



UCL

An institutional research-based education strategy in practice:

The UCL Connected Curriculum and How to Change the World



Connected
Curriculum

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Outline

- Institutional strategy: Connected Curriculum
- Curricula in practice: How to Change the World

The role of the university is changing

- “In an age of supercomplexity, a new epistemology for the university awaits, one that is open, bold, engaging, accessible, and conscious of its own insecurity. It is an epistemology for living amid uncertainty.” (Barnett 2000b: 409)
- Employability, future ready students.
- Response to:
 - Fee increase
 - Student experience
 - Drive to offer better education



Research-based education

- Reconceptualise HE as ‘communities of practice’
(Brew 2012: 111)
- Learning as researchers, questioning what we know and engaging in the edge of knowledge
- Allowing staff and students to work together in new ways
- Inspiring flexible and coherent strategies.

UCL's response

- Connected Curriculum:
Distinct approach to research-based education.

UCL Connected Curriculum

- Changing how we think about education and its relationship to research
- Enhancing education through research and enquiry-based activities
- Linking with professional practice
- Creating connected learning opportunities
- Relevance for careers.



Commitment across the university

“ At University College London, our top strategic priority for the next 20 years is to close the divide between teaching and research. We want to integrate research into every stage of [education].”

(Michael Arthur, President and Provost,
UCL, 30 April 2014)



A core part of UCL 2034, the 20 year strategy

Principal themes:

1. **Academic leadership** grounded in intellectual excellence
2. A global leader in the **integration of research and education**, underpinning an inspirational student experience
3. Addressing **global challenges** through our disciplinary excellence and distinctive cross-disciplinary approach
4. An **accessible, publicly-engaged organisation** that fosters a lifelong community
5. **London's Global University:** in London, of London and for London
6. **Delivering global impact** through a network of innovative international activities, collaborations and partnerships



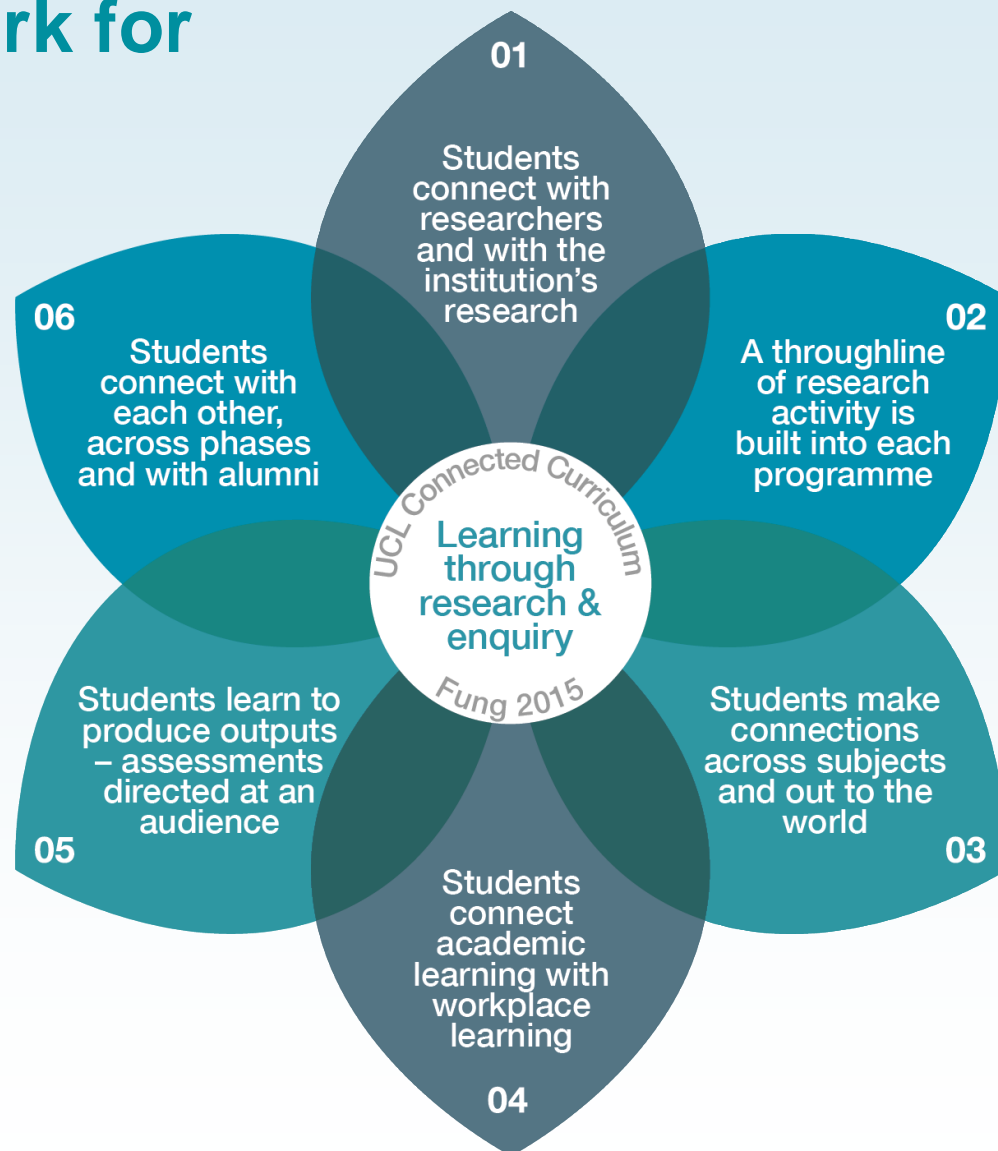
Connected Curriculum: key points

- Educating through dialogue and active, critical enquiry
- Creating an inclusive research and learning community
- Making connections across modules, programmes and beyond
- Equipping students to address global challenges
- Creating assessments that mirror research public engagement
- Engaging students as partners, as co-producers of knowledge
- Improving the experiences of students and staff.



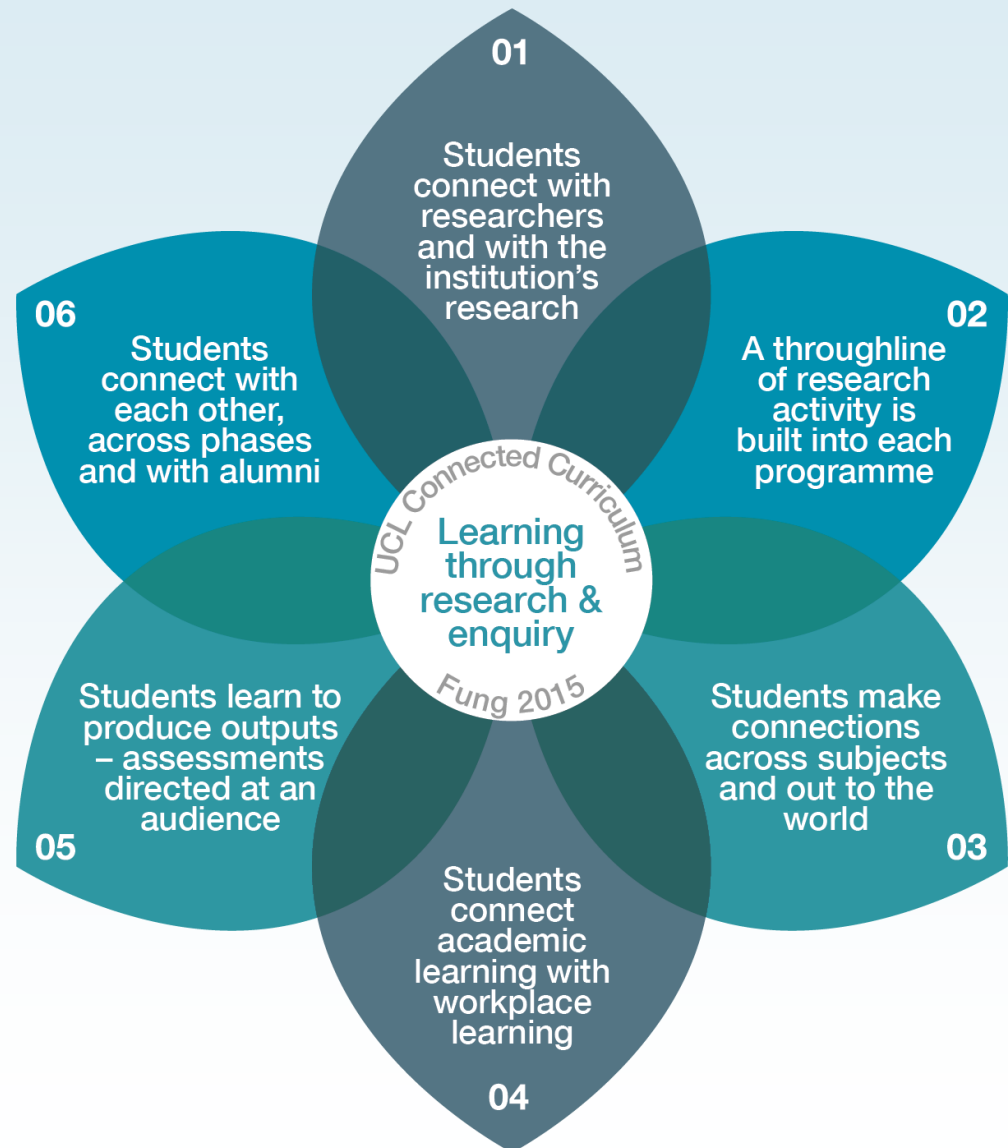
A flexible framework for Curriculum design

- A core principle & 6 dimensions
- Designed to inspire
- Flexibility allowing subject-specific adaptation
- No single model defining research.



Interdisciplinarity and Connections

- Critical mind-set that can operate across disciplines, boundaries, and traditional roles
- Designed into all dimensions



How to Change the World

- A credit bearing, intensive two-week programme
- Over 700 students in multi-disciplinary teams of 5 to 6
- 40 challenge partners, e.g. Arup, UKDECC, TfL and UN Habitat
- Students scope and devise solutions to open-ended global challenges

“ The programme provides engineers with essential training in how to define the question at the heart of a brief and work on multidisciplinary projects. This approach to education is where the industry needs to go.”

Keith Clarke CBE,
Former CEO, Atkins

How to Change the World

- Focuses on tangible outputs
- Encourages an understanding of how disciplines interact
- Develops the skills highly desired by employers
- *“When I was at an assessment centre, I was asked for an example of when I was out of my depth. As soon as I could say I worked in multi-disciplinary teams of people I didn’t know – teamwork, communication, pitching ideas... You can see [the assessor] ticking all these things off their list one at a time.”*



UCL Connected Curriculum

www.ucl.ac.uk/connectedcurriculum

More information and downloads, including short animation

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