| **Teacher of Computer Science**  **UCS Senior School**  ***Full time***  ***Required for September 2025*** | UCS_RGB |
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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. The UCS Foundation, now independent of the University, comprises three schools: the Senior School, the Junior Branch and the Pre-Prep.

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. Each school has 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, to value their individuality and to create a diverse and inclusive community.. 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, a team of Form Tutors and the Head of Middle School/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. Mathematics is set by ability from the Spring Term in Year 7. All pupils currently study ten subjects to GCSE (IGCSE in the case of a number of subjects), including English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, and at least one science subject. 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, Bouldering, Karate, Rowing, Judo 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 80 clubs and societies meet on a weekly basis, often run by pupils. Gender Politics 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 and Chess 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, the annual Heart January wellbeing initiative and the non-curricular Activities Week annually broaden and embellish the UCS educational experience. Inclusion is at the heart of what we do; through pastoral work, subject curriculums and by engaging pupils and staff in the work of the Inclusion & Representation Committee, we aim to foster a community in which every member feels safe, valued and that their voice is heard.

**The Computer Science Department**

The Computer Science Department consists of three teachers, including the Head of Computer Science.

The subject is a popular Year 9 and GCSE option, with approximately 200 pupils across this age range. At A level, the department is growing rapidly; currently, there are two Computer Science sets in Year 12 and two in Year 13. The department has dedicated teaching rooms, where pupils are taught using their own devices. Lessons are delivered using a mixture of Google Classroom and other software as required.

The AQA Computer Science specification (8525) is followed at GCSE and the department has recently switched to the Cambridge International Education specification (9618) at A level. Neither of these courses have a coursework element. Python is the chosen programming language at GCSE and A-level.

Results in the subject are consistently strong in both GCSE and A level. Furthermore, the department has a good track record of preparing pupils to make successful applications to top universities to study Computer Science and related subjects. Many pupils go on to study at universities such as Durham, UCL, Imperial College London, Bath, Warwick, Bristol, Manchester and many more.

Computer Science modules are taught on a carousel program as part of a wider digital learning course, in Years 7 and 8. Thereafter, Computer Science is offered as an option within the curriculum for Year 9, GCSE and Sixth Form.

In addition, the co-curricular life of the subject is exceptionally rich. The department has had a strong record of success in recent years in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge with many pupils achieving a Distinction. The department also enables opportunities for pupils with a keen interest and prowess in programming to take part in the British Algorithmic Olympiad and the Perse Coding Team Challenge. There is also an extensive range of clubs, such as Computer Science and AI Society, computer building, Key Stage 3 programming, competitive programming and a Computer Science Breakfast club. A variety of enrichment activities are offered throughout the year with cross-curricular aims working with other departments including DT, Mathematics, Geography and more.

**The Present Vacancy**

The successful applicant will join a high-achieving and supportive department and teach Computer Science throughout the age range. They will be personally committed to developing a genuine and lasting enthusiasm for Computer Science in our pupils through their teaching and contributions to co-curricular life in the department, as well as in preparing them for exam success. They will also have a commitment to, and a keen interest in, matters relating to the development of their own classroom practice and the practice of departmental colleagues.

The position of Second-in-Charge of Computer Science could be available for the right candidate and this may well be discussed at interview. The role would potentially include co-curricular leadership, curriculum monitoring and responsibility for partnership teaching.

This is an outstanding opportunity to teach in a congenial and stimulating setting. We welcome equally applications from teachers in the maintained sector and the independent sector, as well as from those without a formal teaching qualification.

**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 this appointment is Thursday 6 February at midday. Applications will be considered on receipt and we reserve the right to interview and appoint at any stage during this process.