



Teacher of Physics (full-time)

UCS Senior School

Candidate Brief

Required for January 2023





UCS HAMPSTEAD

University College School was founded in 1830 to promote principles of liberal scholarship. That remains our first and overriding aim. Intellectual curiosity, breadth of study and independence of mind combine to achieve academic excellence; they are not subordinate to it.

Initially located in Gower Street, as part of University College London, the School was revolutionary in its approach to education, having as a fundamental principle that religion, in any form, should neither be an entry requirement nor a taught subject, believing rather that faith is a matter for the family and the individual - a tradition that continues today. The UCS Foundation, now independent of the University, comprises three schools: the Senior School (850 pupils: 11-18), the Junior Branch (250 pupils: 7-11) and the Pre-Prep (130 pupils: 3-7).

All three schools are set in attractive locations. In 1891 the Junior Branch was established at Holly Hill, Hampstead, followed in 1907 by the School's separation from UCL, and the acquisition

of the Senior School's current purpose-built accommodation in Frognal, opened by King Edward VII. The pre-preparatory branch is based nearby. All three schools have full use of the extensive playing fields (including a large all-weather pitch and two pavilions) in West Hampstead.

UCS remains true to the liberal traditions of its founders and continues to work hard to foster independence of mind among its pupils and to value their individuality. Academic results are excellent. Music and drama are very strong at UCS and the school offers an outstanding range of co-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities. The school has a fine record in team games, with shared endeavour and good sportsmanship held in high regard.

THE ORGANISATION OF UCS

Whilst the Headmaster of UCS is in overall control of all three schools in the Foundation, day-to-day management and planning at the Junior Branch is in the hands of the JB's own Headmaster and his deputies. Similarly, The Pre-Prep has its own Head who reports to the Headmaster of the JB.

Sixty boys each year transfer from the JB to the Senior School and are joined by sixty boys from outside feeder schools who win places through competitive examination. In Years 7 and 8 (Entry and Shell), these boys are supervised by a team of pastoral Year Wardens and form-teachers. In Year 9 (Lower Remove), they join the Middle School and are allocated to the five Demes (or houses) which form the basis of the pastoral structure of the school until pupils leave at the end of the Sixth Form. Each Deme is managed by a Deme Warden and a team of Form Tutors. Boys and girls in the Sixth Form are supported not only by their Deme Warden and Form Tutor but also by the Head of Sixth Form, supported by a Deputy and a team of Assistant Heads who, between them, manage the Sixth Form Centre, university applications and other matters specific to pupils of this age.

Pupils from The Pre-Prep School who wish to gain entry to the JB must sit the standard 7+ Entrance Examination. Transfer from the JB to the Senior School is not dependent upon a further examination hurdle.

Admission at all entry points is heavily oversubscribed. Whilst UCS operates within a highly competitive market-place, our reputation as a happy, well-balanced environment that respects the individuality of each pupil allows us to retain the advantages of a highly selective school. We are particularly proud of our reputation for pastoral care and for extra-curricular activities, as well as our high academic standards.



THE SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

In Years 7 and 8, boys follow a full core curriculum with time devoted to Drama, Art, Technology, PSHE, PE and sport as well as to the more traditional academic curriculum. Pupils study General Science in Year 7, and the three separate sciences from Year 8 onwards. There is no setting or streaming. This approach continues into Year 9, where the other language options are added to the curriculum. Mathematics is set by ability in Years 9, 10 and 11. All boys currently study ten subjects to GCSE (IGCSE in the case of a number of subjects), including English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, at least one science subject and at least one modern language. All pupils study four subjects in Year 12. They may choose to drop one of these in Year 13 when a number of pupils choose to take an Extended Project Qualification.



SPORTS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE SENIOR SCHOOL

The school offers outstanding facilities and opportunities exist for a number of different sports and activities, including Rugby, Netball, Football, Hockey, Cricket, Tennis, Athletics, Badminton, Cross-Country, Basketball, Swimming, Fives, Table Tennis, Fencing, Aerobics, Dance, Yoga, Bouldering, Karate, Rowing and Squash. All pupils are required to play games as part of their normal curriculum and a large number represent the school.

There is a wide range of co-curricular activities and school societies. Music is particularly strong, with Choir, Orchestra, Wind Band, Chamber Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Concert Band, jazz and rock groups. The school has a fully equipped theatre that is heavily used for our own productions as well as by visiting professional actors and musicians. A large number of plays and musicals are staged each year, with

opportunities for pupils to direct as well as to act and provide technical support, and an annual production is performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Over 60 clubs and societies meet on a weekly basis, often run by pupils. Gender Politics Society, Wellbeing Society, Cultural Awareness Society and Green Impact Society, the environmental action group, are all currently popular. Debating and Model United Nations, Young Enterprise, Chess and Robotics regularly send teams to competitions with great success. Pupil journalism thrives at UCS, with pupils editing and producing the school magazine, The Tortoise, as well as Bocca, a Classics and Art History journal, Interlingua, the modern languages journal, and others. School trips are arranged on a regular basis and UCS has close links with schools in France, Germany, Spain, Uganda and India. UCS has partnerships with Westminster Academy, UCL

Academy, Michaela Community School and the London Academy of Excellence Stratford, as well as a number of primary schools. Pupils currently raise roughly £20,000 per year for a range of charities that they select themselves as part of a Community Action initiative. Academic Enrichment Weeks, Women in Sport Week and the non-curricular Activities Week annually broaden and embellish the UCS educational experience.





THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

The successful applicant will become the seventh teacher in the Physics Department. The department itself has its own set of dedicated laboratories in a wing of the school that is dedicated to the teaching of Science. We are very resourced for practical work at all levels and benefit from the excellent support of two physics lab technicians.

The Physics department prides itself on being evidence informed, and putting our efforts into what's most important. The curriculum that we deliver is knowledge-rich and sequenced in a way that maximises learning.

In Years 7, 8, and 9 pupils are taught in forms (numbering about 23 pupils each). Pupils joining us in Year 7 are taught a combined science curriculum that is taught by teachers from across the three science departments. In Year 8, pupils follow a bespoke course of study aimed at improving their knowledge and passion for science. Year 9 is the first year of the IGCSE course. In Years 10 and 11 pupils are placed in six groups of about

eighteen pupils each and all classes continue through the Edexcel IGCSE specification. Generally, more than 70% of pupils at UCS receive 8 and 9 grades in IGCSE Physics.

The subject is popular at A Level, with approximately 50 pupils studying A Level Physics in each year group. At present, we follow the AQA syllabus. More than 80% of our pupils have gained grades A*-A in the past few years at A level, and we are fully committed to raising this figure.

Beyond the classroom, the department is dedicated to providing a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for pupils throughout the school. Aside from offering the Physics Olympiad and a strong academic enrichment program, we also give pupils the opportunity to participate in other competitions such as CanSat, Beam Line for Schools, Faraday Challenge and the Weizmann Safe Cracking Competition. We hope to continue to develop this facet of the department's work going forward.

THE PRESENT VACANCY

The current vacancy is a full-time, permanent post beginning in January 2023. The successful applicant will join an experienced, successful and supportive department. They will be equally enthusiastic about teaching General Science in Year 7 as about teaching A level Physics in Years 12 and 13.

Although the precise balance of teaching for the successful candidate will depend upon his/her interests and experience it is sure to involve teaching throughout the age range with some work at IGCSE level and above. We expect to appoint a teacher who combines a strong intellectual interest in Science generally, and in Physics in particular, with an evidence informed approach to classroom teaching. The successful candidate will be personally committed to developing a true appreciation of scientific method in their pupils, as well as in preparing them for success in public examinations.

This is an outstanding opportunity to teach Physics to a high level in a congenial and stimulating setting. It should be attractive to both an ECT (UCS offers full statutory induction) or to a serving teacher seeking wider experience.

A willingness to contribute to the extra-curricular life of the school will be an additional and important recommendation. We expect all of our teachers to be Form Tutors.





SALARY AND BENEFITS

UCS has its own competitive salary scale. The payment for this post will be dependent upon qualifications and experience, but will be above the national scale.

While the school does not offer accommodation, schemes are in place to assist members of staff with loans for house purchase. The school is similarly prepared to offer loans to help with daily travel expenses. In all cases, eligibility for financial assistance is carefully and independently scrutinised and every effort is made to assess the needs of individual applicants.

If admitted to the school, the sons and daughters of UCS staff may be educated at reduced fees.

All members of staff are entitled to membership of UCS Active (the private Health & Fitness Club based in the Sir Roger Bannister Sports Centre) at a heavily reduced rate.

CHILD PROTECTION

University College School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced check for Regulated Activity from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) before a formal offer of employment is made. This is a requirement as the position is within a school working with children aged under 18. UCS will also undertake its own recruitment checks through contact with previous employers, referees, and others, to confirm applicants' identities and their professional records.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT

In addition to completing the accompanying form, applicants should provide a full Curriculum Vitae and a supporting letter.

The closing date for applications is:

Thursday 22/09 at 12pm

However, please note that we reserve the right to interview and appoint at any stage during this process; early applications are therefore very welcome.





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