



Head of Spanish

UCS Senior School

Full Time

Required for September 2024





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 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.



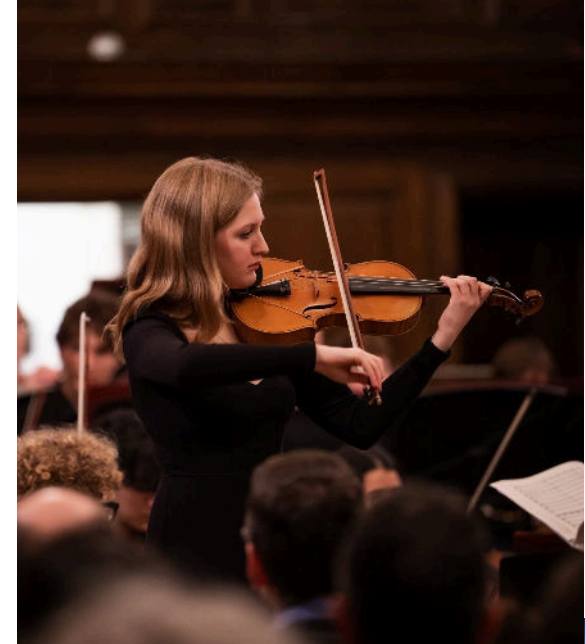
SPORTS AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE SENIOR SCHOOL

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 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 MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

The Modern Languages Department at UCS comprises 18 staff members and is led by the Head of Modern Languages, who also takes specific responsibility for German. She is assisted in the leadership and management of the department by the Head of Spanish, the Head of French, the Head of Italian and the Head of Mandarin.

The department is a dynamic and enjoyable place to work, and there is a dedicated office where one can work and meet more informally, exchange ideas and advice. The department has its own suite of rooms: there are ten classrooms and two rooms for conversation lessons. Each classroom has projection facilities and an interactive whiteboard. The department prides itself on excellent relationships with pupils, which such a learning facility enhances. The Modern Languages Department at UCS teaches

French, German, Italian, Mandarin and Spanish to GCSE (AQA Curriculum for French, German, Italian and Spanish, Edexcel for Mandarin), A-level (AQA Curriculum for French, German and Spanish, Edexcel for Italian and Mandarin) and Oxbridge and university entrance.

In years 7 and 8, French is a core subject and is taught to pupils in mixed groups of beginners, who have joined the school at the age of 11 without previous experience of the language, and of 'non-beginners', often with knowledge of French from our junior school or other preparatory schools. Lunchtime clubs are offered in German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish.

In year 9, pupils must choose three of the following subjects in year 9 (with at least one being a modern language):

French, German (beginners), Italian (beginners), Mandarin (beginners), Spanish (beginners), Latin, Greek and Gratin (a course to teach Latin and Greek for the year, in one block)

In year 10, pupils decide which GCSE subjects to pursue and can take from one to three modern languages (French, German, Italian, Mandarin or Spanish). Pupils are prepared for the AQA GCSE exams in French, German, Italian and Spanish and the Edexcel GCSE in Mandarin.

At the end of year 11, pupils choose four subjects to study in Year 12. Pupils are prepared for the AQA A-level exams in French, German, and Spanish and Edexcel A-level exams in Italian and Mandarin.

We have a very healthy number of pupils choosing languages at GCSE and

A-level, and most of our pupils achieve the 9 to 7 grades at GCSE and A* to B grades at A-level. The Modern Languages Department maintains an excellent track record in preparing pupils for higher education and, throughout the school, strives to offer as much variety and intellectual stimulation as possible whilst tailoring teaching to individual pupils' needs. The department organises annual trips abroad to support and enrich pupil language learning and cinema, museum and theatre outings. We expect that staff will give up their time supporting these activities. Pupils are also actively encouraged to partake in many language events and competitions, such as internal vocabulary leagues, national French and Spanish debating competitions, the UK Linguistics Olympiad, the Stephen Spender Translation Prize competition, the Anthea Bell translation competition.

THE PRESENT VACANCY

The successful applicant will join an experienced, successful and supportive department and will be equally enthusiastic about teaching languages.

The Head of Spanish is primarily responsible for all matters relating to the teaching and learning, and development of Spanish within the Modern Languages provision of the Senior School curriculum.

The successful candidate will be, first and foremost, a strong linguist in Spanish with a passion for the study of the Spanish language and Hispanic literature and culture and will have a dynamic approach to the delivery of the subject. They will take on the customary responsibilities for the administration and management of an academic department under the direction of the Head of Modern Languages and report to the Head of Modern Languages on issues such as staffing, budgeting, curriculum development and pupils' progress.

The successful candidate will be directly accountable for the standards of teaching, for the achievement of pupils studying Spanish and for the professional development of staff teaching Spanish. They will lead a strong and cohesive team of teachers who work cooperatively and who respond well to new initiatives. An enthusiasm for trips, for curriculum innovation and a commitment to an academic approach to Modern Languages will be key qualities for this role. An ability to teach a second language, to at least KS3, will also be a consideration.

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.

We welcome equally applications from teachers in the maintained sector and the independent sector, as well as from those without a formal teaching qualification.





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.

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 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 21 March 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.





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