



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS

Guidance on
admissions for
16+ entry.

ucs.org.uk

UCS
HAMPSTEAD





UCS Hampstead is a leading London day school. It combines the highest standard of academic education with its distinctly liberal ethos. Outstanding pastoral care, first-class guidance and preparation for university applications, and the superb facilities make UCS an ideal place from which students make the journey from school to university.

Founded to promote the Benthamite principles of liberal scholarship and education, UCS believes that intellectual curiosity, breadth of study and independence of mind combine to achieve academic excellence; they are not subordinate to it.

Selecting children with no regard to race or creed, UCS fosters in them a sense of community alongside a tolerance of and a respect for the individual. It is a place of study, but also of self-discovery and self-expression; a school that places equal value on learning with others as on learning from others.



Mark Beard, Headmaster

Welcome to UCS

This brochure will help to give you an understanding of what makes UCS so distinctive: its broad, academic curriculum; its outstanding pastoral care; and its liberal ethos. Information on the application and assessment processes is found on pages 10 and 11. Current and former pupils, who all joined at 16+, have contributed to the booklet and we hope that their insights into what makes UCS so special will give you a real taste of this school.

For further information, please contact our Admissions department on:

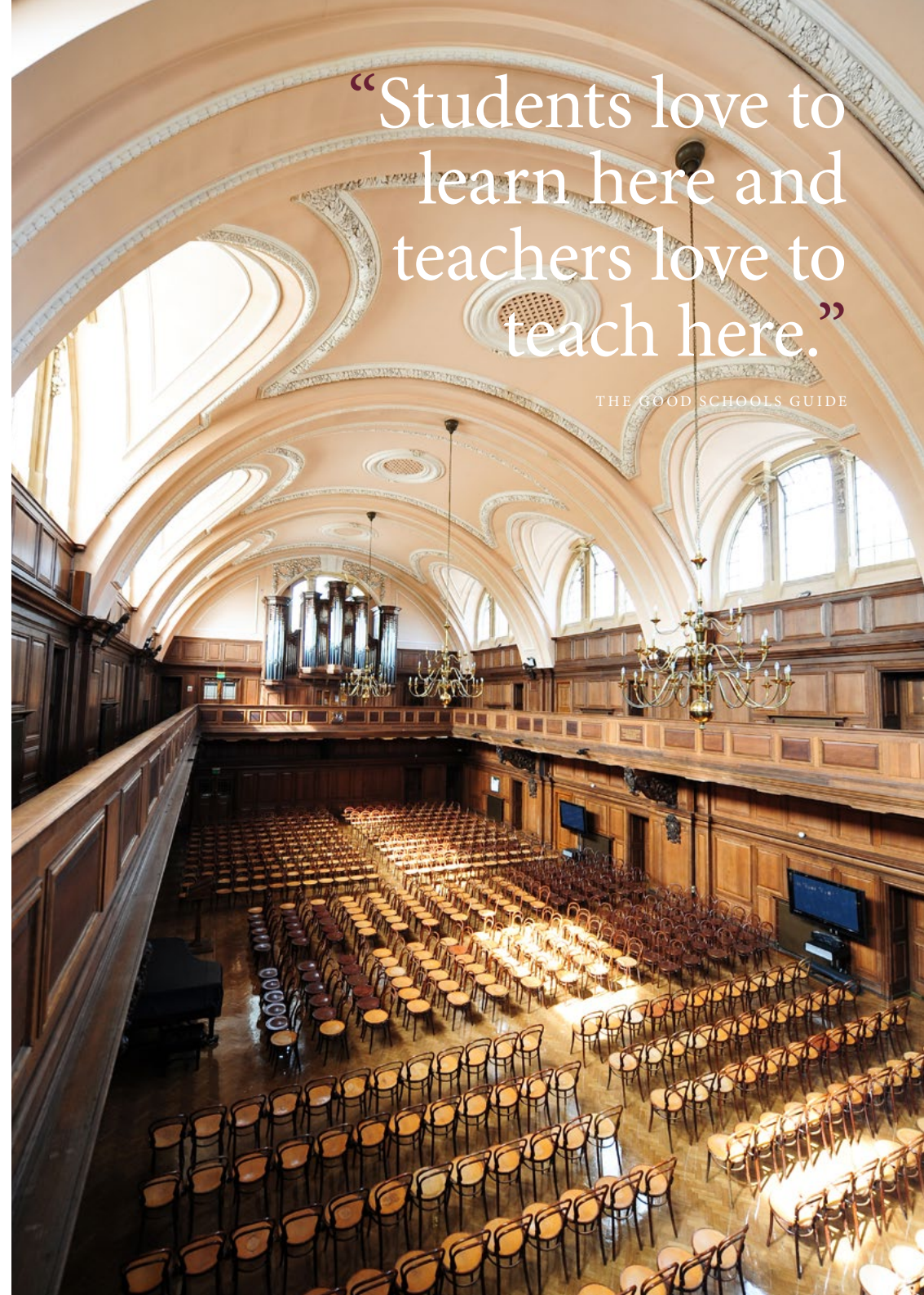
020 7433 2117 or 020 7433 2118
or ssadmissions@ucs.org.uk

*“We love
the soul of
this school.”*

TATLER SCHOOLS GUIDE

*“Students love to
learn here and
teachers love to
teach here.”*

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE



Pupil Perspectives

“I have been at UCS for 12 months and have loved every minute of it. I was previously at an all-girls school and I moved here because I wanted to be taught in a co-educational environment. It has been a wonderful experience for me. We have been given real independence with our studies and I have loved the freedom of being allowed to set up new clubs and societies which address subjects I have a passion for.



The range of visiting guest speakers who give talks at lunchtime and after school here is remarkable. We are all keen to succeed and do the very best we can. Everyone works hard and the support I have been given for my application to universities in USA has been incredible. I couldn't have asked for more from the Sixth Form team. Last year I helped run a Science Club for pupils in Years 7 and 8 and I also set up a Philosophy discussion group in the Sixth Form.”

Ella (Year 12)

“I settled into UCS very quickly. Everyone was very friendly when I arrived and I found the welcome evening in March and the induction days in June helped me to get to know people. We are all in small tutor groups which means I got to know my form teacher very quickly and he has given me great advice throughout the year.



UCS is a liberal school and this was the major reason I moved here. In class, we all work hard but there is such a buzz in lessons. Teachers here seem to love teaching us and this is obvious in all our classes which are such fun. Outside of class, people here know how to relax – the Sixth Form Centre and Café are great places to unwind. This means in lessons our teachers get the best out of us. It seems like Sixth Form at UCS is a good warm-up for university.”

Amir (Year 12)

Pupil Perspectives

“UCS feels like a real community. About 50 of us joined back in September and we were really well looked after by everybody. Everyone gets on so well with each other and there’s a great atmosphere in the Sixth Form Centre.

The facilities here are fantastic – I was so impressed when I first came on an open evening. The Music, Drama and Sport departments here are so good both in terms of the teaching and the facilities. I got involved with the netball and football teams from the very start and have loved it. We play loads of netball fixtures and whilst I had never played football before, the coaches and the older girls were just so helpful. We even played in the National Cup last year after progressing through the London qualification stages. My teachers at UCS are incredibly approachable –



my Deme Warden and form tutor were really helpful when I joined (and I know they are there for me whenever I need them). I have loved my move here and I am really looking forward to next year.”

Mayi (Year 12)

“I am just finishing Year 12 and I have been extremely impressed by the guidance we have been given this year by the Sixth Form tutors regarding our university applications. I want to study Medicine and my Biology teacher has been so helpful. The weekly medical ethics discussion group has made me fully aware of exactly what I need to do before applying and the talks given by medics during the Academic Enrichment sessions broadened my appreciation of the profession.

Next week, I will start preparing for UKCAT and BMAT papers with the UCS staff and I know I will be well prepared for interviews after the summer holiday. My passion lies in Medicine but whatever people’s interests, their passions have been supported and developed by the teachers here.

Marcus (Year 12)



My friends are applying for PPE, Maths and History of Art and we have all benefited hugely from the guidance, meaning we are confident that our applications will be successful. Let’s hope we are!”

Application Process and Assessment Information

The main points of entry to the UCS Senior School are at 11+ (for Year 7), 13+ (for Year 9), and 16+ (for Year 12). Parents wishing to apply for a 16+ place for their son or daughter should do so at the very start of Year 11.

Applications for entry into Year 12 are received, and places are offered, during Year 11. There are places for approximately 50 girls, and a small number of boys from other schools, and they will join the 120 or so boys who transfer up from our Year 11.

To apply for a place at 16+, please use the online application form on the UCS website. You will find this on the Admissions pages, within the Sixth Form section.

We estimate that the application process will take approximately 20 minutes. In some cases, you may wish to attach additional information (as directed on the form), in which case the application may take longer.

There is a £150 registration fee payable when you submit your application; you will be directed to our online payment facility when you have completed the form.

Selection for 16+ places will be by examination, and then by interview. The examination consists of a single paper which tests thinking, reasoning, and problem-solving skills; it is not subject-specific. There will be a short written test essay of approximately 20 minutes. As many candidates as possible will be invited for interview. A confidential report (including a forecast of GCSE grades, or equivalent) will be requested from each candidate's current school.

For further information contact
Admissions on:
020 7433 2117, 020 7433 2118
or ssadmissions@ucs.org.uk

Offer Requirements

Offers of Sixth Form places will be made to successful candidates in December. These offers must be firmly and finally accepted or declined at that time. All offers to come into the Sixth Form at UCS are conditional; candidates' GCSE grades must average 7 or more in nine or more eligible subjects awarded on the 9–1 scale. Any GCSEs awarded on the legacy A*–E scale will be converted into an equivalent grade on the 9–1 scale for the purposes of this calculation. For full details of our qualifying criteria and a list of eligible subjects, please see the 16+ Admissions page on the website.



Admissions dates/deadlines

Please be reminded that applications for 16+ are made in the early Autumn when your son or daughter is in Year 11. Please check the Admissions pages of the UCS website for the most up-to-date information on application deadlines.

Please note that we provide parents of prospective pupils with information about the School and the educational services we provide in good faith. This information may be contained in the School's prospectus, website, promotional literature and/or in statements made by staff or pupils during a visit or an open evening. If there are any details that are particularly important to you when deciding whether to accept this offer of a place at UCS, please do seek specific confirmation from the School that the information is accurate before returning the completed acceptance form.

For further details please refer to:
www.ucs.org.uk/Admissions-Overview-Sixth

Sixth Form Curriculum

UCS was founded to promote liberal scholarship and education, and our broad curriculum is designed to help our students develop the attributes and intellectual curiosity which will help them to flourish in their lives beyond school.

Pupils in Year 12 choose to study four of the following subjects:

Art, Biology, Computer Science, Chemistry, Design and Technology, Economics, English, French, Geography, German, Government and Politics, Greek, History, History of Art, Latin, Mandarin Chinese, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Music, Philosophy and Theology, Physics, Psychology, Spanish and Theatre Studies.

Towards the end of the first year of Sixth Form (Year 12) students may choose to drop one of their four subjects and continue with three to the end of Year 13. Many choose to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This allows students to carry out an extensive piece of independent research on a topic that is of particular interest to them within their chosen academic discipline. It encourages students to define their own academic specialisms and to develop the

research skills which will be essential at university.

All Sixth Formers participate in our Academic Enrichment programme. On a weekly basis, Friday afternoons are given over to university-style non-examined courses. These courses are designed in-house, and enable students to go beyond exam specifications, most typically in the area they wish to study in higher education. Courses are offered in all subjects, as well as other specialist areas such as Medicine and Engineering. This provision is complemented by an impressive range of talks given by eminent visiting speakers throughout the school year.

All Sixth Formers also take part in our extensive co- and extra-curricular provision. Year 12 and Year 13 have a weekly Games session, with a huge range of team and individual sports and fitness options on offer. UCS has strong community links and all Sixth Form students participate in our partnerships programme, for example by volunteering in local schools or care homes, or with local charities.



Pastoral Care

New pupils join the Sixth Form at UCS from a variety of backgrounds and both teachers and current pupils make every effort to help them settle into their new surroundings as quickly as possible. All pupils who accept an offer attend a Welcome Evening in March and then a series of Induction Days in June which take place after the GCSE exams have finished. A further induction day takes place at the beginning of the Autumn term. All these events are essential in helping new students to feel comfortable and ensure the best possible start to their time at UCS.

All our Sixth Formers are placed in small, single-sex form groups. The size of these groups allows new pupils to get to know their peers very quickly and to build a strong rapport with their form tutor and Deme Warden within a matter of days. These relationships are critical as these highly trained members of staff will provide counsel when it is required and will advise their tutees on university courses throughout the Sixth Form. Choosing a university is one of the most important decisions a young person will make and our staff are highly experienced in providing this guidance. All our pupils secure places at leading universities in the UK, including Oxford and Cambridge, as well as at overseas universities, including institutions

like MIT and Yale in the USA. Our staff have been coordinating overseas university applications for a number of years and we believe their guidance is second to none.

Throughout their time in the Sixth Form, our pupils are given the leadership opportunities and responsibilities which we feel will help them to flourish in later life. A number act as mentors for younger pupils in the School and support these pupils with their learning in a number of subjects. Sixth Formers are encouraged to found and run their own clubs and societies based on their interests and some choose to direct plays or lead different sports teams or music ensembles. They take part in charity trips to India and Romania, which run every year, and many organise charity fundraising activities during our Community Action period in the second half of the Autumn term.

Pupils at UCS work hard but they are all aware that the pastoral and academic staff are happy to support them whenever they need it. Their success is built upon the foundation of strong and positive relationships with both their peers and their teachers. The genuine sense of belonging to a community is one of the great benefits of being a member of our Sixth Form.



Commonly Asked Questions at 16+

What are you looking for in the interview?

We are looking for bright, sparky young people who are engaged and engaging, and who possess the self-motivation to pursue their interests, contribute to the life of our School, and thereby gain most from their place here.

Do you offer any bursaries or scholarships?

We do not offer sports or academic scholarships. We channel our funding into means-tested Fee Assistance ('Bursaries') and Music Scholarships. Applications for both are submitted with the main application. Further information is available upon request.

Does UCS have any preference for candidates applying from independent or state schools?

We pay no regard to whether candidates are applying from state or independent schools.

Does an application for financial assistance impact the decision as to whether a place is offered?

No. The decision as to whether to offer a place is made entirely on the candidate's credentials by our published criteria. The offer of a place will be accompanied by the offer of Fee Assistance or a Music Scholarship if they have applied for either or

both of them, and met the separate criteria relating to those provisions.

Does UCS have a 'sibling policy'?

No, we do not give preferential treatment to siblings.

Will a SEND affect an application?

Applicants with SEND are treated equally with other candidates. We assess their eligibility for extra time or laptop usage in light of currently applicable JCQ guidelines for such 'access arrangements' in public exams, including (I)GCSEs and A Levels, based on the evidence of need provided as part of the application. Please contact us for further information including full details of our SEND policy.

Can the entrance assessment be sat overseas?

We can make such arrangements if required but much prefer to meet candidates and their families face-to-face at the interview stage. Please contact the Admissions team for further advice.

For further information contact
Admissions on:
020 7433 2117 or 020 7433 2118



Joiners at 16+: Where are they now?



Ruby (OG 2015–17)
Wadham College, University
of Oxford

“I was so happy at UCS. Everyone was so welcoming and I quickly realised after joining that it is so much more than a school. There is so much going on – Music, Drama, Sport... I loved seeing my friends perform, and building up the women’s football team was a real highlight of my time at UCS. My teachers gave me so much help with my university application. I applied for Medicine and we had so many workshops on the entrance exams, interviews and writing personal statements. It was so helpful.”



Alice (OG 2014–16)
University of St Andrew’s

“Life at UCS was great. It has a truly unique atmosphere which is unlike any other school I visited. It is a relaxed environment yet is one in which you feel motivated to do the very best you can. The School is academically excellent. Settling in was easy and it didn’t take long for me to make close friends. The support at UCS is fantastic and I am in awe of how well I was prepared for university. The staff did so much to help – they know so much and they helped me every step of the way. My time at UCS was so special that it’s difficult to think of a specific highlight (though the Deme song competition every October is just brilliant!).”



Margot (OG 2014–16)
University of Durham

“UCS was great preparation for life in general and it was a perfect staging post between school and university. The teachers were incredibly supportive and I made friends extremely quickly. I was never left in the dark and there was always a friendly face to go to when I needed advice. The lessons and the Enrichment programme really opened my eyes to what interested me and I was guided carefully through the UCAS process. My passion for Geography grew and I appreciated that the liberal environment, paired with engaged fellow students, meant I really got the most out of the School. It was a great two years.”



Raaid (OG 2016–18)
University of Bristol

“I felt settled at UCS within the first week. I was originally a bit anxious about joining a new school but I made a new friendship group very quickly and my worries about settling in disappeared. From that moment, I felt extremely happy in my decision to move to UCS as the students were so welcoming. However, despite the great peers that I had, the biggest thing that I took away from UCS is the love of learning that my teachers helped me develop. Every teacher was so passionate about their subject and this has had a real impact on me. They really cared about me and my progress in their subject and they all taught with so much enthusiasm. I’m extremely grateful as I now have a passion for Chemistry that I will pursue at university and beyond.”

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