

OPEN EDUCATION

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Sharing and showcasing our educational output

UCL was founded in 1826 with a commitment to “open education for all, on equal terms.”

We continue to foster an environment in which open knowledge and open scholarship ideals are actively pursued, through open access initiatives such as UCL Discovery, UCL Press, and UCL Open Education.

2016's *Open Education Scoping Study* and the proceeding year's *Roadmap* brought Open Education to the fore, guiding our current OE vision to embed open teaching and learning practices and philosophies across UCL.

WHAT IS OPEN EDUCATION?

Open Education (OE) centres on a commitment to provide access to high-quality education and educational resources to a global audience.

The OE Consortium declares, “sharing is probably the most basic characteristic of education: education is sharing knowledge, insights and information with others, upon which new knowledge, skills, ideas and understanding can be built.”

Open Education typically involves the creation and sharing of openly-licensed learning materials – open educational resources (OER) – that can be re-used and enhanced by the community. OER can include lesson/course plans, exercises, diagrams, video or audio lecture recordings, presentations, handouts, mock papers/tests, reading lists, and so on.

There is alignment with open science and open society ideals which foster communication between academia and the public. It also inspires new ways of undertaking education, by removing (economic, geographic, and other) barriers to usage, allowing anyone with an Internet connection to use published OER for teaching and learning.

UCL'S STORY

UCL Library Services is leading the university's two key open access (OA) initiatives, UCL Discovery and UCL Press, which embed and explore OA approaches as the principal means of dissemination for academic work in a digital world.

UCL DISCOVERY

UCL Discovery is UCL's open access repository, showcasing and providing access to UCL research publications.

BOOC/OPEN TEXTBOOKS

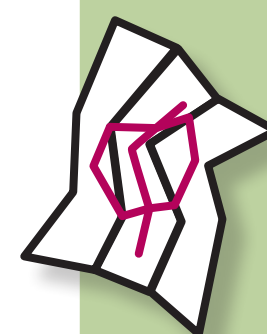
UCL Press is the first fully Open Access University Press in the UK. Grounded in the Open Science/Open Scholarship agenda, it seeks to make its published outputs available to a global audience, irrespective of their ability to pay, because UCL believes that this is the best way to tackle global Grand Challenges such as poverty, disease, and hunger.

Trail-blazing...

- Publisher of open textbooks and content in the form of BOOC (Books as Open Online Content); democratising knowledge by allowing different ways to explore and share ideas and discussions
- **January 2018:** UCL launches open access megajournal to help solve world's biggest challenges
- **May 2018:** UCL Press hits one million book downloads milestone
- **August 2018:** UCL Press' OA e-books top most-read on JSTOR (online library providing access to more than 12 million e-resources)



The announcement from JSTOR further evidences the incredible reach and popularity of UCL Press' publications. It [...] shows the real value and importance of Open Access publishing. We are effectively reaching a wider, more diverse and global audience, which is extremely rewarding and shows the power of OA.



OE ROADMAP

Findings from the *Open Education Roadmap* inform our three-pronged approach to embedding Open Education at UCL:

Policy

Developing policy around open education at UCL to ensure it is embedded into community activities – this includes the repository and deposit policy, a content strategy, and a planned OE policy, which will be determined through the Open Science Policy Platform.

Practice

- Expanding the practice of open education across UCL through a programme of engagement, across disciplines and academic levels.
- Establishing a comprehensive support network for everyone at UCL; this includes running monthly special interest group (SIG) meetings, fortnightly support drop-in sessions, (departmental) workshops, #LearnHack events, and publishing updates through institutional/divisional news channels, setting out case studies and (online) guidance documents, and more.

Infrastructure

- Identifying and engaging with existing institutional strategies aspiring to OE ideals.
- Standardising relationships with repository and education partners across UCL.
- The launch of a proof-of-concept repository, OpenEd@UCL, dedicated to storing, sharing, and showcasing the university's teaching materials – both academic and student generated.

Connected Curriculum

Open Arena

Open Science Platform

Global Engagement Strategy

TEF

Education Strategy 2016-21

UCL Education Awards

Academic Careers Framework

HEA Fellowship

Rewarding open behaviours

UCL OER REPOSITORY, OPENED@UCL

The publication of OER through the repository infrastructure allows for the continuation and enrichment of certain academic practices, such as showcasing examples of academic output, including student-generated content.

It also supports impact measurement, quality assurance, and UCL's Connected Curriculum strategy; the latter seeks to promote collaboration across academic levels and disciplines and facilitate communication between academia and the public.

It is our aim that embedding open practices at an institutional level into teaching and learning will inspire new forms of education on the open web and around the world.

LOOKING AHEAD

We need to come up with new ways to show [...] that UCL is open and accessible [...] and that the knowledge we generate is of great value not only to wider society, but [...] to individuals.

- **Phase 3 18/19:** current stage – testing the repository, creating awareness of Open Education across campus, and building policies to embed OE practice
- **Phase 4 19/20:** two-year project-to-service initiative to establish an implementation of open education appropriate to UCL
- **Phase 5 2020+:** OE is business as usual

www.ucl.ac.uk/oer

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