

# UCL EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

## REVIEW 2023/24

The European Institute is UCL's  
hub for research, teaching and  
engagement on Europe

[ucl.ac.uk/european-institute](https://ucl.ac.uk/european-institute)



# Contents

Directors' Foreword

03

Innovative teaching and student experience

12

About the UCL European Institute

05

Supporting the research environment

17

Europe at UCL

07

Extending UCL's reach through public, policy and student engagement

22

Institutional leadership on Europe

08

Who We Are

28

-  [ucl\\_ei](#)
-  [ucl\\_ei](#)
-  [ucl-european-institute](#)
-  [ucl.european.institute](#)
-  [european-institute](#)
-  [ucl-european-institute](#)

# Directors' Foreword



**Dr Uta Staiger**  
Executive Director,  
UCL European Institute  
& Global Strategic  
Academic Advisor  
(Europe)



**Professor Piet Eeckhout**  
Academic Director  
UCL European Institute

“  
Time, said Austerlitz in the observation room in Greenwich, was by far the most artificial of all our inventions.

”  
**W.G. Sebald, Austerlitz**

Every year, our Annual Review allows us to look back on the European Institute's activities and achievements of the past academic year. Every year, we are astounded by just how much fits into what remains a rather brief period (or, as we like to say paradoxically, a short space of time) in an organisation's history.

A small interfaculty hub serving the whole college, this year we helped create a new pan-UCL Strategy and Policy Group for Europe and build our profile in Brussels, while leading a programme of work to strengthen UCL academics' capacity to inform policy in Europe and beyond.

We worked extensively with external partners to bring UCL academic expertise into dialogue with stakeholders from industry, policy, and diplomacy, and ran a year-long cycle of activities to explore questions of race and racism in Europe. With an eye on the next generation, we hosted an inaugural EU-UK Youth Summit with the EU Delegation to the UK, continued our popular series of student masterclasses and took students to Brussels and Barcelona for site-specific, practice-led learning.

The last year also saw our work on the European Literary Map of London come to full fruition – including a substantively and technologically expanded online map, a stunning nine-month exhibition housed in UCL's main building, pop-up versions of which are now transferring to four UK embassies in Europe, and a new Writer in Residence scheme.

The project explores how London has been written by authors and artists who arrive from elsewhere. They who look at the city with an immediacy, a curiosity and a cultural baggage that reveal and transform London for us in myriad, unexpected ways – just as they often find themselves transformed by the encounter.

It says much, perhaps, about our practice and approach at the European Institute. French critic Michel de Certeau distinguished the abstract activity of seeing and categorising the city from above (“a solar Eye, a god's regard”) from the fragmentary, busy, at times maddeningly complex experience of walking the city's street “where visibility ends” – but where the real magic happens. Our mapping project not only does both, making us zoom in from solar eye to immediate individual encounter. It also mirrors our work in the vast and complex organisation that is UCL, immersing ourselves in its many areas of outstanding expertise to create encounters and potentially transformative connections, while working to map and shape the institution strategically. And we do so by building and growing partnerships with a wide range of external organisations, in London and in many other European cities.

Indeed, to stretch the metaphor a little further, UCL may itself share characteristics with Lewis Mumford's description of a city as “a geographical plexus, an economic organisation, an institutional process, a theatre of social action, and an aesthetic symbol of collective unity”. It remains a privilege to help it grow and transform, by strengthening its work on, and its relationship to, Europe.



“

Collaboration with partners and policymakers across Europe remains central to UCL’s global impact.

From creating opportunities for UCL senior leadership to engage in Brussels to showcasing our strengths in – and on – Europe, the European Institute plays a vital role in delivering UCL’s European engagement goals.

”

**Professor Geraint Rees**

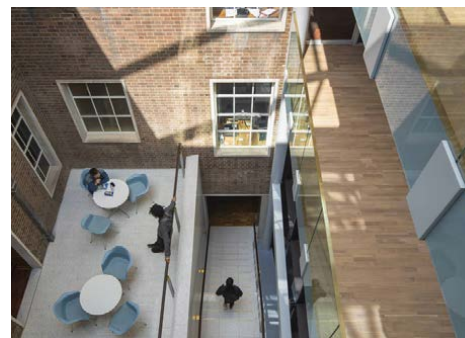
UCL Vice-Provost, Research, Innovation & Global Engagement

# About the UCL European Institute

Established in 2010 and a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence since 2016, the European Institute exists to enhance and develop UCL's position as one of the world's leading centres for the study of Europe and the EU.

**Internally**, we enable, develop and support UCL research and teaching activities on Europe across faculties and disciplines and foster an environment where work on Europe can flourish.

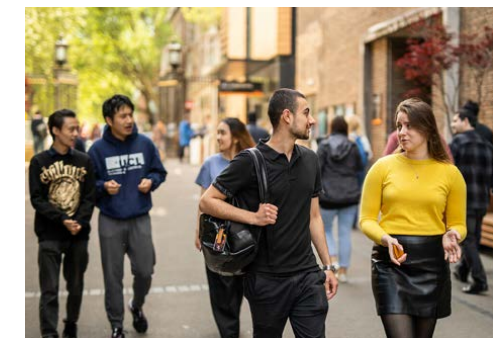
**Externally**, we promote UCL research expertise on Europe, engaging with policy professionals, civil society and new audiences in the UK and across the continent, to maximise the reach and impact of UCL ideas and expertise.



Since 2020, the UCL European Institute has been located in the **Faculty of Laws**, with funding contributions from Laws, Social & Historical Sciences and Arts & Humanities, including the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies (SSEES).



In addition to our own research, we work **across UCL's Faculties, Departments and centres** to create, curate and showcase research, teaching and engagement on Europe. We draw in new audiences from politicians to cultural institutes, diplomats to businesses through events, films, podcasts, commentary and more, and put UCL expertise to work in the world.



Our **strategic focus** is on institutional leadership on Europe, delivering innovative education and enhancing the student experience, supporting the research environment and extending UCL's reach through public, policy and student engagement.

# UCL European Institute in Numbers

Over the last year (September 2023-2024) the UCL European Institute has:

Delivered

**34**

events

and

**94**

external speakers

Hosted

**3**

interns

Collaborated with colleagues from

**7**

faculties

Received over

**42<sub>k</sub>**

page views on our website

with

**23**

UCL academics

**3,500**

registered participants

**8**

student ambassadors

and with

**34**

external organisations

and over

**400<sub>k</sub>**

views on original video content

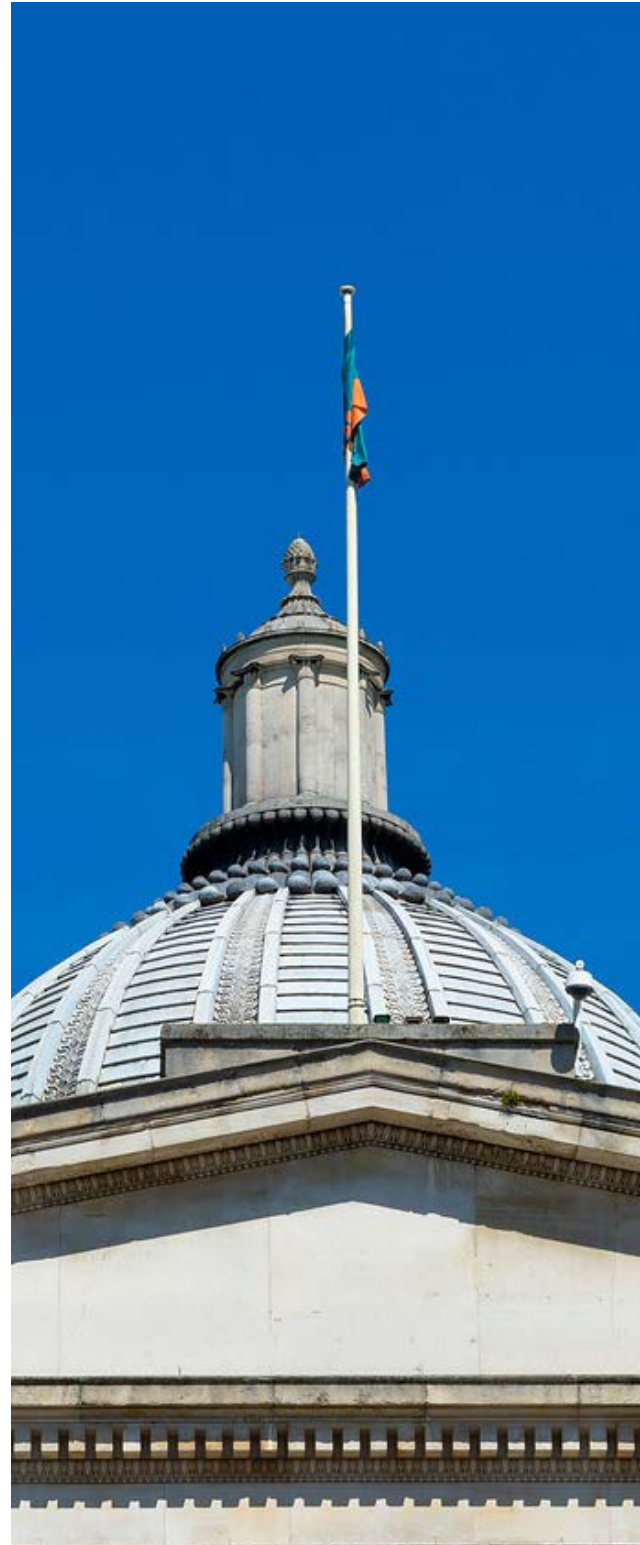
**2**

Writers in Residence

**2023/24**

# Europe at UCL

UCL is London's Global University, with expertise on Europe across the disciplines and in dedicated departments and schools, including the School of Slavonic & East European Studies (SSEES) and the School of European Languages, Culture & Society (SELCS).



UCL is a **world-leading hub** for the study of Europe and the EU. We teach over 30 European languages and have at least 300 academics working specifically on Europe.



UCL is **proud of its diverse community of European staff and students**. 7% of the student population, 10% of our alumni and 18% of the staff population come from EU countries.



UCL is at the forefront of **European collaboration in research & innovation**. UCL was one of the leading participants throughout the EU's €79 billion Horizon 2020 programme, and has regained full access to its €95.5 billion successor, Horizon Europe.



UCL enjoys **close partnerships** with leading universities and research organisations across Europe, from KU Leuven and SciencesPo to the Max Planck Society, and influences EU policy through LERU, the Russell Group and Universities UK. Between 2019-2023, UCL-European research partnerships generated over **33,500 co-publications**.

# Institutional leadership on Europe

The European Institute plays a key role in shaping and helping to deliver UCL's European strategy. We help establish and drive new partnerships and collaborations, showcase UCL's strengths to a UK and European audience, and create opportunities for knowledge exchange, enhancing UCL's profile and visibility in Europe.



## Building capacity to inform international policy: An International Policy Fellowship

In partnership with UCL Global Engagement and UCL Public Policy, we led a programme of work to strengthen UCL academics' capacity to inform policy beyond the UK.

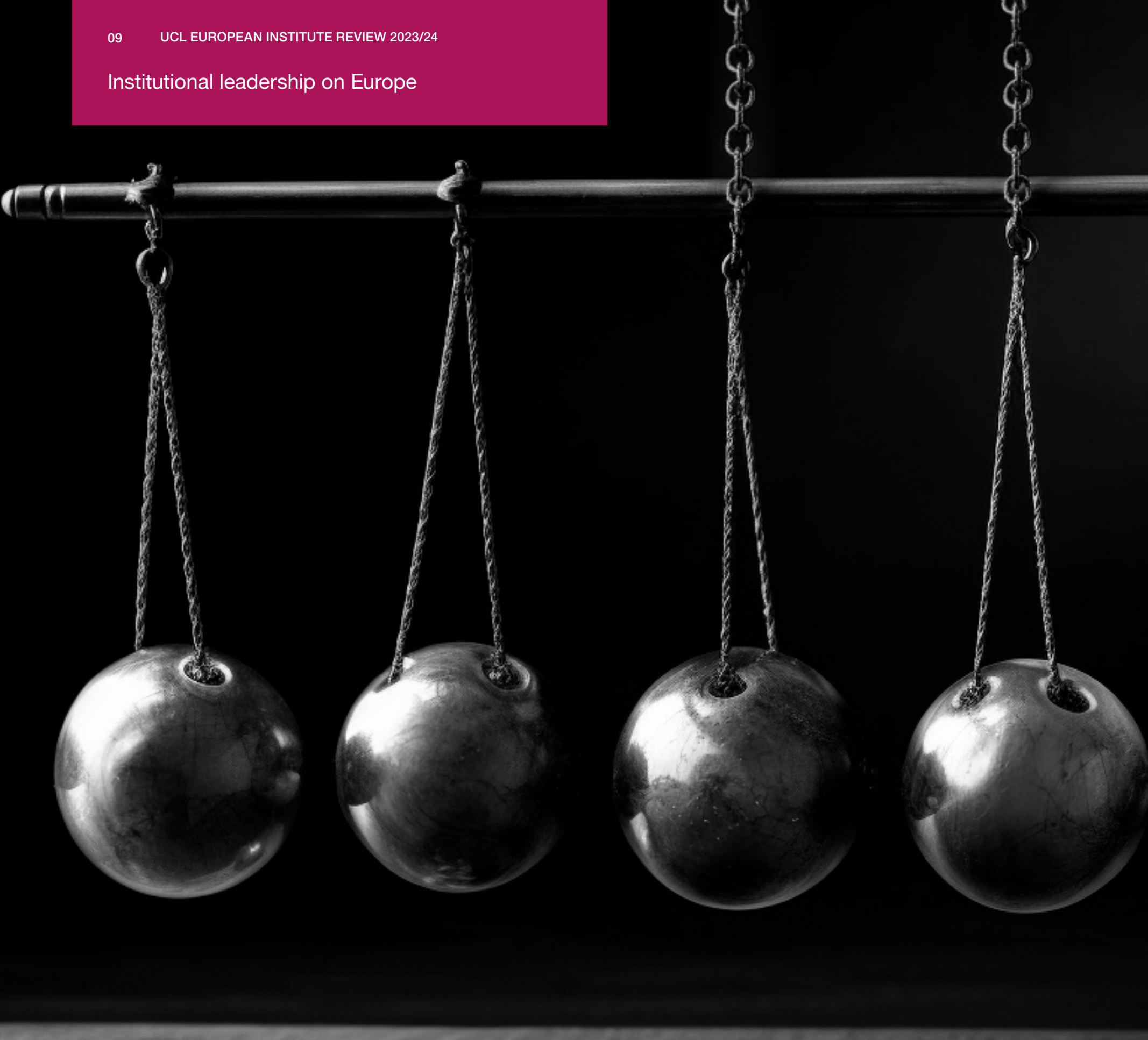
Alongside training and resources, we piloted an International Policy Fellowship in partnership with the Geneva Science Policy Interface.

This offered eight UCL researchers working on climate and environmental governance the opportunity to travel to Geneva to learn about the policy eco-system and develop bespoke policy engagement strategies, alongside colleagues from the University of Geneva and the University of Zurich. This hugely successful initiative will run again in 2024/25, this time involving colleagues from ten research intensive institutions from across Europe.





## Institutional leadership on Europe



“

The GSPI international fellowship was a very enriching experience for me. I learned how UN bodies work with ‘boundary’ or affiliated organisations to advance policy from a variety of perspectives.

Current and former UN workers, diplomats, international civil society workers, and academics shared advice on how to seek out opportunities for influence within the UN, and how to translate my academic research into a format that would allow me to usefully contribute to UN processes.

”

**Dr Allison Lindner**

Lecturer, UCL Faculty of Laws

## Institutional leadership on Europe

### Showcasing UCL's academic strengths and fostering dialogue with Europe

In October 2023, we hosted the inaugural EU-UK Youth Summit in partnership with the EU Delegation to the UK, bringing together 150 young people from across the UK for discussion and dialogue on the challenges and opportunities for EU-UK relations, and establishing a new network of European societies at UK universities.

In January 2024, we hosted the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office EU Directorate Away Day at UCL East, providing UK diplomats working on Europe with an opportunity to better understand the university's networks, collaborations and reach across the continent.

We also brokered a joint roundtable with the FCDO Strategy and Expertise team on Central and East European politics, economics and security, involving academic colleagues from across UCL.

“

UCL European Institute did a fantastic job hosting and co-organising with the EU Delegation the first EU youth gathering in the UK that brought together young people from all corners of the country to talk about the challenges young people in the UK and the EU face.

The European Institute was also instrumental in launching the Network of European Affairs Societies that already brings together 20 universities across the UK.

”

#### Nicole Mannion

Deputy Head of Mission, EU Delegation to the United Kingdom



## Institutional leadership on Europe



### Shaping UCL's European Engagement

The European Institute has played a critical role in informing and helping to deliver UCL's European strategy.

Through Dr Uta Staiger's role as Global Strategic Academic Advisor (Europe), we helped create a new pan-UCL Strategy and Policy Group for Europe, drove institutional links with and co-hosted delegations from European partner universities, such as Paris Sciences et Lettres, and represented UCL with European sectoral bodies, for example the association of Germany's fifteen major research-intensive universities, U15.

To further UCL's institutional engagement with EU policy stakeholders, Lucy Shackleton brokered a two-day mission to Brussels for UCL senior leadership in May 2024 and convened a cross-sector roundtable on the 10th Framework Programme with former Portuguese Science Minister and the Chair of the Expert Group on the Interim Evaluation of Horizon Europe, Professor Manuel Heitor.

We have also brokered a range of engagements with UCL alumni based in Brussels, helping to enhance our visibility among emerging leaders working with and for the EU.

# Innovative teaching and student experience

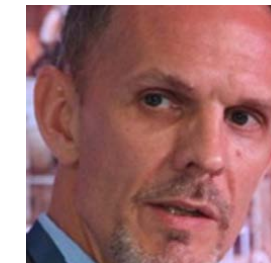
We underpin UCL's teaching excellence on Europe by developing and delivering innovative, practice-led and site-specific education and by creating exciting opportunities for students.



## Spotlight: Masterclass series

We continued our popular student masterclasses, providing UCL's undergraduate and postgraduate students the opportunity to learn from senior practitioners. Four sessions offered insights into topics such as climate policy in the EU, raising awareness of the European elections and agenda setting in the EU.

These practice-based classes adopted a hands-on learning approach and were led by guests with careers ranging from diplomacy to research. The sessions also involved collaborations with a range of student groups, from the UCL Model United Nations Association Society to UCL Diplomacy Society, bolstering the European Institute's visibility and engagement with students.



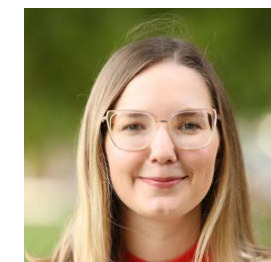
**Daniel Bradley**  
Head of Climate and Environment, UK Mission to the EU



**Heather Grabbe**  
Senior Fellow, Bruegel



**Typhaine Morillon**  
Public Affairs lead, European Parliament Liaison Office in the United Kingdom



**Krisztina Zálnoky**  
Senior Research Project Manager, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership

Innovative teaching and student experience



“

UCL students are future decision-makers and opinion-formers who will play important roles in tackling complex global challenges. It was energising to tap into their views and insights as we explored the EU’s approach to climate change at our Masterclass session.

UCL and its dynamic Europe Institute are impressive at connecting people across disciplinary boundaries and creating innovative learning opportunities on issues that matter.

”

**Daniel Bradley**

Head of Climate and Environment, UK Mission to the EU

“

As a student, I greatly appreciated hearing from practitioners about how the theories we learned could be applied in real-life policymaking.

It was rewarding to return to UCL and share my experience in agenda setting in European climate policy during an interactive masterclass.

”

**Krisztina Zálnoky**

Climate policy professional,  
UCL MSc Public Policy graduate

## Innovative teaching and student experience

### Visiting Brussels: EU Politics and Policy in Practice

For the third time this year, we took a group of students to Brussels to see EU policymaking and politics at work. In three days packed with bespoke seminars, networking meetings and visits, they got firsthand insights into topics ranging from lobbying on the AI Act to the EU's approach to Israel and Gaza, as well as on career paths.

The trip was part of our 'Practice Module' that has been offered to students on the MSc in European Politics and Policy. This module was taught through curated conversations and skills sessions with professionals, and students produce policy briefs, pitches, speeches and blogs rather than academic papers. In Brussels they engaged with 24 practitioners from various backgrounds.

“

In those three days, we became part of the Brussels bubble, learning how to translate academic knowledge into impactful policy engagement. The advice and direction supplied by the keynote speakers gave me the confidence needed to embark on an ambitious career path within the field of European politics.

Overall, it has been an incredible experience that has added a lot of value to an already remarkable Masters' programme.

”

#### Tea Zyberaj

Student, MSc European Politics and Policy



### SELCS Turing Summer School in Barcelona

In June, the European Institute's Executive Director Dr Uta Staiger led a summer school for UCL students exploring the city of Barcelona. Entitled 'Barcelona: Spectacles and Speculations', the module constituted one of three credit-bearing summer schools to – and about – European cities offered to students by UCL's School of European Languages, Culture and Society (SELCS).

Funded under the UK's Erasmus successor Turing, and working with a wide range of partners including museums, libraries, and literary agencies, the summer school explored the city's constructions, contestations, districts and divisions from the late 19th century to today.

“

The course has been an amazing experience [...] the guest speakers and various visits around Barcelona were very inspiring career-wise and I'm sure I'll remember them for a long time.

”

#### Student of Barcelona Summer School



## Innovative teaching and student experience

### Integrating Student Perspectives and Opportunities into European Institute events



“ I had the opportunity to interview President François Hollande. This conversation provided valuable insights into his perspective on the shifting European landscape and emerging international patterns.

I truly enjoyed writing a report on this interaction, which not only allowed me to engage with first-hand political experiences but also fuelled my passion for writing and analysis. Thanks to a highly supportive team of staff, we were able to share this knowledge with our audience.

”  
**Éa Marty**  
European Institute Student Ambassador



### Careers week

As part of the UCL Political Science Careers Week 2024, we hosted two bespoke sessions offering students insights into careers related to the EU.

The first session was titled 'Working in EU institutions and on Europe in the UK Civil Service' and explored what working within Europe entails and how the civil service can intersect with international institutions. The second event featured a panel of UCL alumni who shared their experience and advice on building a career in Brussels in both the private and public sectors.

## Student Ambassador Programme

For the second year in a row, we welcomed a cohort of UCL students to act as Student Ambassadors for the European Institute. These volunteers have been essential to enhancing our visibility and engagement among the UCL student community.

This year's group played a key role in boosting the Institute's profile amongst students, organising events, acting as student panellists, and interviewing high profile guests such as François Hollande and Tony Barber about their career trajectories.



**Elena Sofia Massacesi**  
BSc Politics and International Relations



**Irimi Tombazi**  
LLB Law



**Yanis Fekar**  
BSc Politics and International Relations



**Charlotte Wienberg**  
Bsc Politics and International Relations



**Matthieu Hildreth**  
BA ESPS



**Tea Zyberaj**  
MSc European Politics and Policy



**Éa Marty**  
BA Politics, Sociology, and East European Studies



**Lorenzo Tendron**  
BA ESPS

“

I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a UCL European Institute Student Ambassador. The programme offered unique opportunities to engage with professionals through masterclasses, events and interviews, giving me practical insights into European affairs.

The diversity of speakers and topics was impressive, allowing me to explore new themes in arts, politics, and history. Volunteering for the Institute complemented my academic and extracurricular interests while improving my event organisation and communication skills.

”

**Matthieu Hildreth**  
European Institute Student Ambassador



# Supporting the research environment

We co-create and host several cross-disciplinary initiatives, broker opportunities for academic discussion through symposia, workshops and roundtables and publish research output across a range of media, fostering an environment where UCL research on Europe can flourish.



## Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

We started our third consecutive Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence grant in October 2023.

Our 2023-2026 programme is structured around four thematic Work Packages. Each addresses a topical policy field for today's European Union: Security, Energy, Diversity and Constitutional Identities.



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

## Supporting the research environment



### European Security

As part of the Security strand of our current Jean Monnet programme, we have paired UCL's Dr Ben Noble a leading expert in Russian politics with the Centre for European Reform, to deliver analysis and knowledge exchange on Russia's war on Ukraine and the future of Europe's security architecture, developing events and resources for UK and European policy communities.

As part of this workstream, we have co-hosted three roundtables in collaboration with CER. The first took place in Brussels in February and addressed the topic of 'Ukraine's European Future: Prospects and Possibilities.' The second was hosted in London and focused on the impact of Putin's inevitable re-election for the war in Ukraine and European security. The third session was hosted by the British Embassy in Berlin and focused on Europe's future security architecture, the impact of the US election, and implications for EU-UK relations.

“

These sessions bring together leading voices to discuss issues at the very top of governmental and societal agendas. Ian Bond and the brilliant team at CER have shown how collaboration between think-tanks and universities can tackle vital topics with rigour, from multiple angles, and with real impact.

”

**Dr Ben Noble**

Associate Professor of Russian Politics, UCL

### The Future of the UK-EU Relationship

In partnership with the Independent Commission on UK-EU Relations, the Europa Institute (University of Edinburgh), the Centre for Britain and Europe (University of Surrey) and the Musicians' Union, we hosted a one-day conference at UCL where experts exchanged perspectives on the future UK-EU relationship.

We welcomed a total of 34 speakers from a range of fields including industry, policy, diplomacy and academia. These participants formed eight panels throughout the day which addressed topics ranging from security to healthcare to migration.



“

Working with the European Institute was a privilege. We found the Institute to be an organised, insightful and professional partner. We would happily work with them again in future. They are a credit to UCL and to the field.

”

**Mike Buckley**

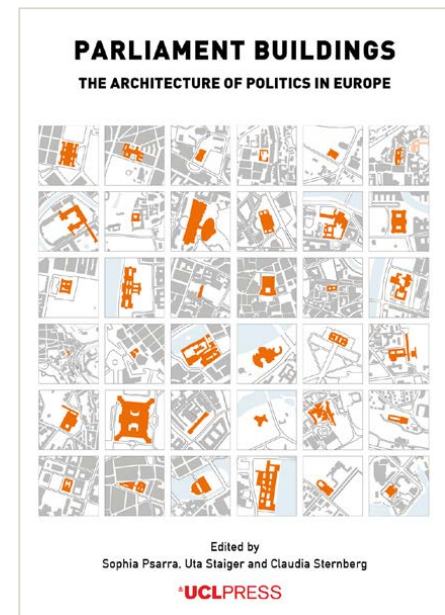
Director, Independent Commission on UK-EU Relations

**Parliament Buildings:  
The Architecture of Politics in Europe**

We celebrated the launch of ‘Parliament Buildings’, edited by the European Institute’s Uta Staiger and Claudia Sternberg together with The Barlett School of Architecture’s Sophia Psarra.

The book is nominated for the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain’s 2024 Colvin Prize.

The book represents the first comparative, multi-disciplinary study of parliament buildings across Europe and across history. It is the outcome of a three-year collaborative project supported by our Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Grant and UCL Grand Challenges.



“

Parliament buildings reflect our democracies but have the potential to shape them too – one of the many themes addressed in this ground-breaking, multi-disciplinary study.

”

**Lord Anderson of Ipswich KBE KC**  
Chair, European Institute Advisory Board

Uta Staiger was made co-editor of the UCL Press FRINGE series, which publishes trans-regional, cross-disciplinary research across the humanities, social sciences and area studies. Open-access, as all of UCL Press publications, the books in the series explore the roles that complexity, ambivalence and immeasurability play in social and cultural phenomena.

# Music Futures

Our initiative dedicated to thinking, writing and performing music entered its third year. It is jointly hosted by the UCL European Institute and the UCL Institute of Advanced Studies, with support from UCL Grand Challenges. This year we supported four events, including a concert, recital-conversations and a workshop. Another project simulated what sort of musical instruments might be suitable for space travel.

**New SELCS module:  
Song in Society**

Music Futures has also inspired the creation of a new undergraduate module at UCL SELCS on ‘Song in Society.’ Building on discussions and collaborations fostered by the initiative, the module will investigate song as a multilingual, cross-temporal phenomenon that mirrors broader socio-political issues. Convened by Annika Lindskog, the module will be team-taught, with contributions from Christina Anderson, Jeff Bowersox, Jane Gilbert, Jennifer Rushworth and Lisa Sampson.

Supporting the research environment

## [Black Europe]

This year we continued to develop and deliver [Black Europe], a research initiative designed to challenge the presumption of whiteness in the study of Europe. Supported by UCL Grand Challenges, and under the academic stewardship of Dr Hélène Neveu-Kringelbach and Dr Jeff Bowersox, we welcomed six external speakers as part of our seminar series. With topics ranging from 'defining Frenchness for the 21st Century' to 'the foundation of Central-Eastern European nation-states after World War I', the speaker series assumed a multidisciplinary approach across diverse temporal and geographical spaces.



### Hearing Ghosts: The Life & Times of Josephine Morcashani

Our new video short traces the life of a major star of the European music hall stage in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Through that story it reflects on the conditions of performance for Black British artists, then and now.

The film short was created by filmmaker Graham Riach, in collaboration with Jeff Bowersox (UCL SELCS) and Claudia Sternberg (European Institute). It features researcher Bowersox and performer Helen McDonald.

## Supporting the research environment

### Spotlight: The Festival of Afro-European Arts, Performance & Scholarship

Over two days in June 2024, we brought together academics, performers, visual artists and musicians to celebrate Black cultural production and critical inquiry. In a series of venues across UCL, and in collaboration with the SOAS Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies, the festival showcased artistic expression and academic discussion with students, staff and the wider public.

Capping our year-long work on [Black Europe], we not only explored questions of how choreographic practice, film or visual arts can shed light on Black, African or Afro-European identities in Europe, but also commissioned and staged the performance of work, produced and screened films, hosted a Black history walk through Bloomsbury, and offered students masterclasses with established artists.

“ The European Institute’s [Black Europe] programme has been an extraordinary space within which to think about the construction and experience of race in comparative perspective. While its programme of multidisciplinary talks has drawn in large and diverse audiences from within and beyond the university, the Festival, co-organised with SOAS, allowed us to showcase and reflect on the potential for artistic-scholarly conversations to illuminate the construction of race in new ways.

”  
**Hélène Neveu-Kringelbach**  
 Academic Lead, Festival of Afro-European Arts, Performance and Scholarship



# Extending UCL's reach through public, policy and student engagement

The European Institute promotes knowledge exchange with external communities, extending the impact of UCL ideas and expertise by engaging new audiences, from writers to school children, from dancers to diplomats.

We bring leading thinkers on Europe to UCL, putting them into dialogue with academics across disciplines and attracting diverse public audiences



## **Ben Judah: This is Europe**

Award-winning writer, journalist and political commentator, Ben Judah, delivered the inaugural UCL Europe Lecture discussing his latest book, *This is Europe*.



## **Alastair Campbell: But What Can I Do?**

Political Strategist Alastair Campbell came to UCL for a Policy & Practice seminar event co-hosted by the European Institute and UCL Policy Lab.



## **Agnes-Arnold Forster: Nostalgia**

Writer, researcher and historian Agnes-Arnold Forster discussed her new book *Nostalgia: A History of a Dangerous Emotion* with an interdisciplinary panel of UCL academics. Co-hosted by the European Institute, Grand Challenges and the Institute for Advanced Studies.



## **Tony Barber: European Parliament elections**

Financial Times European Comment Editor Tony Barber joined a panel discussion titled 'What can we expect from the European Parliament elections', co-hosted by the European Institute and part of the UCL Department of Political Science's Policy & Practice series.



## **Annette Dittert: Sir Julian Priestley Memorial Lecture**

Senior Correspondent at the German broadcaster ARD, Annette Dittert, delivered a lecture entitled 'Britain's future relationship with the EU: A German perspective.' The talk was co-organised by the European Movement and the European Institute and was held at UCL for the first time.

Extending UCL's reach through public, policy and student engagement

## We showcase UCL scholarship on Europe to a wider audience, through blogs, podcasts, short films and the UCL Europe blog

This year we recorded two new podcast episodes: in one, Olivia Scher talked London, languages, culture and the creative process with our Writers in Residence, Joanna Elmy and Larisa Faber. Another episode investigated why European party systems have changes so drastically in the last years.



We also continue to run the UCL Europe Blog. 23 blogs from UCL researchers and external contributors and our new Student Voices section were together viewed over 12,000 times.

Published

5

videos

1

short film

2

podcasts

1

book

Posted

23

blogs

with

12k

unique views

## We engage policy communities through policy briefs, roundtables and knowledge exchange

Alongside offering researchers guidance on EU policy engagement, we have brokered roundtables and meetings on subjects ranging from Russian domestic politics to EU-UK security cooperation, and decarbonisation.

We also run a policy brief programme for UCL Faculty of Laws, supporting the production of five policy briefs on subjects ranging from registering 3D shape trademarks to the consequences of failing to engage rights-holders impacted by mining companies' activities.



“

My experience with the European Institute has been immensely positive. The Institute facilitated direct connections with European policymakers, with whom I discussed and shared my research.

Additionally, members of the Institute generously provided me with advice and guidance on how best to engage, enriching my experience. This support and engagement opportunity has enriched my experience, and I look forward to working with the Institute in the future.

”

**Marilyne Ordekian**

PhD Candidate, Department of Computer Science

Extending UCL's reach through public, policy and student engagement

# LOST & FOUND

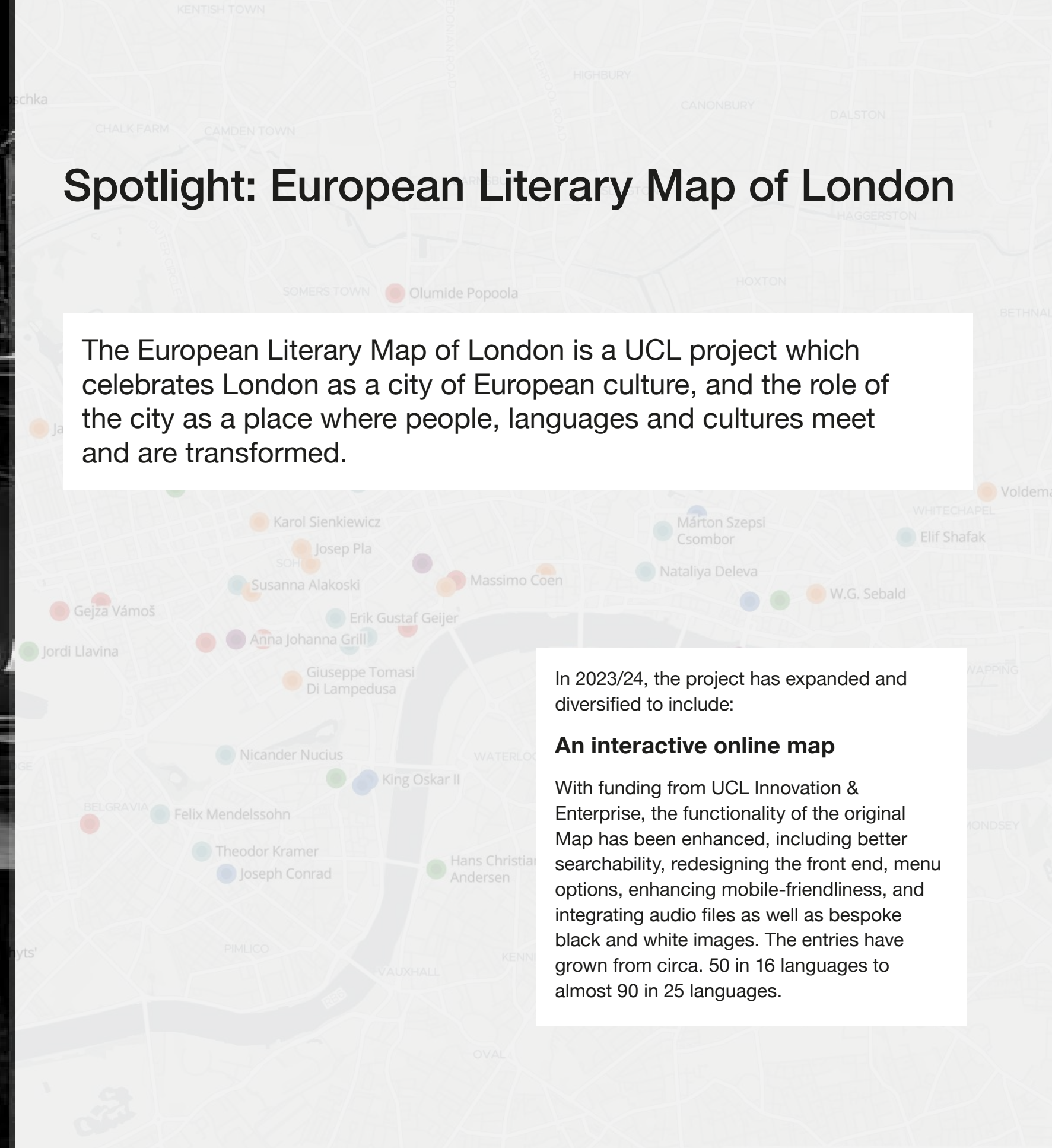
## Spotlight: European Literary Map of London

The European Literary Map of London is a UCL project which celebrates London as a city of European culture, and the role of the city as a place where people, languages and cultures meet and are transformed.

In 2023/24, the project has expanded and diversified to include:

### **An interactive online map**

With funding from UCL Innovation & Enterprise, the functionality of the original Map has been enhanced, including better searchability, redesigning the front end, menu options, enhancing mobile-friendliness, and integrating audio files as well as bespoke black and white images. The entries have grown from circa. 50 in 16 languages to almost 90 in 25 languages.





## Extending UCL's reach through public, policy and student engagement

### A public exhibition

Lucy Shackleton curated an innovative and immersive public exhibition in UCL South Cloisters which ran for the duration of 2023/2024 in UCL South Cloisters. A launch event, opened by HE Pedro Serrano, attracted over 200 guests. A mobile version of the same exhibition is now travelling to Brussels, Stockholm, Madrid and Berlin with support from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Challenge Fund, offering the opportunity to reinforce UCL partnership development, international student recruitment and alumni engagement objectives.

“

This exhibition and the wider European Literary map of London project illustrate beautifully the longstanding and enduring cultural connections between the UK and the European continent, and the important role of the written word in building cross-cultural bridges and expanding our collective understanding.

”

**His Excellency Pedro Serrano**  
EU Ambassador the the United Kingdom



## Extending UCL's reach through public, policy and student engagement

### Writers in Residence

UCL developed a Residency scheme in partnership with EUNIC London and the European Literature Network, designed to support new writing on London from diverse European perspectives. The Residency offered two European writers, Joanna Elmy and Larisa Faber, the opportunity to spend six weeks embedded at UCL, engaging with UCL academics, contributing to teaching, and pursuing creative projects linked to the Map themes. This culminated in the European Writers' Festival, hosted at the British Library, with UCL playing the role of supporting partner for the first time.



“ The experience at UCL was wonderful. I am still processing a lot of what I had the chance to experience, from working in the archives to meeting with faculty members and participating in events. I think the best part of this project is the balance between structured and unstructured time, as a large part of the creative process for me takes place away from the page. The chance to explore London, visit cultural institutions and museums, talk to locals, see so many faces of the city – this is invaluable. I will be using the material collected over these past months not only in the project I applied with, but in all my future work where London will make appearances. The London of my literature will largely be the London of this Residency, because it's such a distilled experience of not just having a room of one's own, but a city of one's own, in a sense.

**Joanna Elmy**  
European Institute Writer in Residence  
2023/24

### Staff and student engagement

The exhibition was used by a range of UCL academics to support innovative teaching on European languages and culture, while both Writers in Residence offered bespoke teaching and masterclasses. UCL students also had the opportunity to volunteer at the European Writers' Festival, gaining valuable experience.

A student-oriented communications campaign linked to the exhibition (around the theme 'how has London changed you') generated considerable engagement with a total of over 400,000 views.

“ The presence of UCL at the European Writers' Festival was substantial, providing two faculty members as festival event chairs, an information stand about the European Literary Map of London, and student communications and media support. The Institute contributed intellectually and practically to the weekend and their partnership was invaluable in making the Festival a success.

**Gregory Thompson**  
Professor in Creative and Collaborative  
Enterprise, UCL

## Extending UCL's reach through public, policy and student engagement



“

UCL European Institute and the UCL Faculty of Arts & Humanities were formal partners with the festival for the first time. Their support and partnership were invaluable to both the festival itself and to the accompanying project work of the organisers.

The presence of UCL at the European Writers' Festival at the British Library was substantial, intellectually and practically, providing two distinguished faculty members as festival event chairs, as well as two excellent students as festival stewards and media support, and an information stand about the European literary map.

”

### **Rosie Goldsmith**

Director of the European Literature Network and Curator of the European Writers' Festival

# Who We Are

## UCL European Institute staff



**Professor Piet Eeckhout**  
Academic Director, UCL European  
Institute



**Dr Uta Staiger**  
Executive Director, UCL European  
Institute & Global Strategic Academic  
Advisor (Europe)



**Dr Claudia Sternberg**  
Head of Academic Programmes,  
UCL European Institute



**Lucy Shackleton**  
Head of Policy & Partnerships,  
UCL European Institute

## UCL European Institute interns



**Olivia Scher**  
Project Intern, European Literary  
Map of London & Black Europe



**Alfie Pannell**  
Communications and Outreach  
Intern, UCL European Institute



**Joshua Jones**  
Project intern, UCL European Institute

# UCL European Institute Advisory Board

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Brick Court Chambers, House of Lords (Chair)

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Special reports & Brexit editor, The Economist

## Johnny Pitts

Writer, photographer and broadcaster

## Dr Martin Porter

Executive Chair Brussels Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership

## His Excellency Pedro Serrano

EU Ambassador to the United Kingdom



# UCL European Institute Partners & Collaborators

## This year we are proud to have partnered with

UCL Faculty of Laws

UCL Faculty of Arts & Humanities

UCL Department of Political Science – School of Public Policy

UCL Department of Economics

UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources

UCL Policy Lab

IOE UCL's Faculty of Education and Society

Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis

UCL Institute of Advanced Studies

UCL Grand Challenges

Office of the Vice-President for External Engagement

Office of the Vice-Provost for Research, Innovation and Global Engagement

UCL Global Engagement

UCL Public Policy

UCL Innovation and Enterprise

UCL London Office

UCL EISPS Society

UCL European Horizons Society

French Embassy in the United Kingdom

Institut Francais du Royaume Uni

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

UK Science and Innovation Network (SIN)

UK Mission to the European Union

UK Mission to the WTO, UN and other International Organisations (Geneva)

Delegation of the EU to the United Kingdom

European Parliament Information Office in the United Kingdom

European National Institutes of Culture (EUNIC) London

Institut Ramon Llull

Goethe-Institut London

Geneva Science Policy Interface

Universities Policy Engagement Network

European Literature Network

British Library

FERN-UK

Russell Group

Palgrave Macmillan

Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies, SOAS

Department of Anthropology and Sociology, SOAS

European Economic and Social Committee

Independent Commission on UK-EU Relations

Centre for European Reform

European Movement UK

British Council's *Stronger Together* project

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