



**Appointment of
Executive Dean
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Candidate Pack
October 2026**

Contents

1.	Welcome from the Vice-Provost (Faculties)	3
2.	Introduction	4
3.	About UCL Faculty of Arts and Humanities	5
4.	Our Research	6
5.	Education	7
6.	Role Description	8
7.	Person Specification	12
8.	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	13
9.	Rewards and Benefits	14
10.	Appointment Details and How to Apply	15



1. Welcome from the Vice-Provost (Faculties)

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the role of Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts and Humanities at University College London (UCL), a significant position within UCL's academic leadership. The Executive Dean is central to the success and future direction of the Faculty. Academic leadership at UCL goes beyond effective administration: the Executive Dean is a figurehead and the Faculty's greatest champion, setting the tone to inspire and enable staff and students to achieve their best.

This is a rare opportunity to lead and shape one of UCL's most diverse and intellectually vibrant faculties. Bringing together a rich range of disciplines across the arts, humanities and social sciences, the Faculty has a distinctive contribution to make to UCL's academic mission and to wider society. Its scholarship spans cultures, histories, languages, ideas, creativity and human experience, with a strong commitment to research, education, innovation and public engagement.

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities is home to an outstanding and internationally connected academic community. Its departments and centres encompass a remarkable breadth of disciplines, creating opportunities for collaboration both within the Faculty and across UCL. From the study of ancient civilisations and languages to contemporary culture, philosophy, literature, history, heritage, arts and creative practice, the Faculty's work helps us understand the world, challenge assumptions and shape new ways of thinking.

This is an exciting time to lead the Faculty as it looks to build on its considerable strengths and realise its future ambitions. There is significant scope to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration, develop new approaches to education and research, enhance the student experience, and further raise the profile and impact of the Faculty nationally and internationally. The Executive Dean will also play an important role in championing the value of arts and humanities within a leading global university and demonstrating their contribution to addressing the major challenges facing society.

The role offers the opportunity to make a broad institutional impact. Our Executive Deans balance Faculty leadership with university-wide priorities, contributing to UCL's strategic direction as part of the University Leadership Team.

As UCL looks ahead to the development of its next academic strategy, the Executive Dean will have an important role to play in shaping and advancing the University's future direction. Deans will also be at the heart of UCL's wider ambitions to strengthen our global reputation, partnerships, philanthropy and engagement with society.

We are seeking a visionary and strategic leader with a strong record of delivery in complex academic environments – someone who can guide and inspire our academic community, shape the Faculty's future direction, foster collaboration across disciplines, and champion excellence in research, education, innovation and impact. We are particularly interested in individuals who can articulate the distinctive value of arts and humanities within a modern research-intensive university and build strong relationships across UCL and beyond.

UCL offers a unique environment in which to work, lead and make a difference. Our people are our greatest asset, and as a values-led and inclusive institution, we are committed to building a culture that promotes innovation, mutual respect and diversity of thought. We welcome applications from individuals who bring fresh perspectives, intellectual ambition and a strong commitment to driving the Faculty's aspirations.

We look forward to receiving your application and to the opportunity to welcome you to our vibrant community.

Professor Jacqui Glass

Vice-Provost (Faculties)



2. Introduction

UCL is a radically different university. Founded in 1826 in the heart of London, we were the first university in England to welcome students of any religion and the first to admit women on equal terms with men. That pioneering and inclusive spirit continues to shape our institution today.

With over 51,000 students and 18,000 staff from more than 150 countries, UCL is consistently ranked among the top ten universities globally. We champion innovation, creativity, and cross-disciplinary collaboration in both teaching and research, and our community is tackling some of the most pressing challenges of our time – from advancing dementia and cancer research, to shaping global policy, and ensuring the ethical development of artificial intelligence.

As one of the world's leading multidisciplinary universities, UCL is committed to excellence, global understanding, and real-world impact across research, education, enterprise, and community engagement. We foster a values-based, empowering environment where academic insight and pioneering thinking can thrive.

UCL is now seeking to appoint an exceptional Executive Dean to lead the Faculty of Arts and Humanities – a world-class faculty that combines deep disciplinary excellence with distinctive interdisciplinary reach across the arts, humanities and related fields. The Executive Dean will provide strategic leadership and work closely with the Faculty Academic Leadership Team to deliver UCL's strategic objectives in alignment with the [UCL Strategic Plan 2022–2027](#).

We actively encourage applications from individuals who bring diverse experiences and perspectives to leadership. Our people are our greatest asset, and we are proud to foster a culture of mutual respect, collaboration, and innovation.





3. About UCL Faculty of Arts and Humanities

A world-leading Faculty of exceptional breadth and diversity, we are recognised globally for excellence in both teaching and research. The Faculty combines traditional academic disciplines with modern ideas of creativity and practice, putting interdisciplinary engagement at the forefront. We are a diverse, engaged and vibrant community in the heart of Bloomsbury, one of the most beautiful and exciting quarters of London, and a world-leading hub of culture, the arts and the creative humanities.

Since UCL's establishment in 1826, the arts and humanities have been foundational to the university's ethos. With the first academic chairs in English, German, Greek, Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Italian, Latin, Philosophy, and Spanish created between 1826 and 1828, we have shaped and continue to cultivate the landscape of higher education in the UK.

The Faculty comprises the following departments:

- [Arts and Sciences](#)
- [English](#)
- [European and International Social and Political Studies](#)
- [Greek and Latin \(Classics\)](#)
- [Hebrew and Jewish Studies](#)
- [Information Studies](#)
- [Philosophy](#)
- [School of European Languages, Culture and Society](#)
- [School of Slavonic and East European Studies](#)
- [Slade School of Fine Art](#)

Alongside the traditional arts and humanities departments of English, Philosophy, Greek and Latin, and the School of European Languages, Culture and Society, we are proud to have the Slade School of Fine Art, Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Information Studies, the School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES), European and International Social and Political Studies (EISPS), Arts and Sciences (UASc), and many interdisciplinary degrees at all levels of study as part of our Faculty. We recently launched a unique

range of undergraduate degrees at UCL East, the university's new campus in Stratford, East London – Art and Technology BA, Creative Arts and Humanities BA and Information, Data and Society BSc – as well as the postgraduate taught course Creative Health MASc.

With 555 staff and 5,500 students representing revenue of £95 million in 2025/26, we are one of UCL's most teaching-focussed faculties, as well as being research-intensive. Our student body is 75:25 undergraduate to postgraduate, while our academic community includes 276 FTE academic staff, 148 lecturers (teaching), and 23 researchers. Around a quarter of our staff are in the Professional Services supporting our educational and research objectives.

UCL is consistently ranked among the world's leading institutions for the arts and humanities, currently placed 8th globally in both the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026 and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026 by Subject. The impact of our research was recognised in the Research Excellence Framework 2021 (REF 2021) with UCL's Main Panel D, including departments in the Faculty, ranked 6th in the UK in terms of Research Power.

With our 200-year heritage of world-leading, transformative education and research, the UCL Faculty of Arts and Humanities is committed to championing diverse communities and encouraging creative and critical thinkers to foster new constellations of humanities, social sciences, and science for generations to come.

Together, we showcase how the arts and humanities make life worth living.

4. Our Research

UCL Arts & Humanities, ranked 8th in the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026* by subject, is recognised globally for humanities research excellence.

Our research spans the study of fundamental expressions of human culture, including language, literature, art and philosophy, alongside innovative practice-based and creative-critical approaches that explore how forms of communication and cultural expression shape society.

Interdisciplinarity is a defining strength of the faculty. We bring humanities perspectives into dialogue with the social sciences and STEM disciplines across UCL, generating new insights and approaches to complex global challenges. We are also committed to facilitating collaboration within disciplines across faculties, including in Area Studies (with the Institute of the Americas), Art & Design (with History of Art), and Philosophy (with Science & Technology Studies).

The faculty is the UK's most comprehensive centre for language-based scholarship, encompassing both ancient and modern languages, and hosts internationally recognised expertise in critical and language-based Area Studies.

Our researchers pursue both independent, curiosity-driven research and collaborative, interdisciplinary programmes addressing pressing cultural, social and political questions, and advancing the STEAM agenda. Through world-leading scholarship, creative practice and engagement with partners beyond academia, Arts & Humanities research delivers meaningful impact and demonstrates the vital contribution of the humanities to understanding and addressing contemporary challenges.

Research Impact Spotlight

- [UCL helps Netflix enhance global and local dubbing • translation and adaptation practices](#)
- [Dr Beth Malory chairs roundtable to discuss the importance of communication in maternity care](#)
- [Shaping digital literacy policy to promote safe, healthy online habits for young people](#)
- [Dryden Goodwin wins People Environment Achievement \(P.E.A.\) Award](#)



5. Education

UCL is consistently ranked a global top 10 university (QS World University Rankings 2026) and its founding principles of academic excellence, inclusivity and addressing real-world problems continues to shape its education today.

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities is also recognised globally for the quality of our education, contributing significantly to UCL's QS World University Ranking of 8th for Arts and Humanities subjects. Within the UK, the majority of departments are consistently ranked in subject top ten in all major annual league tables.

The Faculty education portfolio spans the disciplines of Classics, Fine Art, Modern Languages, Information Studies, English, Philosophy and has two large areas of interdisciplinary study.

Programmes are delivered across UCL's Bloomsbury and East campuses. In 2026 we welcomed more than 2,000 new students to our courses, bringing us to a total student population of over 5,000.

Our interdisciplinary research approach is embedded within our teaching, ensuring an exceptional student experience and helps us to prepare tomorrow's leaders, researchers, creatives, innovators and entrepreneurs to understand the societal and cultural processes and technologies that shape today's global communities.

Education Spotlight

- [Arts and Sciences BASc: Connect different ideas to solve problems in new ways through this interdisciplinary degree](#)
- [Information, Data and Society BSc: Interdisciplinary by design, providing practical knowledge from both the humanities and technology](#)
- [Philosophy, Logic, and Artificial Intelligence MASc: Examining the very idea of reasoning, and its philosophical foundations, from the perspectives of Logic and Artificial Intelligence](#)





6. Role Description

Main Purpose of the Role

The Executive Dean of the Faculty is responsible for leading on delivery of the academic vision and strategy for Arts and Humanities across research, innovation, education, student experience, finance and equity, diversity and inclusion and wellbeing. They report to UCL's Council, via the Vice-Provost (Faculties) and the Provost and, together with the Vice Provosts, Vice Presidents and Heads of Professional Services, contribute to the leadership of UCL as a member of the University Management Committee (UMC).

The Executive Dean will be an internationally renowned academic leader and scholar in their discipline and will be responsible for setting and achieving the Faculty's strategic objectives, contributing to the delivery of UCL's evolving strategic objectives while ensuring alignment with the [UCL Strategic Plan 2022-2027](#). The Executive Dean will work closely with the other 10 Faculty Deans, the Vice-Deans, the Faculty Director of Operations and other key professional services colleagues.

The Executive Dean will champion a constructive and inclusive academic community, shaping culture, curriculum and research strategy in ways that reflect UCL's core values and enable staff and students to excel. Within their role, they are responsible for the Health and Safety of all persons within the Faculty, and the safe use of all Faculty resources, a responsibility discharged via the Heads of Departments (HoDs), Faculty People Plan and the Faculty H&S Committee.

Duties and Responsibilities

Strategy, Academic Leadership and Faculty Performance

- Take a leading role in developing the strategic direction of the Faculty, actively encouraging cross-Faculty collaboration and contributing to the wider strategic agenda through University committees and meetings.
- Lead delivery of the Faculty Strategic Plan 2022–27, working closely with the Faculty Director of Operations, Vice-Deans and Heads of Departments, and be accountable for the direction and delivery of the Faculty's academic mission and values.
- Advise and lead on academic matters, including submissions to national evaluation exercises such as REF, TEF and KEF.
- Oversee the constituent departments, supporting their success and managing their performance as a coherent faculty portfolio.
- Lead the Faculty's student recruitment strategy, working with education, admissions, marketing and communications colleagues to support sustainable growth, widening participation, international reach, and a distinctive Arts and Humanities offer, including the interdisciplinary reach of some departments beyond Arts and Humanities.
- Promote excellence in education, research, innovation, knowledge exchange and administration across the Faculty.
- Lead and embed change across the Faculty, ensuring new structures, ways of working and strategic priorities are implemented effectively and sustainably.

6. Role Description (continued)

Education, Research, Innovation and International Engagement

- Work with the Faculty Director of Education and Student Experience (DESE) and Vice-Dean Education on education, student experience, admissions and student academic matters.
- Work with the Faculty Research Team, Vice-Dean Research, Vice-Dean Enterprise and Research, Innovation and Global Engagement colleagues to shape and deliver the Faculty's [Research Strategy](#) including research culture, REF preparation, research income, impact, knowledge exchange, commercialisation and external partnerships.
- Work with the Vice-Dean International to support the Faculty's international engagement through strategic partnerships in research, consultancy, education and knowledge exchange.
- Conduct research and capability, in line with UCL policies and values.
- Ensure effective line management, performance management and appraisal of staff within the Faculty, in accordance with UCL's values.
- Identify and develop academic talent, internally and externally, in support of the Faculty's academic vision.
- Advise on senior promotion cases from the Faculty and present cases to the Senior Promotions Committee.
- Be responsible for Chair appointments, including appropriate follow-up with the preferred candidate.
- Lead the Faculty's equality, diversity and inclusion agenda, working with the Vice-Dean (EDI&WP) to ensure delivery of associated pledges and action plans and alignment with UCL's EDI strategy and the Faculty People Plan.

People, Culture and Inclusivity

- Work with the Faculty Director of Operations, HR People Partners and Vice Dean Wellbeing to support staff and student wellbeing, foster a positive, inclusive and respectful culture, and provide proactive oversight of HR matters relating to performance, actively promote UCL policies, including Equal Opportunities policies, and consider how the role can advance equality of opportunity and good relations.





6. Role Description (continued)

Resources, Finance, Risk and Sustainability

- Work with the Faculty Director of Operations, School Finance Director and Heads of Departments to plan and implement the Faculty budget, achieve agreed budgetary plans and financial goals, support UCL's financial sustainability, and create opportunities to invest in the academic programme.
- Work with the Faculty Director of Operations to ensure that resources, including space, funding and staffing, are deployed effectively and efficiently.
- Ensure effective identification, assessment, management and mitigation of strategic, operational, financial, regulatory and reputational risks across the Faculty, maintaining appropriate controls, clear escalation routes and regular reporting to support sound decision-making and compliance with UCL requirements.
- Lead the Faculty's contribution to UCL's sustainability targets and the Faculty Sustainability Plan.
- Work with the Head of Marketing and Communications and Vice-President External Engagement leadership team to manage external reputation and mitigate reputational risk.

University Leadership, Governance and External Engagement

- Contribute to the strategic management of UCL as a member of the University Management Committee, including attending weekly meetings and Away Days.
- Act as an ambassador for the Faculty within UCL and externally, strengthening relationships with donors, alumni, funders, cultural, creative, civic and policy partners, industrial partners and other stakeholders to enhance academic activity, national and international standing, and financial sustainability.

- Work alongside the Office of the Vice-President Advancement on philanthropic and fundraising opportunities.
- Take a leading role in developing the strategic direction of SHAPE disciplines at UCL, across Arts and Humanities, Social and Historical Sciences, Laws and the Institute of Education.
- Take a leading role in developing Faculty activity at UCL East, particularly the successful development of the School for Creative and Cultural Industries, where innovative education and research in media, performance, art, technology and data are based.
- Engage with policymakers, anticipate policy developments relevant to arts, humanities, education, culture and research, and ensure the Faculty's expertise contributes visibly to national and international policy debates.

Innovation, Technology and Future Readiness

- Anticipate and respond to developments shaping the future of arts and humanities, including digital humanities, creative technologies, AI, data, cultural policy, public engagement, wellbeing, planetary crisis and digital technologies and new forms of interdisciplinary research and education, ensuring the Faculty remains distinctive, relevant and internationally competitive. This also includes the notion that the Arts and Humanities inform the Sciences and vice versa.
- Make the case for arts and humanities expertise in shaping non-traditional domains such as artificial intelligence, health and biomedical technologies, and climate and environmental policy, ensuring that ethical, cultural and critical perspectives inform responsible innovation across UCL.

6. Role Description (continued)

UCL/Committee Membership

Represent the Faculty on the following UCL committees:

- University Management Committee (and subcommittees where appropriate*)
- Academic Board**
- Academic Committee
- Estates Management Committee

**In the case of these committees, the Dean may choose to nominate a Faculty colleague to represent the Faculty.*

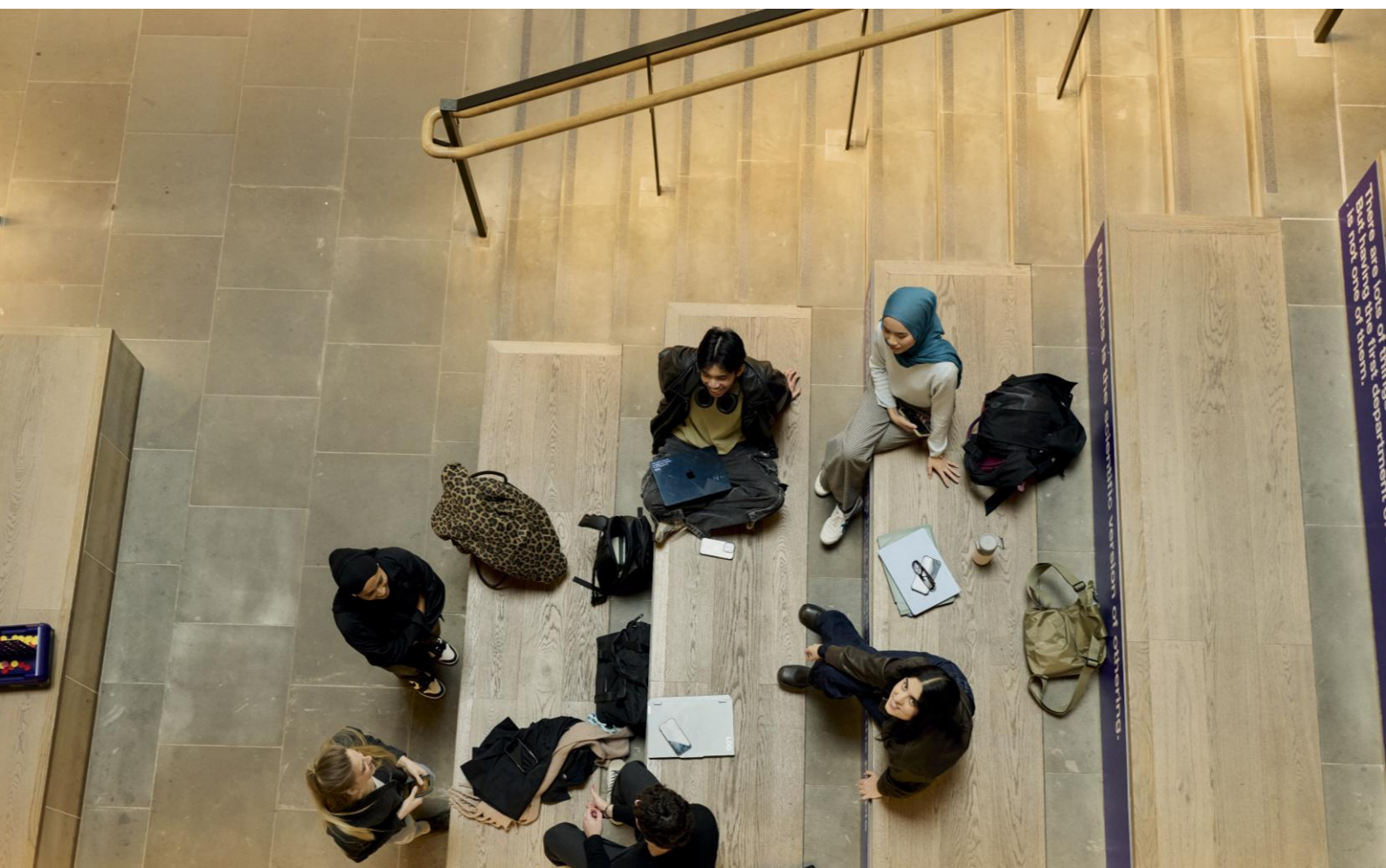
***Deans (normally being professors) are members of the Academic Board by right and normally speak as individuals. They should, however, be available to represent the views of their Faculties, if called upon to do so.*

General

- Follow and actively promote the UCL [Ways of Working](#).
- Carry out any other duties within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the Provost, Vice-Provost (Faculties) or other appropriate line manager.
- This job description reflects the current requirements of the post and may be reviewed and amended in consultation with the post holder as duties and responsibilities change.
- UCL offers hybrid working where appropriate.
- The role will require travel both within the UK and internationally.

Seven Principles of Public Life

Candidates will be expected to uphold and demonstrate the [Seven Principles of Public Life \(Nolan Principles\)](#)





7. Person Specification

Qualifications, Skills and Experience

Essential

- An outstanding international research and academic profile with substantial seminal contributions to the advancement of their discipline.
- Substantial leadership experience, with proven ability to lead, develop and motivate diverse academic, research and professional services teams; delegate effectively; manage performance; and embed change in support of departmental, Faculty and institutional goals.
- Demonstrable experience of managing resources and risk effectively, including budgets, staff, estates, regulatory compliance, controls, escalation and reporting within a large and complex organisation.
- Evidence of developing and delivering medium to long term financial and strategic plans.
- Experience of leading and contributing to committees and working parties.
- Experience of promoting cross-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary activities, across the arts, humanities and (social) sciences.
- An understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by the Higher Education sector and how they impact on the strategy, policy and practice of the Faculty.
- Understanding of future opportunities and challenges for arts and humanities, including digital humanities, creative technologies, AI, data, cultural policy, public engagement and interdisciplinary research and education.

Desirable

- Experience with multiple languages in HE research and/or education contexts.
- Track record of enhancing the reach, impact and knowledge exchange value of A&H research, including experience in fostering consultancy, commercialisation and/or enterprise activity.

Skills and Abilities

- Excellent organisational skills, the ability to prioritise in the face of competing demands and proven success in delivering work personally and through others to tight deadlines and within budget.
- Proven capacity to identify and realise opportunities for development through practical and deliverable solutions.
- Decisive and results-oriented, with the ability to encourage participation, responsibility and accountability.
- Ability to build and sustain an inclusive, transparent and professional culture, with a collegial approach to leadership, strong commitment to staff wellbeing, and effective communication that promotes collaboration, respect and accountability.
- Good planning skills allied to well-developed analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to be persuasive, promote a positive image of the Faculty, enhance its reputation, and build effective relationships with donors, alumni, funders, cultural, creative, civic, policy and international partners.

Personal Attributes

- Commitment to the discipline and ethos of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities as defined by its component departments and distinctive Schools.
- Commitment to academic ideals in teaching, research, knowledge transfer and pastoral care, and to UCL's institutional ethos.
- Commitment to high-quality teaching and fostering a positive learning environment for students, and a desire to make an impact in these areas.
- Leading by example and displaying a high level of personal integrity.
- Commitment to UCL's policy of equal opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students from all cultures and backgrounds.
- Resilient, energetic and able to sustain confidence, collaboration and momentum throughout periods of change and transformation.

8. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

At the UCL Faculty of Arts and Humanities, equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) are central to our ethos. Fairness underpins how we work, teach, research and collaborate, and we believe that everyone in our community has a role to play in fostering a culture of belonging, respect and inclusion.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

UCL Arts & Humanities is committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment in which the full identities of our staff and students can be celebrated. We recognise diversity as an asset and are committed to addressing barriers to access, participation and progression across our community.

Our work encompasses disability and neurodivergence equity, gender equity, LGBTQI+ equity, race equity, religion and belief, and socio-economic equity. Across the Faculty, we are also working to diversify the curriculum and encourage inclusive approaches to education and the student experience.

This work is supported through Faculty and departmental EDI leadership and activity, with Inclusion Leads and EDI committees providing opportunities for staff and students to contribute to our priorities. Our approach sits within UCL's wider [EDI Strategic Plan 2025/26–2029/30](#), which sets out the University's commitment to embedding equality, diversity and inclusion in its culture, systems and everyday practices.

UCL EDI Statement

As London's Global University, UCL knows that diversity fosters creativity and innovation. We are committed to equality of opportunity, to being fair and inclusive, and to being a place where we all belong. We particularly encourage applications from candidates underrepresented in UCL's workforce, including those from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds, disabled people, and – for Grade 9 and 10 roles – women.

Applicants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with UCL's policies on the [Prevention of Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct](#) and [Personal Relationships](#).

Read more about [UCL Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](#).



9. Rewards and Benefits

In addition to a competitive salary, commensurate with the seniority of the appointment, we also offer a comprehensive [benefits](#) package, including generous annual leave, enhanced maternity, paternity and adoption pay, a relocation scheme, season ticket loans, and an Employee Assistance Programme.

Highlights

- A generous leave entitlement, including 27 days annual leave, six closure days plus statutory holidays. Carers' leave and unpaid leave are also available, as well as the opportunity to carry five days over each year.
- From day one: enhanced maternity, adoption and shared parental leave and four weeks paid paternity/partners leave.
- A one-term gender equality sabbatical for academics returning from parental leave – to catch up on their research without teaching load.
- An excellent pension scheme (USS).
- A free programme of training courses and development opportunities run at UCL, a study assistance scheme to help fund external professional development and free library access for all staff. Discounts on evening language courses are also offered.
- Health and wellbeing benefits including an Employee Assistance Programme and discounted medical insurance.
- Season ticket loans, a cycle scheme and an [electrical vehicle car salary sacrifice scheme](#).



10. Appointment Details and How to Apply

UCL has appointed **Veredus**, an executive search agency, to assist with this appointment (www.veredus.co.uk).

Applications should consist of:

- An up-to-date **Curriculum Vitae** with key responsibilities and achievements.
- A **Supporting Statement** (approximately two pages of A4) explaining how your personal skills, qualities and experience provide evidence of your suitability for the role, with reference to criteria in the Person Specification.
- A completed **Diversity Monitoring Form and Candidate Supporting Information Form**, which can be accessed on the Veredus job page.

Applications should be sent via Veredus website – <https://www.veredus.co.uk/opportunities>, quoting reference number **1223**.

All submissions will receive an on-screen acknowledgement when you apply through the Veredus website. If you do not see this confirmation, please contact us on education@veredus.co.uk.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

At Veredus, we take care to protect your privacy. For our privacy notice, please visit: [Veredus Privacy Policy](#).

Further Information

For a confidential discussion about the role, please contact our advising consultants at Veredus:

- Reece D'Alanno on reece.dalanno@veredus.co.uk
- Nataliya Starik-Bludova on nataliya.starik-bludova@veredus.co.uk

Recruitment Timeline

The deadline for receipt of applications is **23:59 on Sunday, 22nd November 2026**.

Final panel interviews will be held on **25th February 2027** with stakeholder engagement and candidate psychometric assessments to take place in the two weeks prior.

Accessibility Statement

We are committed to ensuring that anyone can access our application processes. Should you require access to this document in an alternative format, wish to apply in a different format, or need any other reasonable adjustments made for you (including at interview), please contact us on education@veredus.co.uk.





Here,
we make
art more
accessible

Here, history happens

UCL
200

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