

The UCL Academy: Consultation on proposed admission arrangements for the 2016/17 academic year

The governors of The UCL Academy are consulting on the Academy's admission arrangements. These arrangements are for students who will be starting secondary school in September 2016, or requesting admission to the Academy between September 2016 and July 2017. They are also for students who will be joining the sixth form (Level 3) in September 2016. The consultation is taking place between 2 January 2015 and the end of February 2015.

The governors of The UCL Academy are responsible for offering or refusing places at the Academy.

We would welcome your views on the proposed arrangements, which include changes from those agreed for the 2015/16 academic year. These changes are to:

1. Amend criterion 2 so that applicants with a brother or sister in the sixth form at The UCL Academy will no longer be given any priority in the oversubscription criteria; and
2. Amend criterion 2 so that applicants with a brother or sister at The UCL Academy will be given priority in the oversubscription criteria only if The UCL Academy is the nearest secondary school to their home address.

The principal reason for these proposed changes is that a large number of places are being taken by siblings of existing students who live beyond the catchment cut-off point which is shortening each year as demand for places increases. This is reducing the chances of other applicants who live closer to the Academy in securing a place. Specific reasons for these proposed changes are:

1. Demand for places at The UCL Academy has increased in each year since it opened in 2012. In 2014, the number of applications for places exceeded those available by more than 7 to 1.
2. In 2014, approximately 23% places in Year 7 were offered to applicants with a sibling at the Academy; and of these approximately 54% live beyond the catchment cut-off point of 0.57 miles;
3. As the Academy grows towards full capacity (reached in 2016) it is expected that the number of sibling admissions will substantially increase
4. In 2014, one quarter of all applicants offered a place under sibling criteria had a sibling in the sixth form, and all live beyond the catchment cut-off point. Sixth form places are currently not oversubscribed and so distance from the Academy is not a factor in gaining admission.

For the reasons set out in the paragraphs above it is proposed that The UCL Academy Trust 2016/17 admission arrangements be changed to include amendments to criterion 2 from its admission criteria to limit the allocation of places to applicants with a sibling at the Academy.

Please send any comments relating to the proposed admissions arrangements above to consultation@uclacademy.co.uk