

UCL Careers Extra buddy scheme ChangeMakers Project

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What we will cover

- The student perspectives which prompted the scheme;
- Successes, and challenges faced;
- Benefits and importance of our student/staff; partnership approach;
- Next steps.

Setting the scene

- What is Careers Extra and why does it exist?
- Importance of student voice.
- Careers Extra Champions.
- Why the buddy scheme?



Why the buddy scheme?

Student perspectives:

- Meet people of shared experiences.
- Easier to adjust to the new environment.
- Mentorship.



Aims of the scheme

- Help students experience UCL as a place where they belong and are confident in participating in different settings and spaces.
- Build skills and confidence in providing peer-to-peer support, translating into skills that will support students in future activities, including their future career.
- Support students' career exploration and decision-making through engagement with Careers Extra and UCL Careers as a whole, contributing to progression into graduate roles in line with their individual interests and aspirations.

Pilot – 2021-22

- A Careers Extra Champion project.
- Successes/challenges.
- Subsequent Summer internship
 - Deeper review and reflection.
 - Planning for 2022-23.



Student/staff partnership



Staff perspective – student leadership essential for:

- Community-building amongst students.
- Social element that appeals to other students.
- Building sustained engagement.
- Skills-development for students.

Student/staff partnership

Student perspective:

- Opens up the circle (connecting students/staff).
- Up-skilling.
- Learn about increased support from UCL.
- Closer contact with staff.
- Getting used to working with staff.



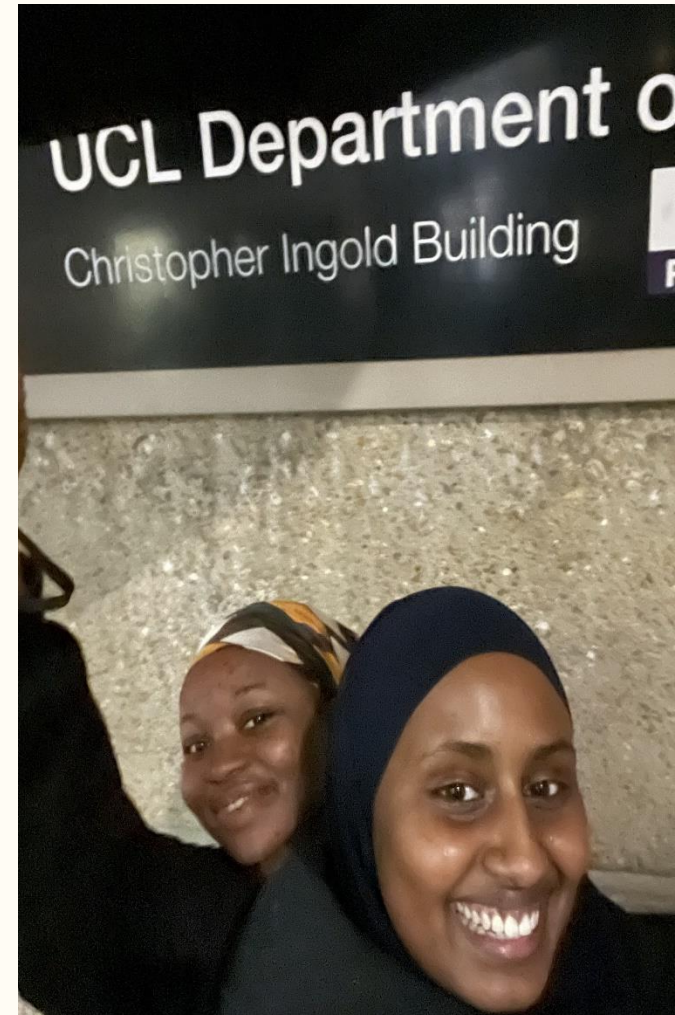
Successes

Staff perspective:

- Enthusiasm and appreciation from individual students.
- Tangible offer to students.

Student perspective:

- Making connections across the whole scheme
- Provides setting for networking with other students
- Launch event and careers events



Challenges

Student perspective:

- Low contact.
- Low attendance at events.

Staff perspective:

- Getting feedback/responses from students – are relationships working?
- Requests for events but low attendance.
- More interest from first years than upper years.



Next steps



- Focus next year on first years.
- Collaborate with societies (First Gen, 93% Club, Isoc, African Caribbean Society?).
- Collaborate with Student Success team?
- Continue student/staff partnership.

FIND *your* FUTURE

