Section 15 Learning resources and key facilities

15. Learning resources and key facilities

15.1. UCL Library and learning resources

Please note that information on library opening times may be subject to change due to Covid-19 – please check the Library web pages for current information.

15.1.1. UCL Library Services

UCL Library Services provides support to students online and in person via our libraries. UCL has 16 libraries covering a wide range of specialist subjects with expert staff that students can ask for help. UCL Library Services provides access to a huge range of digital and print resources. The UCL Library Services page has information for students about using the library, services available, electronic resources and training and support. Subject guides provide targeted information on resources and support available, and online reading lists, which are also linked to Moodle modules, will provide students with access to core readings for their modules.

Further information:
- Library Services | UCL
- Library Subject Guides | UCL
- Reading Lists Service | UCL

15.1.2. UCL Information Services Division (ISD)

Please note that information on ISD services may be subject to change due to Covid-19 – please check the relevant webpages for current information.
The UCL Information Services Division (ISD), the primary provider of IT services to UCL, offers IT learning opportunities for students and staff in the form of ‘How to’ guides which provide step-by-step guidance to all of ISD’s key services, including email and calendar services, user IDs and passwords, print, copy and scanning, wifi, and networks.

**Digital Skills Development**

You can access opportunities for digital skills development through face-to-face and online training in areas such as data analysis, programming, desktop applications and more, along with individual support through drop-ins and via the ISD Service Desk. The DigiLearn Online service provides students with access to a library of videos covering UCL IT essentials, including remote connectivity, connected learning tools, data storage essentials, digital accessibility, Microsoft Office 365 applications (including Teams), and using institutional VPNs.

Further information:

- Digital Skills Development | UCL Information Services Division
- DigiLearn Online | UCL Information Services Division

**Online learning and self-development (LinkedIn Learning)**

Students have free access to LinkedIn Learning, an online collection of thousands of high quality video-based courses. The LinkedIn library is expansive and includes many courses that students may find complimentary to their studies, for example: study skills, statistics, machine learning, data science, software engineering, programming concepts (data structures, algorithms, etc), languages (Java, python, C++, JavaScript), project management, presentation skills, and research skills.

Further information:

- LinkedIn Learning | UCL Information Services Division

**Other online educational material (Learning On Screen & Kanopy)**

Students have free access to the Learning On Screen service, which is an online archive of educational broadcasts (free-to-air TV and radio broadcasts), and Kanopy, a streaming service whose catalogue includes a range of ‘thoughtful entertainment’.

Further information:

- Learning On Screen
- Kanopy

**Digital learning tools (Moodle, Turnitin, LectureCast, etc.)**

UCL provides students with access to a wide range of digital learning tools to support their educational experience. These include, for example:

- Moodle — the primary virtual learning environment used to host module materials and carry out group work and assessments.
- Turnitin — a tool that supports academic integrity by similarity scoring students assessed work.
- LectureCast — a tool that enables lectures to be recorded, archived, and shared with students via Moodle.
Media Central - a video catalogue through which students can stream and share content.
Reflect — a blogging service for students to reflect on their study experiences.
MyPortfolio — a digital portfolio service where students can create, collect, and share digital artefacts.

There are many other tools in use across the university, and students can expect to be inducted in the use of those tools by the relevant academic department.

Further information:
- Learning & Teaching Tools | UCL Information Services Division
- Moodle | UCL
- Turnitin | UCL Wiki
- LectureCast | UCL Information Services Division
- Media Central | UCL
- Reflect | UCL
- MyPortfolio | UCL

Computer and software resources

As a UCL student, you have access to a range of computer and software resources, on and off campus. You can access desktop computers and laptops for loan in a number of learning spaces across campus. UCL's computers run the a service called 'Desktop@UCL', which provides you with access to hundreds of software applications. You can also access an online version of this service called Desktop@UCL Anywhere', which enables you to access many of the same software applications remotely. In addition, disabled students may benefit from accessing the UCL Digital Accessibility Hub, which offers a suite of hardware and software with improved accessibility.

You can use the UCL Go app, available for iOS and Android devices, to access up to date information on where desktop computers are available on campus.

Further information:
- Computers in Student Workrooms | UCL Information Services Division
- Laptop Loans for Students | UCL Library Services
- Digital Accessibility Hub | UCL Information Services Division
- Software for Students | UCL Information Services Division

15.1.3. UCL Centre for Languages and International Education

The UCL Centre for Languages & International Education (CLIE) provides modern foreign language, British Sign Language and English for Academic Purposes (EAP) modules for UCL students. CLIE also heads the UCL Academic Communication Centre (ACC). The ACC offers discipline-specific academic communication support to both native and non-native English speakers currently studying an undergraduate or postgraduate degree at UCL. Evening courses are offered in nine foreign languages across a range of levels to support UCL students, staff and London’s wider academic and professional community. Students can access language-learning resources online through the CLIE Self-Access Centre, including films and documentaries and books for self-study.
15.1.4. Sustainability at UCL

UCL launched its Sustainability Strategy in 2019 – one of the most ambitious across the UK higher education sector. It includes many headline commitments – to be a net zero carbon institution by 2030; to be single use plastic free; and that every student has the opportunity to engage with sustainability during their time at UCL. The Sustainable UCL team offers students many different opportunities to learn about sustainability as part of their studies or extracurricular activities.

In particular, students can engage with sustainability in their free-time by joining one of UCL’s green clubs and societies, volunteer as a Sustainability Ambassador, or take part in UCL’s Student Sustainability Council to help direct UCL’s sustainability vision and represent the students’ voice on sustainability.

Further information:
- Sustainable UCL | UCL
- Student Opportunities | UCL
- Strategy for a Sustainable UCL 2019 - 2024 | UCL
- Student Clubs & Societies | UCL
- Sustainability Ambassadors | UCL
- Sustainability Council | Students Union UCL

15.2. Departmental, Faculty, and other library and learning resources

You will be able to access many of the literature and other digital resources you need online via UCL Library Services. For students on campus, there are a range of study spaces available via the Student Centre and other UCL libraries.

The UCL Science Library houses collections relating to a range of scientific disciplines, including Engineering and Computer Science, and provides access to quite study spaces, bookable group study rooms, the Learning Laboratory (the largest computer cluster at UCL), a postgraduate cluster room, printing and photocopying facilities, and technical support.
External to UCL, the British Library hosts a large reference collection on science, technology, commerce, patents, trademarks and design. Students can register for a free Reader Pass to make use of the Library’s reading rooms. The Library is located near St Pancras station on Euston Road. In addition, the Science Museum Library hosts a large collection of books and periodicals focusing on the history and social aspects of science, technology and medicine at its Wroughton site (near Swindon.) A smaller collection is available via the Dana Research Centre and Library in South Kensington.

Further information:
- Subject Support Guides - Computer Science | UCL Library Services
- British Library - Science
- Science Museum - Collections

15.3. Moodle (virtual learning environment)

Information on how to access Moodle and support contacts.

Moodle is UCL's online learning space. It includes a wide range of tools which can be used to support learning and teaching. Moodle is used to supplement taught modules, in some cases just by providing essential information and materials, but it can also be integrated more fully, becoming an essential component of a module. Some modules may use Moodle to provide access to readings, videos, activities, collaboration tools and assessments.

All taught modules at Computer Science have a Moodle page that supports their delivery. Depending on the approach taken by the Module Leader, the Moodle page may be used more or less intensively, particularly where alternative teaching environments are used in addition. Students should pay close attending to their module's Moodle forum, as this is where tutors will usually post updates about classes and answer questions.

Assessment information on Moodle

Each module's Moodle page must include an assessment section that sets out the module's summative assessment information, including the titles and weightings of the assessments and any submission deadlines. If this information is not present, then please contact the Module Administrator.

Access to Moodle pages

You will be automatically granted access to the Moodle pages of modules for which you are registered. You may request access to the pages of Computer Science modules for which you are not registered, for self-directed learning (or 'auditing'), however this is at the discretion of the Module Leader and may be refused.

Further information:
- Moodle | UCL
- Moodle FAQ | UCL Wiki
- Moodle Quick Start Guide for Students | UCL Wiki
15.4. Portico

*Information on Portico – what it is, why it is important and who to contact for support.*

Portico is the main UCL student information system which is used by both staff and students. Students will use Portico for: (1) completing pre-enrolment and enrolment; (2) completing online module registration; (3) viewing information about programmes/modules; (4) viewing examination timetable (for centrally-managed examinations); (5) viewing confirmed module results and programme outcomes once they have been released by UCL Academic Services; (6) completing changes to registration status, including programme transfers, interruptions, and withdrawals; (7) recording skills development; and (8) applying for graduation ceremonies.

It is essential that you keep your contact details up to date on Portico to ensure you receive important information from the university, including your final transcript and, if you are conferred an award, your degree certificate.

Further information:

- Portico | UCL
- What is Portico | UCL Student and Registry Services
- Portico Helpdesk | UCL Student and Registry Services

15.5. Research Student Log (MRes only)

*Information on the Research Student Log, which applies for MRes students.*

To fulfill UCL’s commitment to the quality of its research programmes, the Doctoral School provides the Research Student Log for the use of all research students at UCL. The Log is a mandatory component of all UCL research degree programmes (including the MRes) and has been prepared to assist students throughout their degree programme at UCL. It provides a framework for recording details related to the student’s graduate research programme, scheduled supervisory meetings and activities concerning the development of academic and key skills. The Log will also help students to assess their progress and to plan and chart evidence of the development of academic and discipline-specific skills and key skills.

Further information:

- UCL Research Student Log | UCL