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.