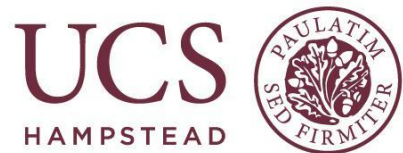


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**Director in Residence**  
**UCS Senior School**  
*Full Time*  
*One Year Fixed-Term*  
*Required for September 2025*



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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 (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, 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 Drama Department**

The Drama Department is a vibrant and active part of the curricular and co-curricular provision at UCS, and is committed to creating ambitious and exciting opportunities for pupils throughout the school. Consisting of five full-time teachers, and one part-time teacher, the department is led by the Director of Drama and supported by the Theatre Manager and Theatre Technician.

Drama is taught in rotation with Dance in one double period per week to Year 7 and Year 8. In Drama, pupils explore theatrical styles, skills and texts. In Year 9 they may opt to continue with Drama and Dance, and can then elect to study either subject for GCSE from Year 10. Pupils can choose Drama for A Level, which is a linear, two year course. Drama is a highly popular subject at GCSE and A Level, and enjoys excellent results. At both GCSE and A Level we currently follow the Eduqas specification. We enrich these curricular courses with residential research and development weekends, workshops from visiting theatre companies and regular visits to theatre in and around London.

There is also an extensive and ambitious range of co-curricular opportunities available to all pupils from Year 7 to Year 13. The co-curricular Drama provision at UCS has been shortlisted for two years running for the Independent Schools Award for Outstanding Performing Arts. These co-curricular opportunities form a considerable part of the Drama provision, and are well-supported by the school community. There is a show for each section of the school - Lower, Middle and Upper – and these take place in the fully equipped, 200-capacity Lund Theatre. These productions are of an excellent standard and are produced in collaboration with a specialist theatre designer. Biennially the Drama and Music departments collaborate on a whole-school musical, which is a sell-out event in the school calendar. Pupils from Years 7 and 8 also have the opportunity to perform their Lower School play to children for local primary schools as one of the various partnership projects going on within the department. We are also proud to offer pupils from Year 12 the opportunity to perform at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Pupils from all years take part in Stage Crew, and through this are actively involved in the technical and design elements of the various productions.

### **The Present Vacancy**

The Director in Residence will provide expert support for curricular and co-curricular drama at the Senior School. They will be an inspirational and visionary director, as well as a motivated self-starter able to work well within a team of teachers and a technician, under the leadership of the Director of Drama. They will take responsibility for directing two school productions, including our annual Edinburgh Festival Fringe production.

In addition, the successful candidate will be responsible for the delivery of some Key Stage 3 Drama lessons and they will combine a strong intellectual interest in Drama with an imaginative and flexible approach to classroom teaching and a commitment to developing a true appreciation of the subject in their pupils.

They will also be active in facilitating participation in House competitions, organising and attending trips to the theatre and in supporting the creative work of others in the department.

This is an outstanding opportunity to work in an ambitious and congenial Drama Department. It should, therefore, be attractive to a recent graduate (UCS offers full statutory induction) or an experienced theatre director seeking wider experience.

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

### **Job Description Overview:**

- To direct a series of productions, with different age groups, over the course of the year
- To deliver some Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) curricular Drama lessons
- To assist with the direction of practical examination performances for GCSE and A level groups
- To deliver workshops in specialist areas to A level pupils studying Drama, and pupils of other ages
- To act as assistant or co-director on productions directed by colleagues
- To contribute to co-curricular workshops for pupils of different ages
- To coach pupils for drama school or other external auditions
- To help to develop links between the Drama Department and the professional theatre industry
- To assist with the administration of the Drama Department, as agreed with the Director of Drama
- To assist with drama-related activities taking place off-site including trips
- To attend departmental meetings

### **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 13 March at midday. Applications will be considered on receipt and we reserve the right to interview and appoint at any stage during this process.