



## UCL Public Policy Strategy





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At UCL, we support a rare breadth and depth of knowledge and expertise drawn from world-leading research. We can be proud of our engagement with public policy: approximately 30% of our impact case studies submitted to the Research Excellence

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## Vision

UCL is rightly proud of the radical tradition – a commitment to innovation, accessibility and relevance – that was established by our founders. Successive generations have sought to impact on society and challenge convention. The *UCL Public Policy Strategy* builds on that proud history to offer a framework for the future and ensure that our university continues to play its part in transforming society.

Our vision for public policy is to maximise the potential of UCL's research to inform policy by a commitment to **embed public policy engagement and impact across UCL**. We will further cultivate an ethos of policy impact throughout the university to ensure that our research informs public policy wherever possible. It is also important that our public policy-related activity can both work across disciplinary boundaries and integrate with other UCL activities and strategies in order to achieve maximum policy impact.

In line with *UCL 2034*, the *UCL Research Strategy* and the UCL Grand Challenges, we bring **cross-disciplinary expertise to bear on public policy challenges**. Exploiting the breadth of our expertise through cross-disciplinary and collaborative activities that integrate multiple perspectives on public policy issues enables us to offer a well-rounded and evidence-based response.

Effective policy engagement relies on a **two-way flow of knowledge**. We will continue to expand our engagement with policymakers to discuss current research and key policy priorities. Knowledge exchange operates at multiple levels and in multiple directions and can benefit both policy development and research understanding. We will continue to seek to inform policy development from an early stage and to develop fruitful strategic partnerships and ongoing engagements.

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## Principles

Public policy activity at UCL should:

- focus on **expert-to-expert contact**, providing brokerage where necessary
- seek to engage on **topics that are of relevance to policymakers** where research can illuminate policy problems, whilst also recognising the different contexts in which research and policymaking are undertaken and the different imperatives for each
- adopt a **collaborative approach** to policy engagement which draws from the full breadth of UCL research, fosters dialogue, incorporates multiple perspectives, and engages other partners
- remain **non-partisan and independent**, and seek to inform policy development rather than necessarily advocate specific policies.

The following are the Core Aims of the *UCL Public Policy Strategy*.

### **Build on UCL's capacity for public policy engagement**

UCL Public Policy raises awareness of opportunities for research to inform policy (and the value of doing so) and encourages a willingness to engage with public policy and policymakers. We work with UCL faculties and departments to build on our capacity for public policy engagement, and with other units to capture the impacts arising from that engagement. Through the provision of advice and support to UCL researchers with an interest in policy engagement, we will expand UCL's capacity and appetite.

We continue to develop our external networks and partners to enhance our activities and to better understand where we can most add value in the public policy sphere.

### **Promote a coordinated approach to our wide range of public policy-focused activities**

UCL Public Policy develops synergies between other UCL initiatives to maximise learning between departmental, faculty and school activities. To enable this we stimulate and add value to specific projects and initiatives by sharing best practice and providing additional support where appropriate. UCL Public Policy has an important role in coordinating and communicating opportunities for UCL researchers to engage with policy (for example, through secondments and calls for evidence) and in facilitating additional routes for researchers to interact with policymakers.

We aim to minimise the risk of conflicting approaches from UCL agents to external bodies through consultative stakeholder relationship management.

### **Integrate expertise and knowledge from across disciplines to inform policy**

The institution-wide perspective of the Office of the Vice-Provost (Research) enables UCL Public Policy to bring together senior UCL academics to anticipate and respond to government, parliamentary and civil service needs for policy evidence. UCL Public Policy identifies key policy issues to which UCL can make a contribution and coordinates such contributions, including exploiting insights emerging from UCL Grand Challenges activity. We emphasise the value of our breadth and depth of expertise to policymakers by offering access to a range of knowledge relevant to complex issues and deploying our considerable convening power.

### **Support the effective communication of research with policy relevance to external stakeholders, highlighting the policy implications of UCL research**

UCL Public Policy works with researchers to identify and access public policy-relevant research, highlighting the range of UCL policy initiatives and outcomes. We ensure that these are effectively communicated to policymakers and promote these externally through a range of mechanisms, including meetings, written briefings and submissions

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## UCL Public Policy Priority Activities

**Establish UCL as a hub for dialogue and debate on public policy and develop UCL's reputation as a source of high-quality policy-relevant research**

UCL Public Policy provides an interface between academics and policymakers and offers a forum for discussion and interaction.

Through expanding our networks of researchers and our contacts in the public policy community, we promote and facilitate new routes for engagement and interaction between researchers and policymakers. We also facilitate new strategic partnerships with external organisations, and build on existing relationships, to expand our public policy activity.

We are responsive to both the external policy landscape and internal developments. To support this we prioritise a number of Priority Activities that we consider will best deliver our strategic aims:

