

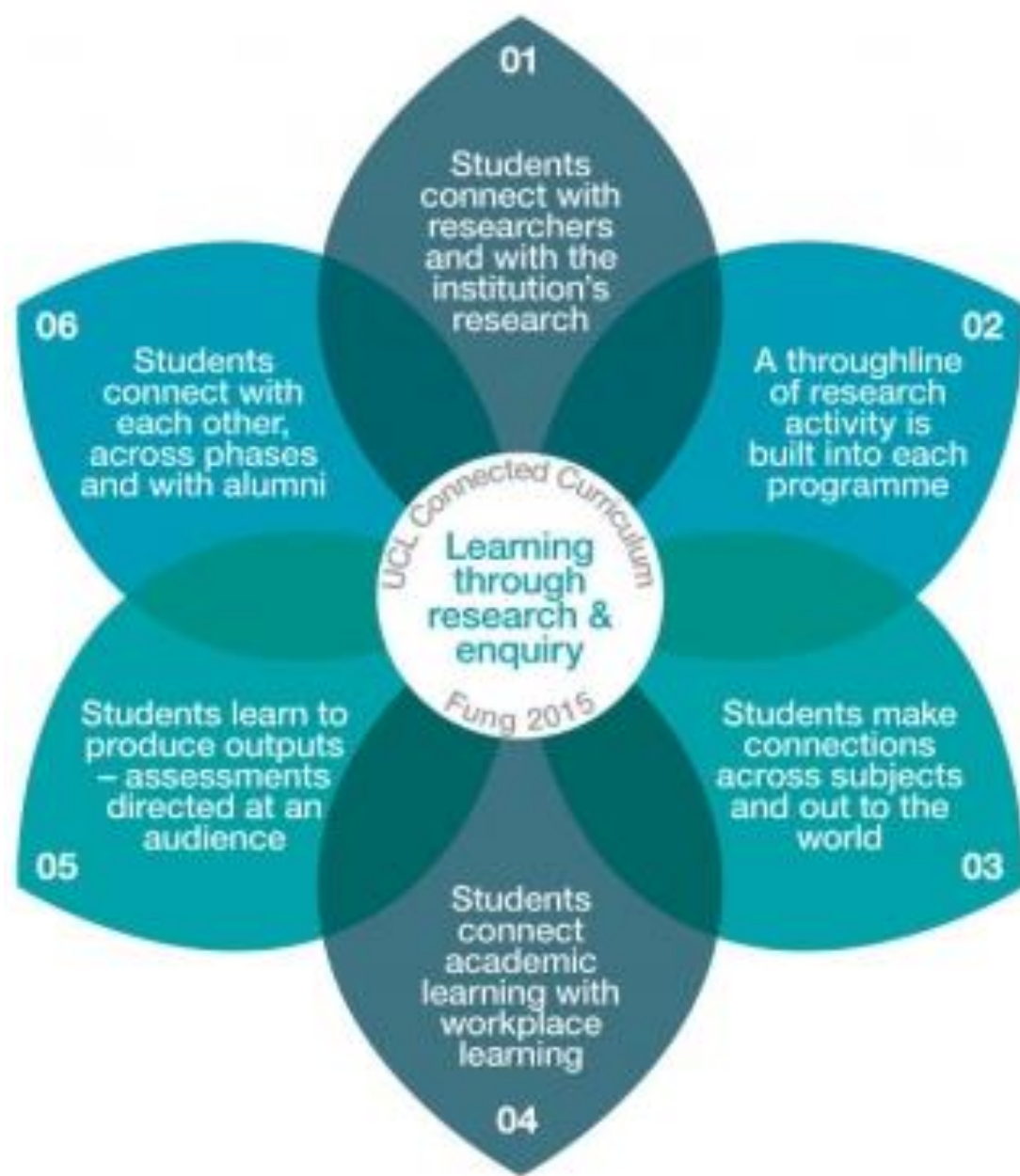
Shaping Education at UCL as Connected Curriculum Student Fellows

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What is Connected Curriculum?

- https://youtu.be/JNj2_kLtz00
- Based at UCL Arena Centre



Who am I?

- Giacomo
- 3rd year BSc Economics
- A&F
- Connecting students and research
- Big gap in department

Meet the Researcher – the setting

- Oxford Brooks – Geography
- Around 20-ish Departments
- Compulsory but non-graded activity
- Generally beginning of Term 1
- Personal tutors – enhance relationship in informal setting

Meet the Researcher – in practice

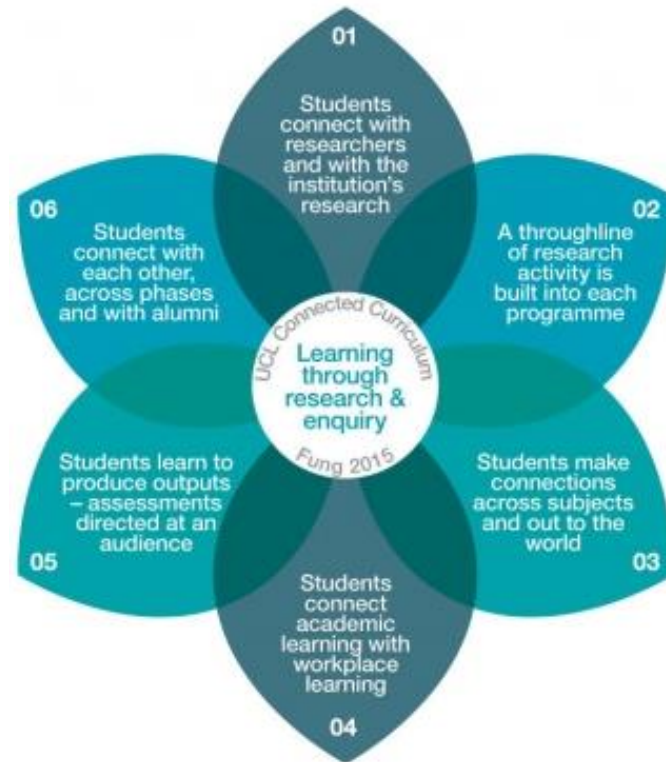
- Assigned piece of research
- Team work – understanding, questions, ...
- One-hour meeting with personal tutor (unique)
- Produce summary output– 10min presentation
- Additional research-skills development session after exam period

Meet the Researcher – the benefits

- Pool of 400 students
- Very few negative comments
- Team working, knowledge, skills
- Idea for future academic paths (1st yr BioSc degree stream)

Meet the Researcher – the theory

- Connected Curriculum links



Meet the Researcher – my idea

- Dept of Economics
- Already in place – Economic Skills Lab
- Challenges
 - 350+ students for 45 staff
 - Space constraints
 - Work burden for staff
 - Suitable for non-scientific subject (history, social sciences, ...)?
 - Suitable for all students?

Meet the Researcher – the solutions

- Include in personal tutor meetings (anyway compulsory)
 - Productive meetings (instead of awkward silent ones)
- First Year Challenge
 - Know Bloomsbury
 - Team work
 - Output: video presentation
- Implement within FYC
 - No extra hours of work
 - Output: video presentation on researcher's work
 - Alternative: poster session or other common social (e.g. Linguistics)

Meet the Researcher - questions

- Will it be a burden for the staff in terms of work/time?
- How can it be linked to normal degree's activities/aims?

Who am I?

- Naheem Bashir
- Final year PhD Student in Experimental Psychology
- Working to find brain based causes and develop brain based treatments of stammering e.g. using brain stimulation (a speech disorder)
- Focusing on communication between UCL and students

Communication is key

- Communication is key to the CC for current and prospective students
- Moving from formal to informal
- Moving from staff focused to student focused
- Getting students involved in getting messages across

Pilot Study

- Psychology and Language Sciences – Instagram and Snapchat
- Platforms are widely used amongst undergraduates and prospective students, and allow best possibility for interactive engagement.
- Key Events
 - Third year undergraduate dissertation hand in (February)
 - Second year mini-projects (March)
 - Exam period (April-June)
 - PALS Open Days

Pilot Study - Ideas

- Students sum up their dissertation/mini-projects in Instagram/Snapchat stories
 - These are submitted to us, collated, then shared
- UCL Research Facts account
 - Sharing interesting bits of research which came out of UCL
 - Focus on viral content
- Unlockable Snapchat lenses and filters
 - Also a method of tracking engagement

Pilot Study - Questions

- What do you think about this idea overall?
- How can we use these platforms to get across information and engage students?
- Are there any challenges you foresee?
- Do you know of any other universities/departments who have implemented something similar?

Who am I?

- Anna Routova, 1st year BAsSc. Arts and Sciences
- Interested in photography, graphic design and communications -> anickaroutova.com
- Worked with LTC, Connecting students with researchers, Digital infrastructure
- Shared issue across all working groups: communications (esp. student-facing)

Student-facing comms – some ideas

- Source creative content from students -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rjnk8xbXgtA>
- Better use of social media
- More student-friendly language
 - Re-write of the CC brochure
 - <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/teaching-learning/education-initiatives/connected-curriculum/liberating-curriculum> (LTC webpage)
- Communicating through departments (e.g. student reps)