



UCL Academic Manual

Chapter 1: Student Recruitment and Admissions Framework

Annex 1.2

Widening Participation Guidelines for Good Practice

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Good Practice

Through its widening participation activity, UCL seeks to develop as a 21st Century university engaged with society, transforming through education the lives of people drawn from all sections of the community by remaining true to its core academic values, & strategy targets under-represented groups, working with students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. At primary and early secondary, the focus is on aspiration-raising activity, while work with Year 10 students and above concentrates on supporting students to develop the skills and confidence needed to make successful applications to highly-selective universities. There are five aims that underpin the widening participation

work.

The aims are:

- **Aspiration** -To raise awareness of higher education through a comprehensive range of aspiration-raising activities.
- **Attainment and Admission** - identifying, supporting and admitting the brightest students from under-represented backgrounds.
- **Retention** - To enable those entering UCL from under-represented backgrounds to make a smooth transition to university study.
- **Evidence and Research** - To promote an evidence-based approach to widening participation activity.

- **Promotion** - To position UCL as a leader in the field and to achieve recognition for its contribution to the widening participation agenda

Widening participation activities are co-ordinated by the Access and Admissions Office, Student and Registry Services, and carried out both centrally and by academic departments.

Good practice in widening participation centrally means:

- work with teachers, including conferences and workshops
- work with pupils including visits to UCL and activities in schools and colleges
- work with parents, families and carers who might be unfamiliar with higher education
- work with external partners like supplementary schools, community groups and charitable organisations to support under-represented groups
- residential and non-residential summer schools
- UCL students acting as role models through a variety of schemes
- training of and increasing awareness among admissions tutors
- using the web and social media as a means of widening participation
- schemes to retain students, in particular a comprehensive Transition programme
- use of UCL's academic collections to reach out to younger pupils
- monitoring and targeting of activity to ensure UCL is working with appropriate groups.

Good practice in widening participation in academic departments means:

- adhering to and advancing UCL's widening participation strategy
- work with teachers, including conferences and workshops
- work with pupils including visits, workshops, masterclasses, shadowing and work placements
- short courses that stretch and inspire students
- ensuring training of Admissions Tutors and other staff concerned with interviewing and admissions in cultural awareness and widening participation issues
- making use of information on applicants' educational and socio-economic background supplied by the Access and Admissions Office
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