assessments, or starting off the year on a high note. Maybe you're worried about making new friends, as it seems most people are already in their cliques. You've never lived away from your hometown before, and London is huge and incredibly intimidating. Perhaps most of your friends have opted for a year abroad and you're faced with the prospect of having to make new friends in your third year. Let's be

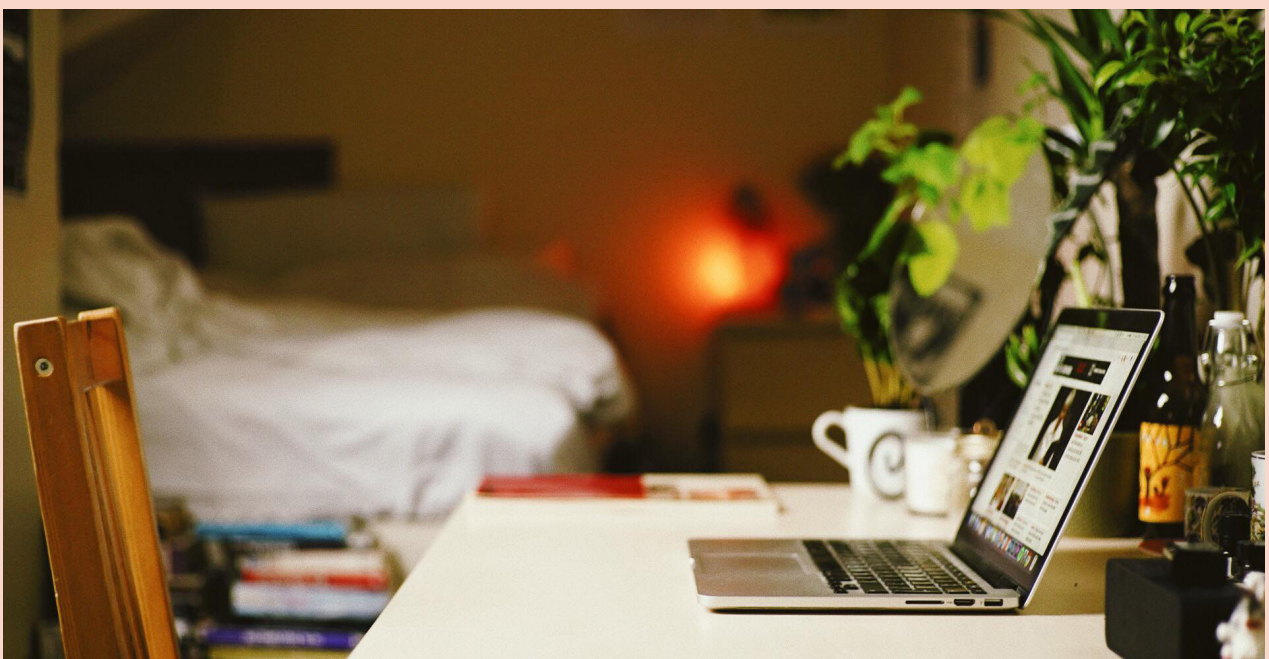
honest, the list of things to worry about is endless. But we're not here to talk about that—we're here to talk a little bit about "self-care", and how its popular definition may not be all that accurate.

It's important we take time to look after ourselves in a society that doesn't always accommodate a healthy lifestyle. We've all seen those diagrams – a triangle with one of life's demands at each point, but you can only 'pick two': choose between your health, social life and good grades. Choose between your relationship, sleeping for eight hours a night, and finishing that essay due Monday. While the reality is a lot more complicated, the theory isn't far off. So, it's vital that we adjust our lifestyle to society's high demands, and take time out to focus on ourselves for a hot minute.

But what does self-care actually look like? Over the past six months, I've heard the concept

of 'self-care' thrown around a lot. Martha is staying in and watching Netflix tonight with a Chinese takeaway, because 'self-care'. Joey just bought new trainers, because 'self-care'. Emily just spent two hours in the bath, applying three different face masks, and lighting twenty candles whilst listening to Bon Iver on vinyl because, well, freaking 'self-care'. But overindulgence isn't necessarily caring for yourself, and in fact may be doing the opposite if you really can't afford this lifestyle. Good self-care – active self-care – should be accessible to everyone capable of initiating it.

I hold my hands up. I am completely, 100% guilty of a good old self-care day, week or month. But that's the problem: it becomes a lifestyle, and it's one that doesn't necessarily make you feel a whole lot better. Aren't all your worries still alive and kicking? Deadlines still looming? Once the self-care sesh is over, there's still the







**“FOR ME, SELF-CARE ISN'T EASY OR PASSIVE – IT'S ACTIVE.”**

just-as-long list of things you ought to be doing but really can't bring yourself to do. Surely this isn't how it's meant to work? Isn't self-care meant to leave us with a feeling of peace and calm?

I feel that maybe the idea of self-care that we've come to know and love is potentially distorted from what really might help us get over those uni blues and beyond. I wonder if many of us (myself included) simply use it as a form of procrastination. Instead of putting off deadlines and binging *Grey's Anatomy* for the second time, maybe what would benefit my mental, physical and emotional health is putting on my favourite playlist and tidying my room. It's not going to get my essays written any quicker, but maybe it will help clear my mind and make me more productive when I sit down to do them later.

This distorted view of self-care – passive self-care – often involves spending unnecessary time and money. What may be more effective is *active* self-care. This often means doing the more difficult thing, the thing you really don't want to do that much, and actually helping yourself get tasks completed. It's about being your own friend, giving yourself the encouragement you would give to your best mate, if they were in your shoes. When trying to define self-care, I came across a wealth of sources that nearly all suggested it should improve our emotional, mental or physical health.

Specifically, self-care is being active in improving your own wellbeing, particularly in times of stress. It needs to be planned, self-initiated, and it must be something that we enjoy. In short, self-care should help relieve anxiety and feelings of stress or sadness.

I'm not saying that if you feel you need a break you shouldn't take one. Sometimes life is overwhelming, and we need to check out for a while. That's okay – balance is important. However, while an evening of Netflix after a day of study is totally reasonable, I don't think that can be classed as self-care, but rather simply relaxing. For me, self-care isn't easy or passive – it's active.

We should also keep in mind that self-care is a spectrum of sorts, meaning that you may need to do something small, like get your home space organised to feel better; or you may need to work through some heavier challenges. It may get to the point where self-care isn't enough. Sometimes, you need someone else to care for you – and that's okay, too. Part of listening to yourself is knowing your needs and when you need help. If you're feeling constantly down, even though you feel you're exercising 'self-care' every day, consider re-evaluating your view on what self-care means to you and whether it's benefiting you in the long run. Everyone wants their first term to run smoothly, and caring for ourselves – *really* caring for ourselves – is an important step towards that.

**“IT'S ABOUT BEING YOUR OWN FRIEND, GIVING YOURSELF THE ENCOURAGEMENT YOU WOULD GIVE TO YOUR BEST MATE, IF THEY WERE IN YOUR SHOES.”**



# Through the cloisters

words by bruno reynell  
photography by estelle ciesla

The UCL cloisters are an accessible hot spot for arts and culture. Follow a tour of the current exhibits right on our doorstep

During the weekend of UCL's Welcome Fair, thousands of students crowded through the North and South Cloisters in search of ways to fill their spare time over the coming year. This annual event is somewhat reflective of the role that the two long hallways play in the day-to-day lives of students: for most of us, they are simply areas we pass through, offering the most direct route between two locations on campus.

In other words, the Cloisters are rarely somewhere that we students go to for the very sake of being there. On the 29th and 30th of September, it's likely that freshers spent rather more time trying to wade through the crowd to various stalls than examining curious statues and educative posters. It's the same once term begins. Whether you're rushing to a 9am lecture, or trudging home after a long day in the library, it can hardly seem the right moment to explore a pop-up exhibition, or spend half an hour in a museum. However, by spending just a small amount of time looking around the Cloisters, you'll quickly see that they merit far more attention than they seem to receive.

We might begin a tour of the Cloisters at their very northernmost tip, where they meet various other buildings. These include the North Wing, home to the world-renowned Slade School of Fine Art, whose glittering list of alumni includes the likes of Antony Gormley, Eduardo Paolozzi, and Rachel Whiteread. This is particularly appropriate given that where the two buildings join, we find recent works produced by such Slade artists.

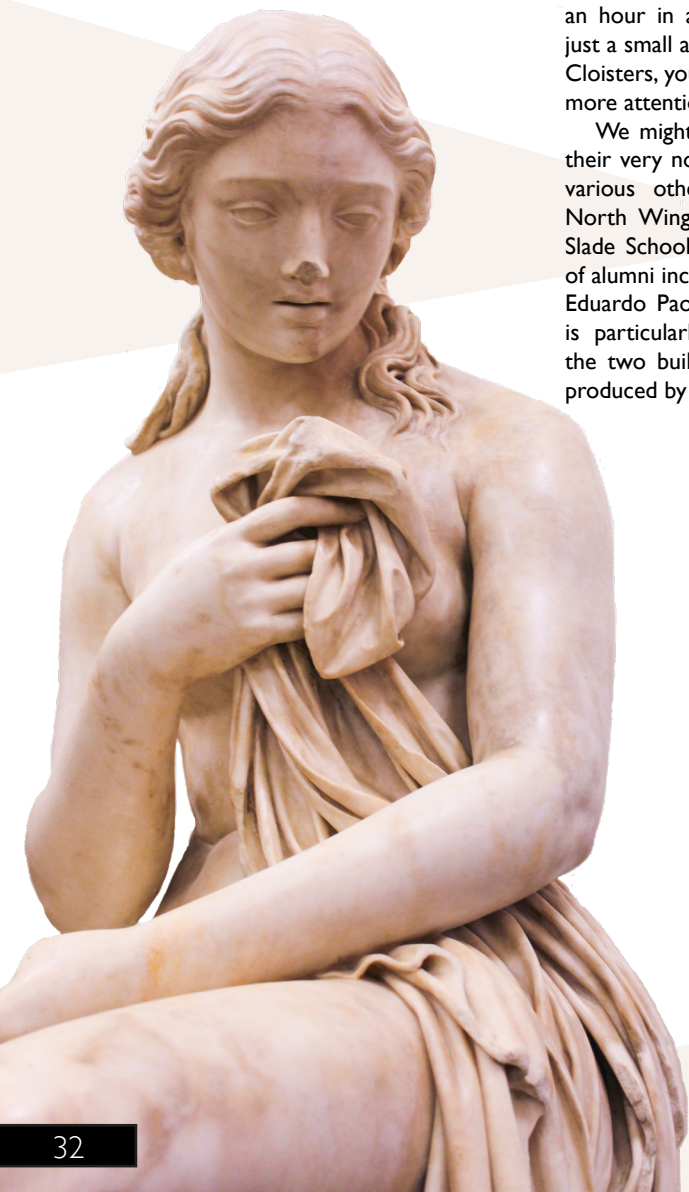
On one wall is what looks like a bar chart, but one far more mesmerising than those that you might be used to seeing. This is the Pigment Timeline, a table charting the dates at which various colours have been used on artists' palettes throughout history. The exhibit is also part of the intriguing Pigment Timeline Project, a multidisciplinary research project exploring connections between UCL departments involving pigment and colour in any aspect of their research.

Over the summer, this corner of the Cloisters was home to another exploration of colour in the form of Slade graduate Onya McCausland's solo show *Five Colours, Five Landscapes*. Adorning the wall opposite the Pigment Timeline was the first of five displays spread throughout the cloisters, a striking deep shade of red painted from floor to ceiling. McCausland's show was the culmination of research she carried out with the assistance of UCL chemists and the UK Coal Authority, to create five new colours derived from waste produced at five former coalfields across the country. They examined the imprint our industrial past leaves on the landscape, as well as how it can be remediated.

While clearly aesthetically pleasing works of art, both the Pigment Timeline and *Five Colours, Five Landscapes* also offer alluring glimpses into contemporary research carried out at the Slade, as well as how departments at UCL interact with each other and with the outside world.

From these exhibits reflecting current goings-on at UCL, we take a step back through the years as we move towards the Carrara marble statues, which stand between the North and South Cloisters. Opposite the reception desk of the Main Library, we see a half-nude figure holding a drape in her right hand and a bunch of lilies in her left, while a snake grows out of the stone beneath.

This is *L'Innocenza Perduta* (Lost Innocence) by the 19th century Italian sculptor Emilio Santarelli. *L'Innocenza Perduta* has clear links to UCL's beginnings, as it was initially owned by Francis and Louisa Goldsmid before it was bequeathed to the university by the latter. Francis was the son of the one of the original founders of UCL, Isaac Lyon Goldsmid, who donated enormous sums of money to the university in its early days. This support was continued by Francis and Louisa, and, as such, you could say that the statue stands as a monument to the great generosity and support offered by individuals such as these, which undoubtedly helped lay the foundations for UCL to become the prominent establishment that it is today.





While Santarelli might not be an immediately recognisable name to UCL students, the same could not be said for the figure sitting opposite *L'Innocenza Perduta*. This is the portrait of the British sculptor John Flaxman, by his contemporary, Musgrave Lewthwaite Watson. Flaxman's influence can be felt in many ways on campus. If you take a few paces back from his portrait and look up through the oculus, you will see a full-scale model of his final masterpiece, *St. Michael Overcoming Satan*. This imposing work stands at the centre of the Main Library, in the gallery that takes his name (and also famously used as a filming location in Christopher Nolan's 2010 film *Inception*).

Moving to the South Cloisters, the UCL Art Museum also owes a lot to Flaxman, and particularly his sister-in-law, Maria Denman. It was her donation of his sculpture models and drawings which led to the founding of the Museum's now vast collection. One of several UCL museums with public access, the Art Museum has reopened its doors in time for first term with a new exhibition, *Redress*. The show is an exploration of the School's once prestigious Drapery Drawing Prize, and will be held alongside a series of public events.



All five of the artists featured in *Redress* are female, reflecting the celebration of female achievement at UCL this year. The UCL Vote 100 programme commemorates 100 years since women won the right to vote in the UK General Election; Vote 100 has a strong presence in this area of campus, and around the corner from the entrance to the Art Museum we can see *Female Firsts*, a project carried out by UCL artist-in-residence Kristina Clackson Bonnington. Through a series of captivating and intimate portraits, *Female Firsts* celebrates the diverse achievements of twelve women connected to UCL. Remember to look out for the final exhibition in December, when all twelve works will be displayed alongside each other.

Retracing our steps slightly to the Octagon Gallery, which lies between the Cloisters, we find *Disruptors and Innovators*, another Vote 100 exhibition curated by UCL Art Collections. *Disruptors and Innovators* focuses on the struggle for gender equality in higher education, as well as the lack of recognition given to women at UCL despite enormous contributions to their respective fields of society and politics, archaeology, art and science. With a plethora of unique items and fantastically informative interactive screens, the exhibition is well worth a prolonged visit.

Finally, walking to the very end of the South Cloisters and turning left, we find ourselves face-to-face with perhaps the most famous object in the entirety of UCL: the auto-icon of Jeremy Bentham. Considered by many to be the spiritual forebear of UCL, it was Bentham's ideas that inspired the university's founders. Having very recently returned from completing, posthumously, a trip to America that he had always wished for in life, he is ready to be marvelled at from up close once again.

So, there we have it. Without even having covered everything in the 150-odd paces it takes to walk through the Cloisters' passageways, we've come across a diverse collection of items and displays reflecting hugely varied aspects of culture and life at UCL, both in the present and from days gone by. The lesson to take from this journey through the Cloisters? Our university is filled with corridors and walkways adorned with all manner of unusual objects and intriguing displays, so try to make time to slow down every now and then, as you never know what you may discover.



# A Bloomsbury bookshop crawl

words by matilda singer

art by hannah bruton



# bookmarks

Bookmarks is a specialist in socialist material and the largest bookshop of its kind in the UK. Rummaging through their stands, you'll find books both new and second hand. There are traditional pamphlets to guide you through their principles, brand new magazines detailing cutting-edge political thought, as well as a small selection of self-published radical titles. Bookmarks represents all aspects of left wing ideology, from trade unions and class tensions, to environmentalism, feminism, and LGBTQ+ rights. Browsing their collection is a surefire way to engage your inner activist.



atlantis

We move from the radical to the mystical to find Atlantis, which proudly stakes its claim as London's oldest occult bookshop.

A family-run business, Atlantis' eclectic mix of stock covers anything from fairies, vampires, and werewolves to the more millennial-friendly topics, such as yoga, meditation, and positive psychology. Staff will happily point you towards practitioners of alternative therapies, engage you in a tarot card reading or perhaps try and hand-sell you their self-published magical titles. Whether you're looking to further your knowledge in the world of occult or only dabble in occasional witchcraft, Atlantis has you covered.



london  
review  
bookshop

For a more traditional literary experience, around the corner on Bury Place you will find the distinctive windows of London Review Bookshop. Opened in 2003 by the famed literary magazine London Review of Books, the shop has come to serve as a cultural haven for the thoughtful book browsers of Bloomsbury. Each table is filled with meticulously curated displays and knowledgeable staff recommendations to guide you towards the next bestseller or highlight an undiscovered gem. Don't miss their jam-packed events schedule of readings and debates or the adjacent LRB café – in fact, stop off at the latter for some delicious tea and cake.

1 Bloomsbury Street

49A Museum Road

14-16 Bury Place



We may have the mammoth Waterstones Gower Street right on our doorstep, but don't forget UCL is also in a prime position when it comes to independent booksellers. With giant retailers like Amazon gradually monopolising the industry, it has never been more important to support small businesses and shop local. So venture off campus and join us on this bookshop crawl, featuring some of the finest indies in Bloomsbury.



## persephone books

Both bookshop and publisher, Persephone founder Nicola Beauman works to unearth forgotten female writers and reprint their works of fiction and non-fiction. The name was plucked from Greek mythology as an emblem of female creativity and new beginnings, reflecting the company's core aim. But beyond the rediscovery of exceptional writing, Persephone also believe in the value and pleasure of a beautiful book. Each is a stunning collector's item, jacketed with a distinctive grey cover and unique period endpapers. I challenge you to leave without one for your own shelves.

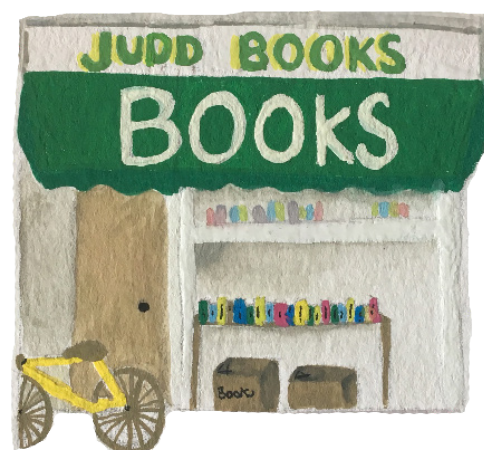
59 Lamb's Conduit Street



## gay's the word

Founded in 1979, Gay's The Word is the only bookshop in the UK dedicated to LGBTQ+ literature. Historically a place for support groups and sharing information, the shop is still very much community centred and has a distinctive friendly atmosphere. Not only are they a figurehead of political campaigning (watch Stephen Beresford's BAFTA award winning film *Pride* if you haven't already), Gay's The Word has also provided unwavering support for writers in the LGBTQ+ community over the years. They have a fantastic range of fiction, non-fiction, memoir, poetry and much more. and frequently host book groups and discussions.

66 Marchmont Street



## judd books

Wander a little further up the street to find the trademark green awning and bold typeface of Judd Books. In contrast to the pristine alphabetised shelves of chain bookshops, Judd has all the charm and individuality you would expect from a local bookshop. From floor to ceiling, shelves are rammed with high quality books on every subject. Given that you may be feeling slightly out of pocket at the end of this tour, Judd is the perfect place to finish – their books are either second-hand or discounted new titles so there is always a bargain to be found.

82 Marchmont Street

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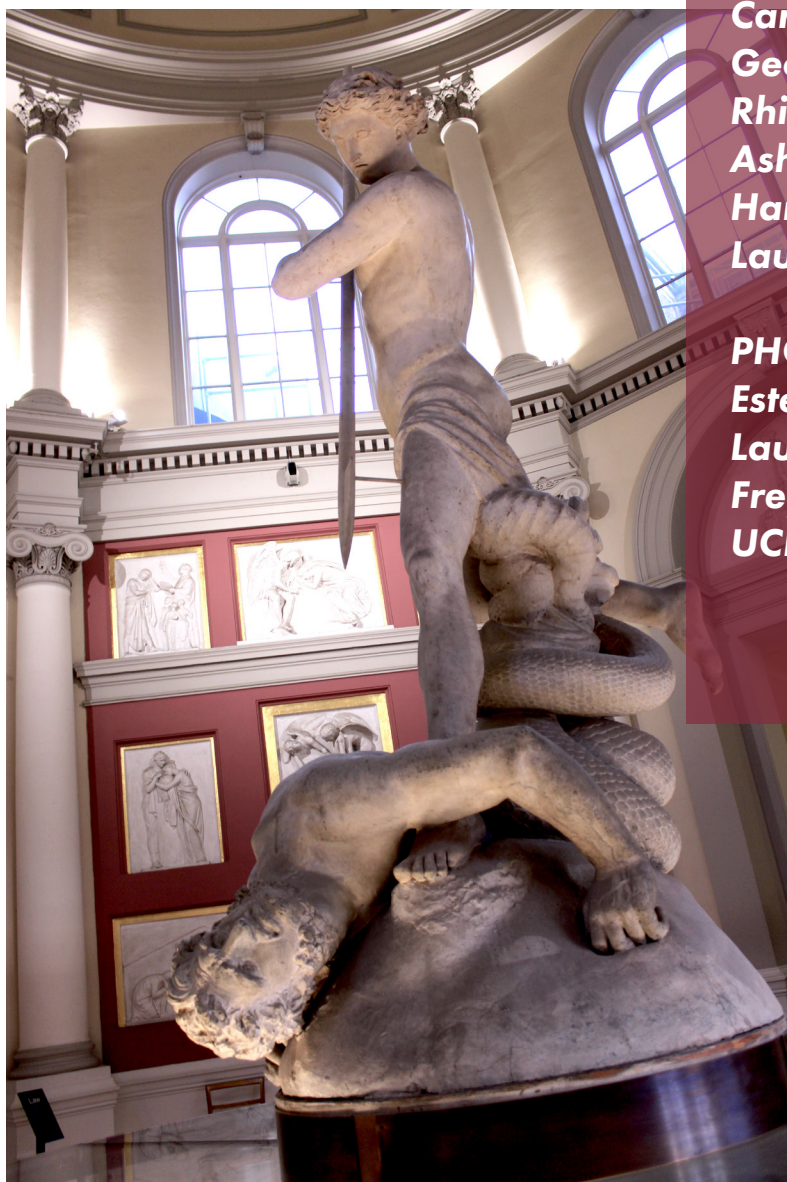
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# About Pi Media

**Founded in 1946 by the student Richard Lubbock, and named after then Provost Sir David Pye, Pi Media has spent over 70 years creating award-winning content for the student population of University College London, and we are still going strong.**

**Initially launched as a newspaper, we now create content for three outlets:**

**Pi Online is our online platform, where we post the majority of our content.**

**Pi Magazine is our features publication, which is published four times a year and follows a particular theme each issue.**

**PiTV is our collaboration with UCL's Film Society, dedicated to providing a range of content, from interviews with UCL scientists to backstage access to UCL Arts Society shows.**

**We're always seeking enthusiastic individuals to join our diverse team of writers, editors, columnists, filmmakers, producers, and designers.**

**Maybe you're a budding film critic? Or interested in exploring investigative journalism? Or maybe you have a completely new idea for Pi Media to explore? Whatever it is, we can't wait to hear from you! Get in touch with the relevant editors (see page 36) or our committee (see below): contact us through Facebook or send us an email!**

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