

Volunteering Service

Participation Levels 2020-21

Figures are from data provided by UCL Registry, based on students who were known to have volunteered.

Where the figures are meaningful, we've broken the data in volunteering types:

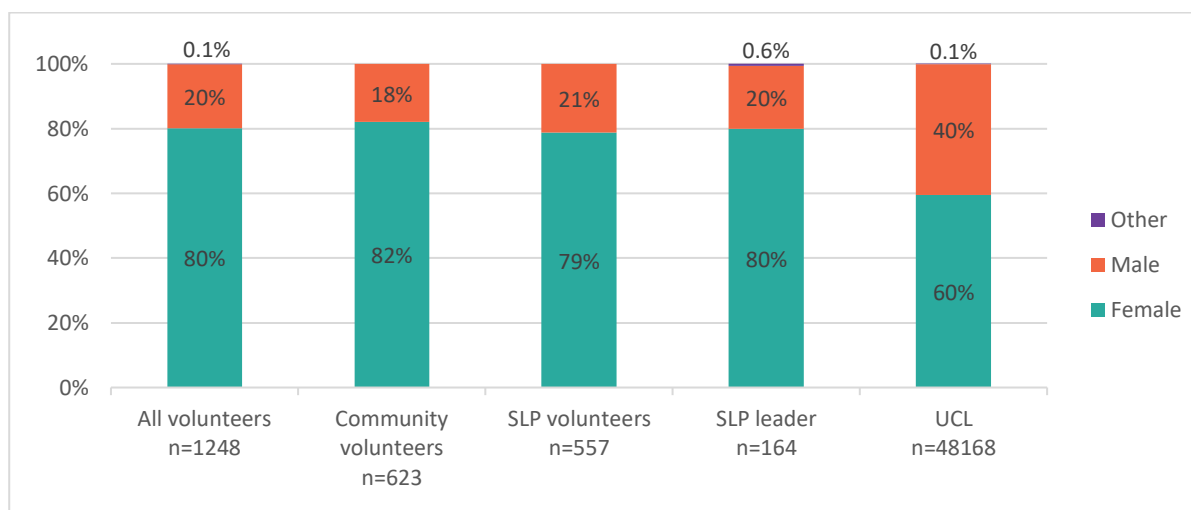
- External charities – volunteer with one of our c. 400 external community partners.
- One-off volunteers – participant in a one-off volunteering event.
- Project Leaders – leaders of one of our student led projects.
- SLP Volunteers – volunteer with Student Led Project.

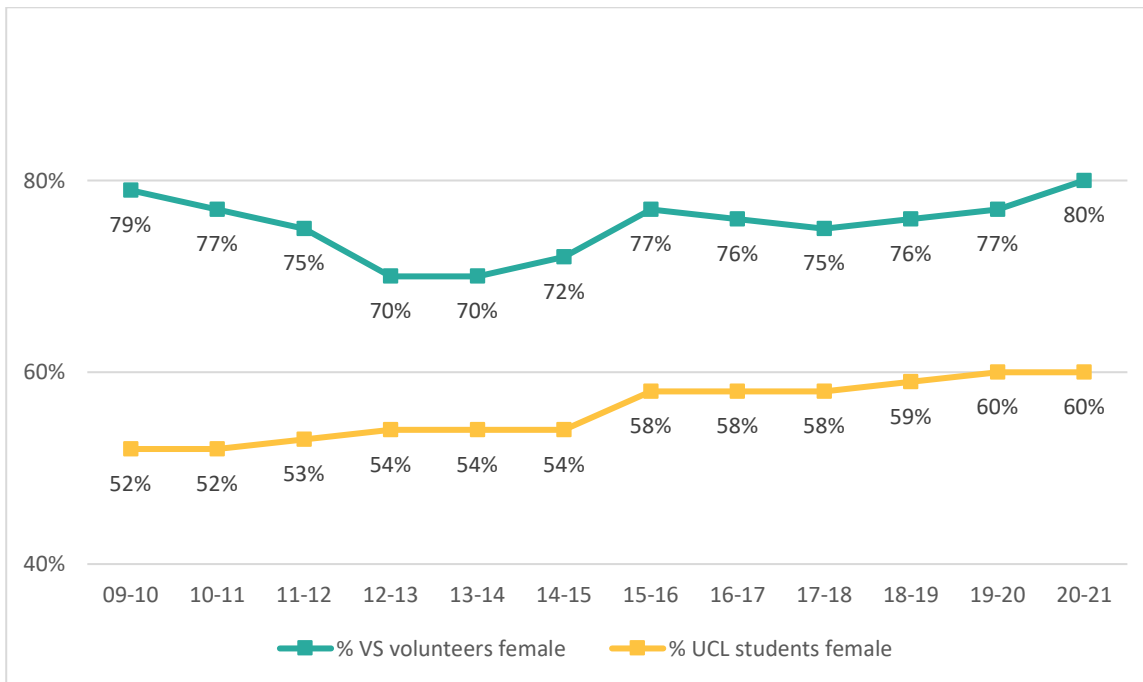
Type of volunteering

	Number of volunteers
External charities	623
SLP Volunteers	557
Project Leaders	164
Total volunteers	1246

These figures are a 39% decline on the previous year, which is due to the impact of COVID. The vast majority of our projects have been face-to-face – indeed, part of the appeal of volunteering has been that it brings you into contact with other people. Whilst some projects were able to move online, and we found new virtual opportunities, many other projects were unable to do this. Our Student-led Projects work predominantly with schools, who had their own pressures to contend with, and the moving in and out of lockdown also affected continuity of volunteering experience.

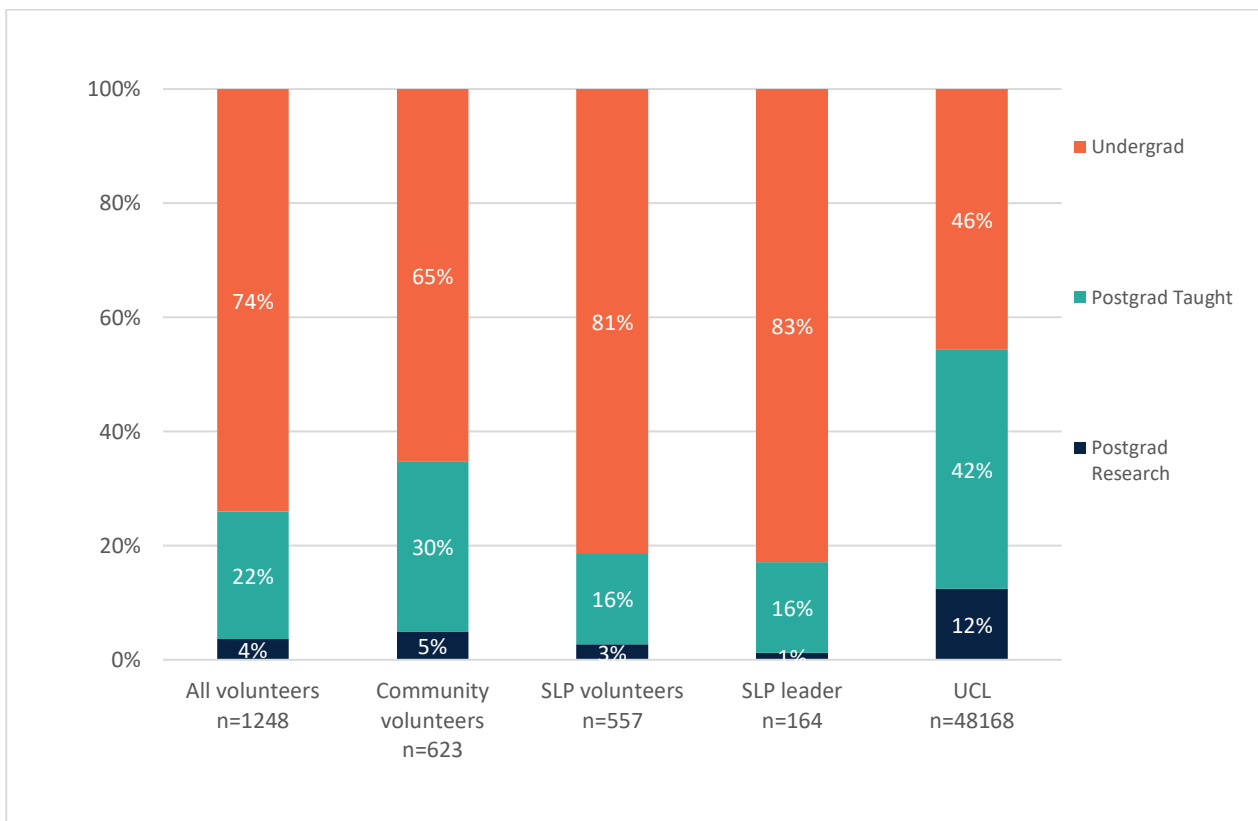
Gender



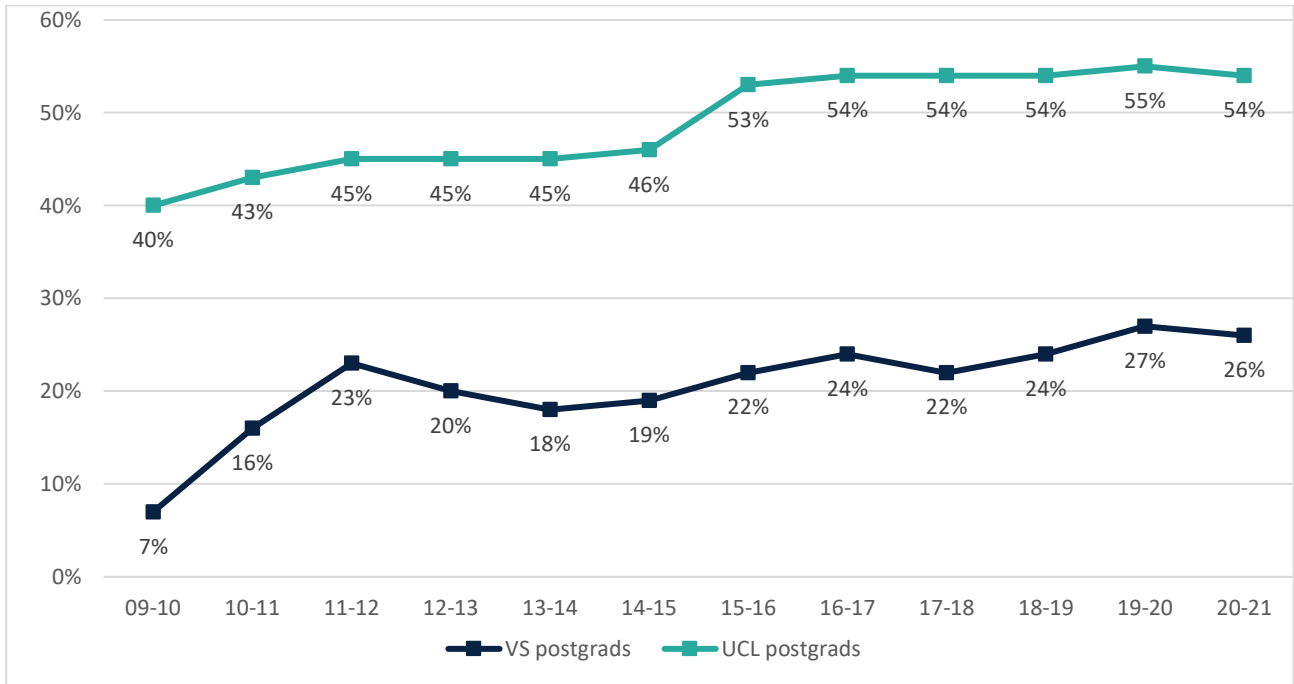


In line with long-standing trends, female students were much more likely to get involved with volunteering with us than male students. This was true across all types of volunteering.

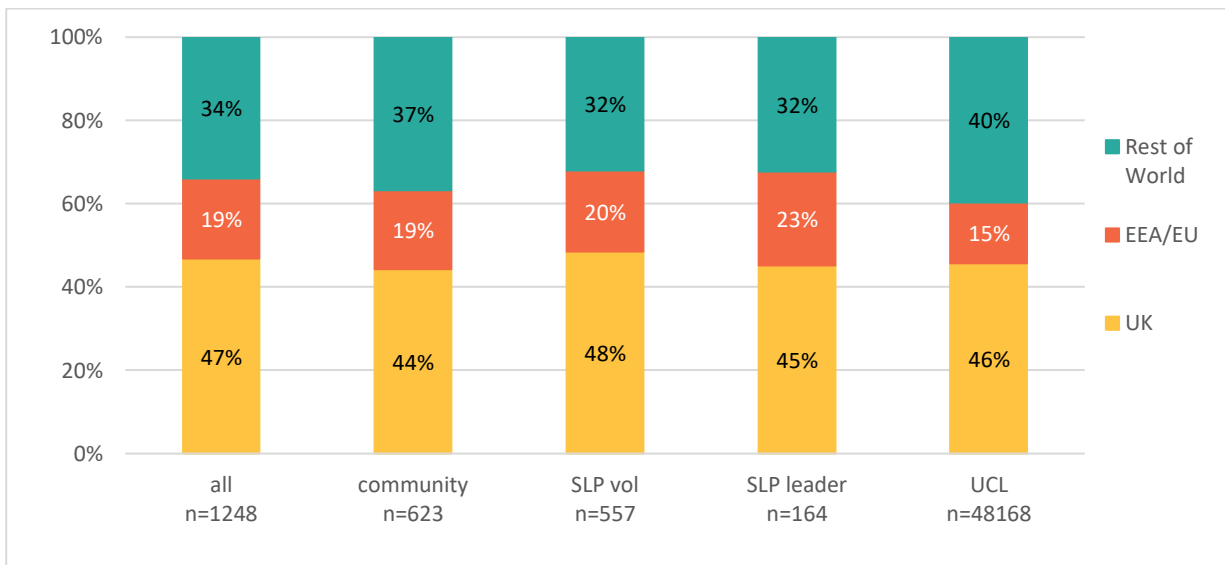
Level of study



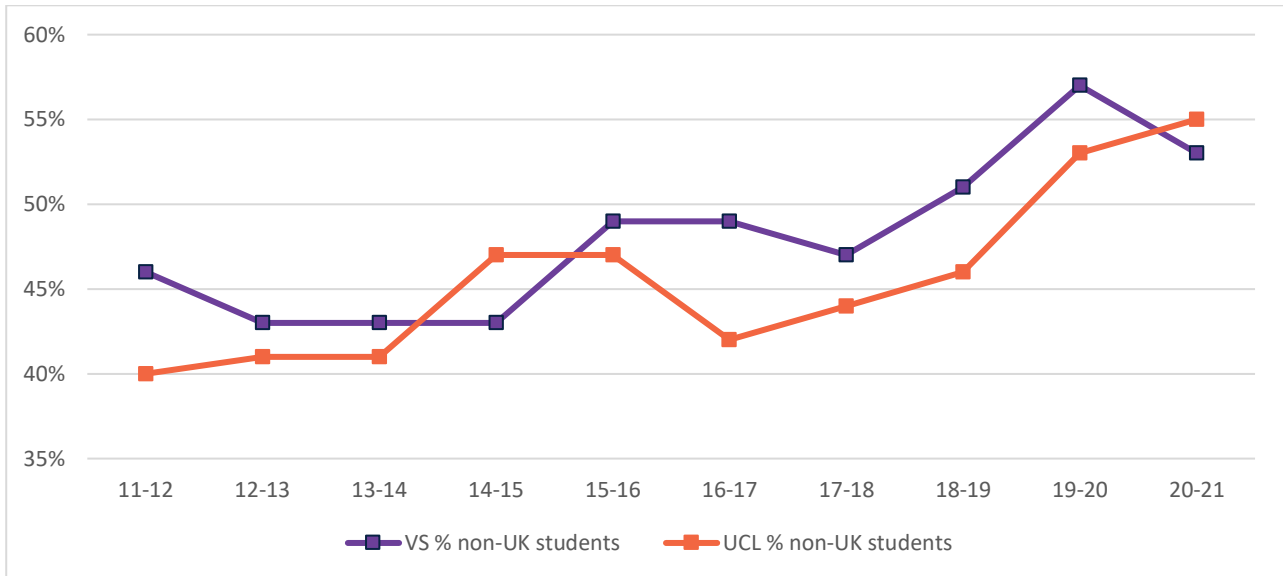
Another long-standing trend is the under-representation of postgraduates amongst our volunteers, with levels similar to those of previous years.



Home/International students



In a reversal of our usual trends, UK students were marginally more likely to volunteer than International students - historically, they have been less likely. The drop in participation was amongst students from outside the EU/EEA.



Students with Disabilities

16% of our volunteers had a declared disability (up from 12% last year), compared with 9% of UCL students as a whole. The rise might reflect the greater accessibility of some online volunteering, though it's worth noting that disabled students were already more likely to volunteer.

% of students with declared disability

Year	VS % declared disability	UCL % declared disability
2015-16	6%	6%
2016-17	7%	6%
2017-18	9%	7%
2018-19	11%	8%
2019-20	12%	9%
2020-21	16%	9%

Ethnic Origin of UK students

Looking at UCL students from the UK, those from Asian backgrounds were more likely to volunteer, whilst those from White and Black African backgrounds less likely to volunteer.

	Volunteering Service	UCL
White	46%	55%
Gypsy or Traveller	0%	0.01%
Black or Black British - Caribbean	1%	1%
Black or Black British - African	3%	5%
Other Black background	0%	0.3%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	14%	9%
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	7%	4%

	Volunteering Service	UCL
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	4%	3%
Chinese	5%	4%
Other Asian background	6%	5%
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	0%	1%
Mixed - White and Black African	1%	1%
Mixed - White and Asian	4%	3%
Other mixed background	3%	3%
Arab	1%	2%
Other ethnic background	3%	2%
Refused / Not known	3%	2%

Ethnic Origin of Non-UK students

Historically, volunteering has been popular with international students of Chinese origin. In 20/21, their numbers dropped substantially – from 460 to 184, or from 42% of international student volunteers to 29%. It's unclear why we saw such a big drop, though it seems likely that it's related to factors around COVID.

International students of Indian origin remained keen volunteers. Unlike in previous years, international students of white origin were more likely to volunteer. It's unclear why we saw this change, though it may be that, with fewer Chinese students, the proportions of the other groups naturally have to increase.

	Volunteering Service	UCL
White	35%	26%
Gypsy or Traveller	0%	0.01%
Black or Black British - Caribbean	0%	0%
Black or Black British - African	1%	1%
Other Black background	0%	0.2%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	9%	3%
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	2%	1%
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	0%	0.2%
Chinese	29%	53%
Other Asian background	11%	7%
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	0%	0.1%
Mixed - White and Black African	0%	0.2%
Mixed - White and Asian	2%	1%
Other mixed background	3%	2%
Arab	2%	3%
Other ethnic background	2%	1%
Refused / Not known	3%	2%

POLAR 4 Data

The Participation of Local Areas (POLAR) classification looks at how likely young people are to participate in higher education across the UK based on their address. The most recent version of the classification is POLAR4.

POLAR classifies local areas into five groups - or quintiles. If your home address is in quintile 1, you come from an area where young people are least likely to go into higher education. Conversely, if your home address is in quintile 5, you come from an area where young people are most likely to go into higher education. Thus, the POLAR methodology is one way of measuring relative disadvantage of those entering higher education.

It's important to note that POLAR only relates to undergraduate students with UK home addresses.

	POLAR 4 Quintile				
	1	2	3	4	5
	1 = from lowest participation neighbourhoods 5 = from highest participation neighbourhoods				
Volunteering Service	2%	6%	14%	25%	53%
UCL	4%	6%	12%	26%	52%

This is another change from our usual trends – in previous year's students from the first 3 quartiles (i.e. students from lower participation neighbourhoods) were more likely to volunteer. For 20/21, the representation is more evenly spread, with students from quartile 1 now less likely to volunteer.

Volunteer numbers by faculty

Again, the effects of COVID impacted long standing trends when looking at participation at faculty level – usually Laws, Life Sciences and Medical Sciences have highest participation rates. Whilst these are all above average, Arts & Humanities showed the highest levels as it had the smallest decline in volunteer numbers compared to the previous year.

Faculty	Total VS Volunteers	% of students who volunteer	% of undergraduates who volunteer	% change in volunteers from 19/20
Arts & Humanities	172	5%	6%	-15%
Laws	54	5%	7%	-40%
Medical Sciences	169	4%	7%	-43%
Population & Health Sciences	68	4%	13%	-31%
Social & Historical Sciences	218	4%	5%	-21%
Life Sciences	125	3%	5%	-40%
UCL Total	1246	3%	4%	-39%
Brain Sciences	74	2%	5%	-35%
Engineering	117	2%	2%	-50%
Maths & Physical Sciences	86	2%	2%	-54%
Built Environment	48	1%	1%	-25%
Inst of Education	100	1%	4%	-55%

Volunteer numbers by department

Looking at absolute numbers of volunteers, half came from twelve departments:

- UCL Medical School
- Division of Biosciences
- Division of Psychology and Language Sciences
- Laws
- Arts and Sciences BASc
- Political Science
- European and International Social and Political Studies
- Economics
- History
- School of European Languages, Culture and Society
- Geography
- Education, Practice and Society

Of these, all but 4 had been in last year's list of top recruiters. Our top recruiting departments – in absolute numbers – are generally very consistent. The Medical School, Biosciences, PALS, and Laws have been in the top recruiting departments every year since at least 2014-15, with most of the others having appeared in the list at least once. The exceptions to this are Political Science and European and International Social and Political Studies who make a first appearance here.

Faculty	Department	Total VS Volunteers	% of students who volunteer	% of undergraduates who volunteer
PHS	UCL Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Institute for Women's Health	15	12%	38%
ART	European and International Social and Political Studies	42	11%	11%
ART	Arts and Sciences BASc	49	10%	9%
MDS	Division of Infection and Immunity	10	8%	16%
PHS	Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care	20	6%	8%
ART	English Language and Literature	26	6%	6%
MAP	Natural Sciences	24	6%	6%
PHS	Institute for Global Health	16	6%	9%
SHS	Institute of the Americas	11	6%	6%
MDS	UCL Medical School	109	6%	6%
SHS	Institute of Archaeology	24	5%	9%
IOE	Centre for Languages and International Education	9	5%	5%
SHS	History	41	5%	5%
LIF	Division of Biosciences	97	5%	6%
LAW	Laws	54	5%	7%
MDS	Division of Medicine	27	5%	10%
ART	School of European Languages, Culture and Society	32	4%	4%
SHS	Geography	29	4%	5%

Faculty	Department	Total VS Volunteers	% of students who volunteer	% of undergraduates who volunteer
SHS	Political Science	44	4%	5%
IOE	Social Science	23	4%	4%
ENG	Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering	15	4%	7%
PHS	Institute of Cardiovascular Science	4	3%	5%
SHS	Anthropology	21	3%	5%
SHS	Economics	42	3%	4%
PHS	UCL GOS Institute of Child Health	12	3%	22%
MDS	Division of Surgery and Interventional Science	16	3%	9%
MDS	Cancer Institute	6	3%	5%
IOE	Education, Practice and Society	28	3%	3%
	UCL Total	1246	3%	4%
BRN	Division of Psychology and Language Sciences	64	3%	5%
SHS	History of Art	6	2%	3%
ENG	Chemical Engineering	15	2%	3%
ENG	Biochemical Engineering	7	2%	3%
ART	Philosophy	7	2%	3%
ENG	Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy	2	2%	No undergrads
ENG	Mechanical Engineering	22	2%	3%
IOE	UCL Institute of Education	1	2%	No undergrads
IOE	Psychology and Human Development	17	2%	5%
ART	Centre for Multidisciplinary and Intercultural Inquiry	8	2%	No undergrads
ART	Hebrew and Jewish Studies	1	2%	0%
BEN	Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose	1	2%	No undergrads
ENG	Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering	12	2%	3%
BEN	Bartlett School of Environment, Energy and Resources	10	2%	No undergrads
BEN	Development Planning Unit	6	2%	No undergrads
MAP	Chemistry	16	2%	2%
BEN	Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis	3	2%	No undergrads
BRN	UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology	7	2%	No undergrads
LIF	School of Pharmacy	28	2%	3%
MAP	Statistical Science	10	1%	2%
BEN	Bartlett School of Planning	10	1%	2%
MAP	Science and Technology Studies	3	1%	3%
SES	SSEES - School of Slavonic and East European Studies	15	1%	1%
ENG	Security and Crime Science	4	1%	2%

Faculty	Department	Total VS Volunteers	% of students who volunteer	% of undergraduates who volunteer
MAP	Mathematics	14	1%	1%
MAP	Risk and Disaster Reduction	1	1%	No undergrads
MAP	Physics and Astronomy	13	1%	1%
ENG	Electronic and Electrical Engineering	9	1%	2%
ENG	UCL School of Management	20	1%	2%
MAP	Space and Climate Physics	2	1%	No undergrads
BEN	Institute for Global Prosperity	1	1%	No undergrads
BRN	Institute of Ophthalmology	2	1%	No undergrads
ENG	Computer Science	11	1%	1%
MAP	MAPS faculty office	1	1%	No undergrads
MAP	Earth Sciences	2	1%	1%
ART	Information Studies	2	1%	no undergrads
IOE	Culture, Communication and Media	10	1%	No undergrads
BEN	Bartlett School of Construction and Project Management	6	1%	1%
BEN	Bartlett School of Architecture	11	1%	1%
IOE	Learning and Leadership	5	0%	No undergrads
PHS	Institute of Health Informatics	1	0%	No undergrads
BRN	Division of Psychiatry	1	0%	No undergrads
ART	Slade School of Fine Art	1	0%	0%
IOE	Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment	7	0%	0%
MDS	Eastman Dental Institute	1	0%	No undergrads
ART	Greek and Latin	0	0%	0%
BRN	Ear Institute	0	0%	0%
BRN	Institute of Prion Diseases	0	0%	0%
ENG	Centre for Mathematics, Physics and Engineering in the Life Sciences and Experimental Biology	0	0%	0%
LIF	Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit	0	0%	0%
LIF	Laboratory for Molecular Cell Biology	0	0%	0%
LIF	Sainsbury Wellcome Centre for Neural Circuits and Behaviour	0	0%	0%
PHS	Institute of Clinical Trials and Methodology	0	0%	0%

January 2022