

Supporting academic English skills at UCL

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Representation & Campaigns
UCL Union

Presentation overview



2017

Currently available
academic English
support services



2020

UCL's vision for
academic English
support services



There are currently several academic English support services available to students at UCL

UCL CENTRE FOR LANGUAGES & INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (CLIE)




Home | Part time Language Courses in London | UCL taster days


UCL Home / CLIE

UCL Centre for Languages & International Education (CLIE)

The UCL Centre for Languages & International Education offers a range of degree preparation courses for Undergraduate and Graduate international students, as well a diverse portfolio of UCL summer schools.

Over 17 foreign languages (including English) and teacher training courses are provided across a range of academic levels to support UCL degree students, UCL staff and London's wider academic and professional community.

WRITING LAB



Home | What is the Writing Lab? | Book your place | Academic Writing at UCL

UCL Home / Writing Lab


WRITING LAB

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Writing & Language Support Programme (WALS)



The Writing and Language Support (WALS) programme is run by UCLU for international students studying at UCL. The aim of the programme is to **assist non-native English speaking students with their academic writing and speaking**. WALS Peer Tutors run several different types of free activities to help you with your written and spoken English, including: a regular programme of workshops, bookable one-to-one sessions and 'Coffee and Conversation' (a weekly opportunity to get together and practice your spoken English with other students). You can find out more and book yourself onto the programme [on our moodle page here](#).

'Like' the [Facebook page](#) for updates on when activities are happening. You can even suggest some ideas for the workshops if you'd like to see something specific!

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Institute of Education



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Academic Writing Centre

For Postgraduate Students in Education Studies

Director: Dr Lesley Gourlay

Our centre provides support for IOE students in the form of short courses (face to face and online), one-to-one tutorials (face to face, Skype or phone), online discussion forums, and online resources. Our classes and resources are specifically designed to support postgraduate writing in educational studies.

Plus departmental tutors / induction courses, Doctoral School courses, etc.

UCL Centre for Languages & International Education (CLIE)

- English for Academic Purposes modules
- English language spring / summer schools
- Pre-sessional courses
- Resource bank for self-directed online learning
 - Videos
 - Online exercises
 - Audio materials
 - Books
 - Other resources

UCL Centre for Languages and International Education

UCL

Now listen to the rest of the report and decide if the following statements are True or False or NI (not enough information to decide):

	TRUE	FALSE	NI
1. Diesel Fuel is better for burning grasses.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. The Fire Department suggest leaving the Kennebunk Plains area to grow wild.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. The fire of 1947 was started by a cigarette.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. There are still visible effects of the 1947 fire in some of the towns in this area of Maine.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. This area of Maine is likely to burn again in the future.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

UCL Institute of Education Academic Writing Centre

- Short academic writing skills courses
- One-to-one appointments
 - 30 minutes with a tutor
 - Feedback on writing
 - No more than 1 per fortnight
- Online discussion forums
- Online resources

Session 1

- Characteristics of academic writing
- Referencing and evidence
- Cautious / hedging language
- Critical reading and writing

Session 2

- Referencing and citation (recap)
- Cautious / hedging language recap & practice
- Recap: criticality
- Criticality practice

Session 3

- Argument in academic writing
- Using your own words to summarise other authors' ideas
- Paraphrasing / summarising practice

Session 4

- Structure: paragraphs
- Keeping your reader in mind (cohesion)
- Reflection on topics covered on the course
- Opportunity to work on and / or receive feedback your own writing

UCL Writing Lab

- Workshops on academic writing skills
- One-to-one tutorials
 - 30 minutes
 - Feedback on writing or advice
 - 3 per term
- Daily drop-in sessions

UCLU Writing and Language Support Service (WALS)

- Workshops
 - Academic English skills
 - British culture
- Coffee & Conversation session
- One-to-one tutorials
 - With a peer tutor
 - 30 minutes
 - 2 per term
 - Feedback on written or oral English



The academic English support offered by different UCL services is similar...

	CLIE	IOE	Writing Lab	WALS
Workshops / courses?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
One-to-one tutorials?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Online resources?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Conversation sessions?	Yes	No	No	Yes

... but, access to these services varies by faculty, level of study & student status

	CLIE	IOE	Writing Lab	WALS
Faculty	No restriction	IOE only	Arts, SHS, the Bartlett & Psychology	No restriction
Undergraduate	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Postgraduate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Student status	International / EAL only	No restriction	No restriction	International / EAL only
Cost	Fees apply	Free	Free	Free

Academic Literacies: Future plans at UCL

- Working group set up to expand writing support for UCL students.
- Seeking to expand IOE and CLIE centres
- Considering an online resource
- UCLU have submitted a consultation response and will be working with UCL to expand provision.

Student A

- Masters student
- Studying at IOE
- Non-native English speaker

IOE Academic Writing Centre
UCL CLIE
UCLU WALS

For example, she could:

- *Up to fortnightly feedback on academic writing*
- *Free short courses on writing skills*
- *Two peer-feedback sessions on oral presentations each term*

Student B

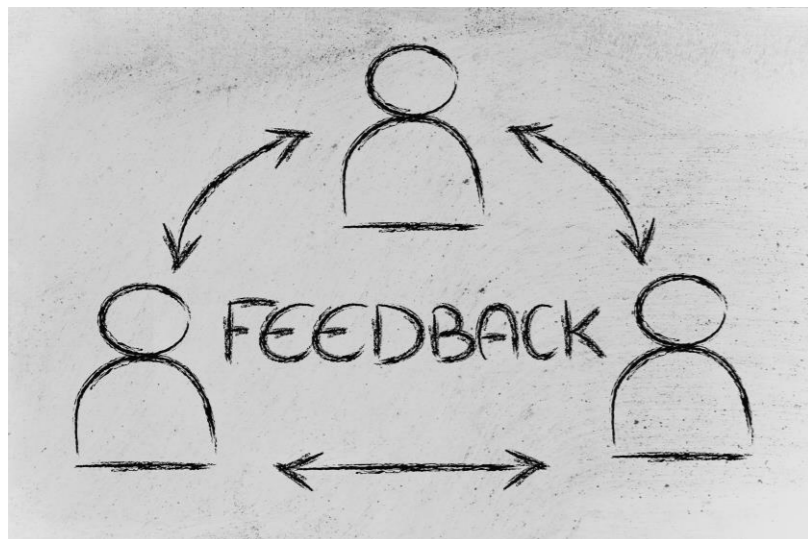
- PhD student
- Studying at ICH
- Native English speaker

Not eligible for any writing support services at UCL

For example, she could:

- *Read books in library*
- *Use online resources*
- *Ask supervisor for feedback*

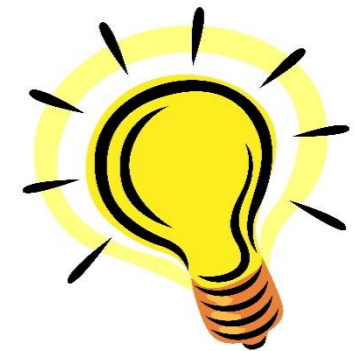
What can I, as a student, do in the meantime?



Effective method for
improving writing skills



Supports projects with
potential to improve the
learning experience



Academic writing
circle for PhD
students at the Farr
Institute

Farr PhD academic writing circle

- Meet twice a month
 - 1 full day of distraction free writing
 - 1 hour peer feedback session
- Funding from UCL ChangeMakers for printing & session refreshments (+ admin support)
- Evaluation after a three-month pilot
- Publish a set of guidelines and resources in June so other student groups can replicate

A sepia-toned photograph of a grand classical building, likely a university or government structure, featuring a prominent portico with tall, fluted columns. A large, leafy tree is visible in the foreground on the right side. The overall scene is bathed in a warm, golden light.

**Questions?/
Feedback**