

Students as Change Agents at UCL

Overview

- Brief introductions
- Explore student engagement
- Let's think big - group activity 10-15 mins
- Students as Change Agents at UCL
- Group discussion
- Get involved

Introductions



This is me

Abbie Willett

Student Engagement Officer

Where I work:

Centre for the
Advancement of
Learning and
Teaching

So who's enhancing the teaching & learning at UCL?

Well, actually, we would like **you** to

We would like students to see themselves as having the **power and opportunity** to be Change Agents.



Seem a little lazy on our part?

Institution-led change

- Decisions for action are taken at institution level
- Students offer feedback, views and opinions
- Emphasis on **student voice**

Example: course feedback forms, inviting students to focus groups and fill in surveys

Student-led change

- Decisions for **action promoted by students**
- Students gather the evidence and educational knowledge to collaborate on change with departments and at institutional level

Example: Students as Change Agents

Partnership-led change

- **Staff and students collaborate** on curriculum provision, enhancing student learning and staff development
- Students engage in institutional decision-making

Example: Staff-Student Consultative Committees

But which model is best?

Students leading on change

What you can bring

- **You** know what matters to you
- **You** are motivated because it will directly affect you
- **You** know what changes will make the greatest difference to you and your peers
- **You** are best placed to go and talk to your peers, to get the evidence you need for change
- **You** have great ideas and we want to utilise that

Benefits

- **Get involved** – it's not just talk, it's action
- **Change** that will directly benefit you
- **Develop** yourself
- Feel more connected to UCL
- Looks **good on your CV**

What are other universities doing?

Projects:

- FASTECH – University of Winchester and Bath Spa University
- Digital Literacies in Transition Project – Greenwich University
- Students as Partners – Birmingham City University
- Oxford Brookes – InStepp
- University of Reading – Digitally Ready
- And many others

Supported by:

- HEA
- JISC
- REACH

University of Exeter – a good model for Change Agents

Projects: ‘Escalate’, ‘Intergrate’ and ‘Students as Change Agents’



- **100 projects** over 4 years
- Huge range and breadth of change agent projects
- Leaders in the field

Group Activity

Let's think big – the sky's the limit

1. If you were in charge of your department , or even of UCL, for the day, what would you do differently?
2. If you could only change **one** thing, what would have the greatest impact for your students?
3. What resources, tools, information etc. would you need to make that happen?

So I can't make you the Provost for a day, or even a Head of Department....

But we can give you that vehicle for change:

‘Students as Change Agents’ Scheme

- Gives you the power to identify the things that you would do differently and the aspects you would like to change
- Gives you departmental and institutional support
- Gives you the resources to gather the evidence and campaign for change
- Places its belief in your ability and commitment to make a difference

How it works



1. Identify a topic of interest to you and formulate a research question
2. Identify a staff partner to work with
3. Get your project proposal signed off and submit it
4. Successful projects will receive up to £500 funding
5. Carry out your research project
6. Communicate your findings and gain support for the changes you are recommending
7. Work together with your department to make those changes a reality
8. Present your project at an annual UCL Change Agents event and receive a certificate

So what do you think?

- Does this scheme sound like something you would like to be involved with?
- What do you like about it?
- Are there any barriers that would prevent you taking part?
- Is there anything that you would change or do differently?
- Would you be interested in running a project next academic year?

Get Involved

Please please please get involved:

- We need a name, desperately
- There is a temporary, interactive website set up:

<https://sites.google.com/site/uclchangeagents/>

- Please visit that and leave any thoughts, ideas, suggestions etc that you have there
- Leave your name and email address on the list
- Get in contact with me directly
Abbie Willett: a.willett@ucl.ac.uk
- And, if you think you might want to run a project next year, take a form and fill it in

Students as Change Agents at UCL



Introducing Students as Change Agents

A new scheme to pilot in 2014/15

'Students as Change Agents' is a new scheme to be piloted next academic year (2014/15) at UCL. The scheme is run through the Centre for the Advancement of Teaching & Learning (CALT), working closely with UCLU.

The idea of 'Students as Change Agents' is to create opportunities for you to actively engage with your departments.

Inviting students to undertake research

We're inviting you to undertake a piece of action research investigating an aspect of your education or develop a new idea that you have always thought would really make a difference to your, and other students', experience at UCL. And it doesn't necessarily have to be a problem. You might think things are, yeah, they're going fine. They're ok... BUT... a little tweak here, using an App there, producing some online resources for everywhere... well that would just make it perfect.

Share your education and development

Messages

Discussion group - you need to join the group to post Hi Everyone, In order to join the discussion forum you need to be a member of the *UCL Change Agents Network* google group. To do this: 1. Click on the ...
Posted 23 hours ago by Abbie Willett

Temporary website For now, until we have a name and a visual feel, I have created this temporary website so that we can begin to share thoughts and ideas. Once we have ...
Posted Mar 27, 2014, 7:08 AM by Abbie Willett

UCLU Education Conference I'm looking forward to presenting my session on 'Students as Change Agents' at the UCLU Education conference on Saturday: <https://uclu.org/representation/education-conference> This is the start ...
Posted Mar 27, 2014, 7:04 AM by Abbie Willett

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Opinion Poll...

Do you think 'Student as Change Agents' is a good idea for UCL?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure yet...

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