



ED-YOU-cation

“Ed is a third-year Egyptologist, and over the past three years has been active in both sports and arts in the Union. Most recently he co-directed the sell-out Bloomsbury show ‘Jesus Christ Superstar’. Ed continues to coach the men’s and women’s boat clubs. Through his close involvement in the running of clubs and his work with the sabbatical officers, he has gained a strong working knowledge of the Union and College systems. Most importantly, his contact with students throughout college has made him aware of the key issues and how to tackle them.”

ED STEWARD IS NUMBER 1 FOR EDUCATION

Chris Dodsworth,
Captain UCLU Boat Club, 2007-8

The BIG Issues

- **Top-up fees:** the government’s review in 2009. I will create a full report of students’ needs and opinions to present to UCL and the NUS. As one of the Russell group of Colleges, we can work with the others to find solutions and develop a united policy with which to lobby the government. I will encourage the college to increase student awareness of the actual **funds already available for financial assistance** in higher education.
- **Resources:** including libraries, IT services (Wi-fi access on campus, cluster rooms, security), lecture rooms, study space. Some resources have already been dramatically improved this year, all need continued attention:
Libraries – extended opening hours in main library and DMS, 24hr during exam period (pilot scheme)
Study Space – recognising and utilising potential space
Cluster rooms - 24hr opening (pilot scheme)
Printing – reassessing the cost of printing, and weighing it against environmental issues caused by overuse
Email/Internet – quicker internet, reliable email service
It is imperative to follow up on these successes by ensuring these plans become permanent and are expanded next year, particularly in central facilities like the DMS Watson and Cruciform. This will involve a thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of the pilot schemes through student feedback.
- **Student Feedback:** on the matter of resources, I will make sure that student feedback is acknowledged and considered. I will prioritise what students deem most important, whether it fits the college’s programme or not. This includes revitalising the poorer lecture theatres, contact time with tutors, and publication of lecture notes online to prevent students having to pay for their required course material.
- **NUS:** making the NUS work for our own student body. I will work closely with them to find solutions for the big issues like top-up fees, use their sizeable membership to lobby the government on issues that affect students, and above all ensure that they take **proper account of our opinions**.
- **Student awareness:** ensuring that systems in place to assist students are well-advertised and accessible. The main emphasis will be on applications for financial assistance, but it will also include better advertisement of new services that the college implements (squirrelmail, eduroam), and more accessible publication of the college’s policies. **Awareness of students’ opinions** must similarly be increased, particularly in relation to the representation of their views. These measures require minimal effort and funding on the part of the college.
- **1st year/postgraduate students:** improving the transition programme into higher education; increasing awareness of the facilities and services offered; improving the facilities and services, particularly in halls; protecting their interests and opinions through attention to student feedback.

UCL has been voted number 6 in the top Universities in England, but barely makes it into the top 20 for student satisfaction. We can work with UCL to help justify its reputation as a centre of academic excellence: that reputation will be undermined if students feel they are lacking **requisite services for academic study**.

The policies in this manifesto address the issues that I feel are (1) key to students and (2) solvable during my year in office. But I will always respond to suggestions and feedback: I will be answerable to the students as a democratic body, and responsible for acting on your views.