
Teacher of Chemistry
UCS Senior School
Full Time
Required for September 2024



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 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 pupils each year transfer from the JB to the Senior School and are joined by sixty pupils from outside feeder schools who win places through competitive examination. In Years 7 and 8 (Entry and Shell), these children are supervised by a team of pastoral Year Wardens, Form Tutors and Head of Lower School. In Year 9 (Lower Remove), pupils join the Middle School and are allocated to the six 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 and the Head of Middle School or Head of Sixth Form.

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 co-curricular activities, as well as our high academic standards.

The Senior School Curriculum

In Years 7 and 8, pupils follow a full core curriculum with time devoted to Drama, Art, Design & 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 pupils 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 begin Year 12 studying four subjects. A number of pupils will drop to three subjects before the end of Year 13. Many also choose to take an Extended Project Qualification.

Sports and Co-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, Cycling, Spinning, 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 multiple choirs, Orchestra, Wind Band, Chamber Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Concert Band, jazz and rock groups, as well as many smaller ensembles. 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. Feminist Society, Queer 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. 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 £30,000 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 Chemistry Department

There are nine teachers in the Chemistry Department, which has its own set of dedicated laboratories in a wing of the school dedicated to the teaching of Science. The department is very keen to promote practical work at all levels and as such is extremely well resourced and benefits from the excellent support of two lab technicians.

In Year 7, pupils are taught a Science course that combines aspects of all three sciences. Subject specialists teach separate sciences from Year 8 onwards and throughout Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils are taught in their form groups (numbering about 23 pupils each). Uptake for IGCSE Chemistry is extremely strong and pupils are placed in six groups of about 20 each. All classes follow the Edexcel IGCSE specification and in recent years more than 90% of our pupils have received A*-A grades in IGCSE Chemistry.

The subject is consistently popular at A Level, where we follow the OCR A specification. There are usually five teaching sets which are each taught by two teachers. More than 90% of our pupils have gained grades A*-B in recent years at A level, with a doubling of attainment at A* since 2017. We are fully committed to raising this figure.

The department is a dynamic and enjoyable place to work and there is a dedicated office in which each teacher has their own workspace. Teachers are also expected to contribute towards the provision of Chemistry-related activities outside the classroom. We run a Pyrotechnics Club for our Year 12 pupils and there are frequent visits to science institutions for lectures. The department also runs two weekly breakfast clubs for pupils to deliver presentations on any aspect of Chemistry that they find interesting. All pupils in Year 12 take part in the annual C3L6 Challenge and most Year 12 and 13 pupils enter the RSC's annual International Chemistry Olympiad. The department also runs trips for each year group and is very keen to give pupils access to the broader applications of Chemistry.

The Present Vacancy

The successful applicant will join an experienced, successful and supportive department and will be equally enthusiastic about teaching General Science in Year 7 as about teaching A level Chemistry in Years 12 and 13. Although the precise balance of teaching for the successful candidate will depend upon their interests and experience it is sure to involve teaching throughout each year group. We expect to appoint a teacher who combines a strong intellectual

interest in Science generally, and in Chemistry in particular, with an imaginative and flexible approach to classroom teaching. The successful candidate will be personally committed to developing a true appreciation of scientific method (with an emphasis upon practical investigation) in their pupils, as well as in preparing them for success in public examinations.

This is an outstanding opportunity to teach Chemistry 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 is important. We expect all of our teachers to be Form Tutors.

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.

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 children 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.

Arrangements for the Appointment

In addition to completing the UCS application form, applicants should provide a full Curriculum Vitae and a supporting letter as soon as possible. **The closing date for applications is Thursday 22 February 2024, 12 pm.** However, please note that we reserve the right to interview and appoint at any stage during this process; early applications are therefore very welcome.

