

University College School was founded in 1830 to promote principles of liberal scholarship.

That remains our first and overriding aim. Intellectual curiosity, breadth of study and independence of mind combine to achieve academic excellence; they are not subordinate to it.

Initially located in Gower Street, as part of University College London, the School was revolutionary in its approach to education, having as a fundamental principle that religion, in any form, should neither be an entry requirement nor a taught subject, believing rather that faith is a matter for the family and the individual. The UCS Foundation, now independent of the University, comprises three schools: The Senior School (850 pupils: 11-18), the Junior Branch (250 pupils: 7-11), and the Pre-Prep (130 pupils: 3-7).

All three schools are in attractive locations. In 1891, the Junior Branch was established at Holly Hill, Hampstead, followed in 1907 by the School's separation from UCL and the acquisition of the Senior School's current purpose-built accommodation in Frognal, opened by King Edward VII. The pre-preparatory branch is based nearby. All three schools fully use the extensive playing fields (including a large all-weather pitch and two pavilions) in West Hampstead.

UCS remains true to the liberal traditions of its founders and continues to work hard to foster independence of mind among its pupils, value their individuality, and create a diverse and inclusive community. Academic results are excellent. Music and drama are very strong at UCS, and the school offers an outstanding range of co-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities.

Are you hoping to spend a meaningful gap year gaining valuable experience before university, travel, or work?

University College School (UCS) Junior Branch, in Hampstead, invites applications from enthusiastic, responsible and motivated school leavers to join us for the 2025–2026 academic year. This is a unique and purposeful opportunity to work at one of London's leading independent schools, supporting staff and pupils aged 7-11 in various areas while developing valuable skills.

The Role

Our Gap Student roles are varied, fast-paced, and incredibly rewarding. No two days will be alike! From classroom assistance to co-curricular clubs, sports sessions, school trips, and administrative support, you will play a valuable part in school life.

Typical responsibilities include:

- Supporting teachers during lessons and with classroom preparation.
- Helping to run sports sessions and coaching (depending on your skills and interests).
- Supervising students at break and lunchtime.
- Helping with events, trips, and school-wide initiatives.
- Administrative and organisational support for various departments.
- There may also be exciting opportunities to accompany students on international football, rugby, hockey, and ski tours, offering unforgettable experiences abroad.

Why Choose UCS?

As a UCS Gap Student, you'll receive:

- Free daily lunch, coffee and refreshments
- Free UCS Active gym membership.
- A paid, structured role that builds responsibility, independence, and leadership.
- Support and mentoring from experienced educators and coaches.
- A welcoming and vibrant school community in beautiful North London.

What We're Looking For

- We are keen to hear from applicants who:
- Have recently completed their post-16 education.
- Are enthusiastic, adaptable, and eager to work with young people.
- Have strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Are proactive, dependable, and able to work both independently and in a team.
- Have a genuine interest in education, youth work, or coaching.
- Prior experience working with children or in a school environment is a plus but not essential — we're looking for the right attitude and approach above all.

Child Protection

University College School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced check for Regulated Activity from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) before a formal offer of employment is made. This is a requirement as the position is within a school working with children aged under 18. UCS will also undertake its own recruitment checks through contact with previous employers, referees, and others, to confirm applicants' identities and their professional records.

Arrangements for the Appointment

In addition to completing the accompanying form, applicants should provide a full Curriculum Vitae and a supporting letter to recruitment@ucs.org.uk. The closing date for applications is Friday 13th June, 12pm. However, please note that we reserve the right to interview and appoint at any stage during this process; early applications are therefore very welcome. For more information, you can also contact **anthony.lambe@ucs.org.uk** or **adam.tyson@ucs.org.uk**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a virtual or in-person interview with a member of our Senior Leadership Team.