UCL Scholars Study Abroad Program
Program Description and Application Requirements
Applications due January 25 by 3pm

Email all materials including transcript to: SAapplications@caltech.edu & have references emailed to:
SAreferences@caltech.edu

Please read the following pages carefully as this information is essential for completing an application.
You will find most of your questions answered.

Introduction and General Information
The UCL Scholars Program is a study abroad program in which Caltech students study at University College London during their junior or senior year during their Fall Term only. **The dates for 2024 are Monday, September 23rd through Friday, December 13th.** Participants are required to attend the fall orientation that will take place during the week before classes start, although dates for next year are not yet set. The orientation program will provide information on the academic system, registrations for classes and the health and counseling services for incoming exchange students. There are usually social events and tours of London in addition to the typical workshops on registration, life at UCL, etc.

Note that participants must remain at UCL for the entire UCL fall term. Students may travel in Britain or Europe before the program starts or after it ends. It is possible to make an occasional weekend trip to nearby European destinations such as Paris or Amsterdam, however, students are required to attend all classes, labs and lectures. Weekend trips <u>must not</u> interfere with lecture, lab, or seminar attendance.

Reading Week: At the mid-point of the term there is a Reading Week when all humanities and social science subjects and some science fields (e.g. computer science, math, and psychology) do not hold classes. This Reading Week is for catching up on the large amount of independent reading students are assigned in humanities or social science classes or working on essays, projects, or research papers. <u>The purpose of this week is academic.</u> However, students who have managed their time well during the early part of the semester and are on pace or ahead on their work may be able to use some of this time for travel. Students wishing to do this should notify the Study Abroad Director at least two weeks prior to Reading Week and will need to offer an explanation of how the travel will fit into their coursework requirements. A good compromise is taking a long weekend or one four-day trip and devoting the remainder of the time to academic work. Note carefully that Reading Week is not a vacation period.

UCL Location, History and Student Body
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/

University College London (UCL) is one of the top universities in Britain. UCL was founded in 1826 and was the first university established in London. It was the first university to admit students from any religious or social background and to admit women on equal terms with men. UCL was also the first university in Britain to offer degrees in fields such as literature, modern languages, law, medicine, and engineering.

With about 14,000 undergraduates, UCL is located in an amazing part of central London, the Bloomsbury/Fitzrovia area. The UCL campus is a few minutes' walk north of Oxford Street (one of the main shopping arteries) and the British Museum. There is very convenient access to the London Underground and London area train stations which are minutes away. There is also a robust bus system.

Room and Board
Caltech students live in single rooms in one of the official dormitories.

Due to the longer length of the UCL 12-week semester (compared to the 10-week Caltech term) and the cost of housing in London, there may be a housing supplement charged to cover the additional weeks of room. The amount of the supplement depends on UCL housing fees and the exchange rate. Students on financial aid are eligible for additional funding to cover these costs and costs associated with the additional meals and should talk to the Caltech Financial Aid Office about this.

Academic Program

Note that UCL is composed of 9 faculties: Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences, Faculty of Laws, Faculty of the Built Environment, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, and School of Slavonic and East European Studies.

Students are not allowed to take courses in the following departments: *Biochemical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Management Science & Innovation, Law, Physics & Astronomy, and Mathematics.*

Students are allowed to take classes in the following STEM departments: *Civil, Environmental, & Geomatic Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Biomedical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Molecular Sciences, Neuroscience, Chemistry, and Earth Sciences and any social science or humanities department that allows fall term only students to take classes in their department.*

Biological and Biomedical Science departments require a minimum GPA of 3.5 for applicants, and the Computer Science department requires a minimum GPA of 3.3 to apply. Neuroscience department requires a minimum GPA of 3.7. Experience shows that departments requiring a GPA higher than 3.3 also require very strong reference letters.

Students can look for courses by subject from either of this website:
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/study-abroad-ucl/study-abroad-guide/subjects

Caltech students must choose an Admitting Department from within the **Faculty of Engineering (Mechanical only), Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, or the Faculty of Life Sciences** that admit Fall term only students.

Since classes for next fall are not yet listed, applicants should list classes based on the current schedule. When listing classes for your application, list in UCL credits only; do not include US or ECTS. Students accepted to UCL will be allowed to make changes with the permission of the director of study abroad.

This page lists the faculties and individual departmental homepages. On each department's home page, you can click on the undergraduate degree program: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/departments/academic-departments/.

Pre-Health students, please note that students **cannot** take courses in the Faculty of Medicine. However, within the Faculty of Life Sciences, there are three departments that are very popular with pre-health students: Biological Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, and Molecular Biosciences. Students can also take courses in the Department of Pharmacology, the Department of Physiology, and the Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology, but cannot apply for admission to these departments. There are also courses of particular interest to Pre-Health in the fields such as psychology and global health.

Students are admitted to ONE DEPARTMENT in the sciences or engineering related to their Caltech option. Students will be required to take at least HALF OF THEIR CREDITS (30 UCL CREDIT) in that department.

Students MUST take exactly 60 UCL Credits total. Students who need to fulfill a 12-unit department requirement will be given 12 units for the required course in question, with the permission of the instructor of the equivalent class at Caltech. Students are not allowed to take 30 UCL credit yearlong courses.

Students may take all 60 UCL credits total in the sciences or engineering or may take up to 30 UCL credits in the humanities or social sciences at UCL.

Fall affiliate students are not allowed to take classes in the following departments: English Literature, Faculty of Laws, or Studio Art at the Slade School of Art, the Language Center, or Faculty of Medicine. STEM departments that will not admit fall term students: All Engineering except Mechanical Engineering, Math, Physics, Astronomy, Statistics

Note: Visiting students are only allowed to take level 1 Economics courses and cannot be admitted into Economics.

Note that courses will be designated <u>Fall Term (FT), Spring Term (ST), or Year</u> in the UCL course listing. Fall affiliated students can only take classes from departments that allow fall entry.

Classes in the humanities, social sciences, or in a foreign language can be taken to fulfill humanities and social science requirements, provided that you obtain Caltech's HSS departmental permission after acceptance into the program. (You do not need to seek their permission as part of the application process.) Students can take interesting classes such as an *Art in London*, taught in a different art gallery each week by a different art specialist, or a course on the Architecture of London. Other fascinating classes such as *Egypt in London* and *London Before the Great Fire* are also taught. See the art history, anthropology, archaeology, political science, and literature class listings in the *Study Abroad Guide* for more information: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/study-abroad-guide.

There are also selected classes in the History of Art department that are not allowed.

Each UCL course will have a seminar, lab, or tutorial session attached to it. While lectures can have several hundred students, the related seminars, labs and tutorials are much smaller. Some tutorials are a one-on-one with the instructor.

Some classes have their exams at the end of the year, when Caltech students are back at Caltech. Students will not take the final exams given at the end of the year, **but WILL BE REQUIRED to take any semester final exams if such are given and do all required work by the end of the semester in December.** Caltech students will be evaluated by Caltech and UCL faculty on a special evaluation form and will also receive a grade on a UCL transcript. Students will take all UCL courses for a grade, but these grades will not transfer to Caltech -- only credit/no credit will appear on the Caltech transcript. However, students will be able to order and submit an official UCL transcript showing grades to graduate schools or organizations that provide fellowships such as the NSF or Hertz.

Remember that students are usually admitted to one department and must take at least 50% of their coursework in that department.

Caltech will have its own selection process for students applying to UCL. Therefore, if you come across any directions on the UCL web pages about how to apply for affiliated student status, please ignore this information, as Caltech students must be selected by Caltech and will then be admitted by UCL.

Note that when you copy course descriptions from web pages, please adjust the spacing so that the descriptions are single-spaced.

Additional information for students studying abroad can be found at: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/international-students/. Click on Study Abroad and then on the Study Abroad Guide. Click on Subjects and Departments and then on the individual subject. **If you need more information about a course, <u>go to the Study Abroad Guide link above</u> and look for the name of the <u>Affiliate Student Tutor</u> and write to that person for a course description or syllabus. These are listed by subject.** It is important to start to investigate UCL classes as soon as possible since full course description are often not available online and must be obtained by writing to the Affiliate Tutor.