



Feedback: a UCL ChangeMakers guide

5 steps to getting the most out of feedback
and making your learning effective

By students, for students

5 steps to making the most of feedback

Going to a new university/environment is exciting AND overwhelming. You might be dealing with housing, meeting new friends and being homesick.

My experience at UCL is very different to the one I had at the University of Toronto. One of the greatest changes I've made is that here I reflect on my experiences; giving myself balanced feedback (I came to realize that being overly critical of myself isn't helping with my mental health/personal growth); and applying my skills to everyday life!

I know ... you might have already heard all of this advice. But it was my course that made me do it... (I actually get graded for doing so). And guess what?! Such a reflective cycle eventually got embedded in me and being able to look back at how far I've come is very rewarding! So give it a try! I can't promise you will get as much out of it, but I am certain you will discover something new about yourself!

Claudia

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Step 1: Getting started

CAUTION Multi-Task at Your Own Risk!

Find an appropriate time and location to read your feedback carefully. In a rush? Re-read it again more thoroughly later, looking at the questions in step 2.

Think about your strengths and weaknesses prior to reading your feedback. You can then compare that to the feedback you receive.

Check with your course administrator whether you need to make an appointment to discuss feedback: exam comments, coursework, essays, etc.

Make a copy of your feedback if you can (including exam feedback!)

www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/guidance/dp-student-feedback

UCL BA student

“If you do not get the test back, how would you know which topics you are mastering and which ones you need to further work on?”

UCL MSc Student

“It might not be the best idea to read your feedback on a bad day. It deters you from being objective, and you are more likely to take comments personally.”

Step 2. Make notes from your perspective

Have a go at answering these questions!

- What are the key things I learnt from my coursework and feedback?
- What are the key things I did well?
- Are there any differences between my view of strengths/ weaknesses vs the feedback that I just received?
- How can I relate my feedback to what I already know? Have I received similar feedback previously?
- Can I apply what I've learnt to my practice?

- We are often overly critical of ourselves. It is important to appreciate your own effort!
- Don't compare yourself with your peers. (You are unique!) We all have different ways of approaching a problem and you may be experiencing a different stage of learning to your peers.
- Focus on the approach, what is said and why it is said, your progress and areas you can work on.

BSc student

"Your grades do not 100% reflect your capability. It might not be as useful if you focus on the actual answers/ facts. Instead, focus on what you can change!"

Step 3: Discuss your feedback with a tutor

- Do you understand the comments your marker provided? Are they specific enough/ too specific?
- Go to office hours/book an appointment to clarify any concerns if necessary.

UCL MSc Student

“Being able to identify and formulate questions about feedback are part of the learning process.”

UCL BSc student

“Note the specific questions that you would like to ask at least 3 days before you meet your marker/tutor.”

You can also discuss feedback that you get repeatedly with your personal tutor, module tutors, assessors and departmental administrators. This allows them to provide you with further individualized support and guidance.

Step 4: Action plan

Planning the next steps...

- What should I do to increase my confidence in understanding the topic?
- Will further readings/information/materials help? What specific topic should I review?
- Can I ask other people (especially peers, someone in a similar position) for feedback and information?

MyFeedback (on Moodle home page) allows you to review your feedback across all modules in a single view. You can draw links between different assessments and modules, reflect on your feedback and think of ways to improve in future assessments.

Find out more about MyFeedback at:

<https://wiki.ucl.ac.uk/display/ELearningStudentSupport/MyFeedback+for+students>

UCL BA Student

"I find it very useful to talk to my peers when I do not understand my feedback."

UCL Programme Leader

"Research has shown that the act of giving feedback to someone else in a similar position gives you new insight into your own strengths and weaknesses. So you can learn as much by giving feedback as by receiving it."

Step 5: Apply your feedback next time

When you write your next assignment...

- Remember the list of thoughts and plans that you wrote previously? USE IT!
- Re-read the feedback you have received.
(Hint: use the MyFeedback tool in Moodle)
- What is the aim/objective of the assessment?
- What are the expectations of you from your lecturer?
(Hint: review your marking criteria)

You gotta be excited about this!

You are currently reading a UCL ChangeMakers project. The information in this presentation was gathered through focus groups and interviews. The focus groups consisted of your peers (undergraduate and graduate students); while the interviews were conducted with your lecturers.

Our goal was to provide you with the greatest tips on receiving and utilizing feedback to gain the most out of your university experience! We also compiled “Assessment: a UCL ChangeMakers guide”. Check it out!

If you have any great ideas, consider being a ChangeMaker! Submit your own project proposal. You’ll make changes and enhance other’s experience at UCL.



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