

UCL Academy Policy - Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Introduction

At UCL Academy we recognise how important it is for students to make good decisions about courses and careers and we support them at every stage of learning, from choosing GCSE option subjects to decisions about further education, apprenticeships, universities, careers and pathways. That's why we are committed to providing the very best in Careers Education, and to ensure that we maintain our focus on achieving positive outcomes for all students we have appointed a careers specialist, Penny Longman, to our Governing Body. An experienced careers professional, currently working as a Higher Education careers consultant at UCL (our sponsor university with whom we have strong links), Penny will advise on the School's careers provision.

We know from experience that when it comes to careers education no 'one size fits all' approach is effective, and it's our aim to ensure that **every student is supported to achieve their potential**, whatever their aspirations and whatever challenges they may face. Underpinning our approach is the belief that with the right guidance and support, every student has the potential to excel at something, and our Careers Education Programme reflects the understanding that students make good decisions when they develop:

- **A knowledge of self (unique strengths, aspirations and qualities)**
- **A knowledge of the possibilities (the range of career opportunities and pathways)**
- **The skills to make relevant connections and explore sectors & careers e.g. by completing work experience**

These guiding principles and the needs of our students are at the heart of our provision, which also aims to celebrate diversity, challenge stereotypes, raise aspirations, prepare students for the world of work, as well as to encourage self-directed learning, career curiosity and independent research.

How we achieve this:

Led by Eranda Aliu, we have developed a comprehensive [Careers Programme](#) designed to introduce students to information, people and experiences to inspire them to become motivated learners.

Regularly evaluated, the Programme is constantly evolving to reflect developments in the education system and the employment market, as well as feedback from all stakeholders - students, parents, school staff and employers. In addition, we support the best practice recommendations outlined by the Gatsby Foundation and we are working towards achieving all of the eight [Gatsby Benchmarks](#).

What students can expect:

- Opportunities for a 1:1 interviews with a qualified careers adviser
- A planned work experience programme for Level 2+ and Level 3 students
- Employer talks in assemblies and PSHE

- A Careers Fair for Level 2 and upwards
- Opportunities to engage with universities, apprenticeship providers and colleges
- A Brightside mentoring programme with UCL university
- Career focused, themed workshops e.g. employability skills
- Mock interview practice for Level 3 students
- U-explore 'Start' – careers focused online programme for all Levels
- 'Try something new day' / L2 Careers workshop
- Stem Fest activities
- National Careers Week activities
- Whole school PSHE careers programme with linked activities (CV writing, Interview skills, education pathways, apprenticeships)
- UCAS Event for Level 3 students

Additional support for students with specific learning difficulties

With the support of our Special Educational Needs professionals and other relevant agencies, students with specific learning difficulties receive additional advice and guidance about possible career choices and progression routes. Parents/carers are involved in the process at every stage, and a Personalised Progression Plan developed for every student.

Routes to Employment

Today, students have much more choice about how to access the careers they're aiming for. Whilst many will opt for the more traditional university route, an increasing number are choosing to begin their career journeys at an earlier stage with an apprenticeship. The increasing availability of quality apprenticeships in most sectors and at all levels, including Degree Level, means that many students can now qualify for their chosen career without incurring any debt.

The school is therefore committed to ensuring that all students are aware of the variety of routes available, and we welcome approaches from Further Education/Technical Colleges, Universities and Apprenticeship providers, requesting opportunities to present to students at Assemblies, Careers Fairs and suchlike.

For details of our **Provider Access Policy** and its arrangements please see Annex A below.

Finally, we are confident that our Careers Service will deliver the best possible outcomes for all our students, whatever their needs. Our Programme is comprehensive and engaging, and we enjoy extensive links with employers and our sponsors at UCL University, ensuring that students have access to quality Work Experience Placements, Mentoring Programmes, and other valuable learning experiences. There really is no 'one size fits all' approach, and being able to tailor our advice and guidance to match the unique needs of every student is our strength.

The following key documents have informed the development of our Careers Education Programme:

- *Careers Guidance and access for education and training providers (DFE, Statutory Guidance Jan 2018)*
- *Career Guidance in Schools, Colleges and Universities (Briefing paper, Jan 2018)*
- *Careers Strategy: Making the most of everyone's Skills & Talents (DFE, Dec 2017)*
- *The Gatsby Benchmarks: A Framework for Best Practice in Careers and a key part of the Government's Careers Strategy (Careers & Enterprise Company online resource)*
- *Good Careers Guidance (The Gatsby Foundation 2014).*



The UCL Academy

Adelaide Road
London NW3 3AQ

t: 020 7449 3080

e: enquiries@uclacademy.co.uk

w: www.uclacademy.co.uk

Annex A: Provider Access Policy

The school is happy to consider requests from training, apprenticeship and vocational education providers who would like the opportunity of presenting their programmes to our students; please allow a minimum of 6 weeks' lead time. Opportunities to speak to students may include school assemblies, PSHE sessions, employer and provider engagement events.

Subject to availability, we are able to make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity; IT rooms and equipment may be provided for specific provider presentations. This will be discussed and agreed with the Careers Team in advance of the visit. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at our school library.

Our Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy (March 2018) outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy; please follow the link: <http://www.uclacademy.co.uk/Policies-and-documents>

In the first instance, requests by providers should be sent to the Careers Coordinator, Eranda Aliu: e.aliu@uclacademy.org or Tel: 0207 4493087.