



UCL
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MAG

Writer's Guide

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Our Mission

Welcome to the UCL Science Magazine - UCL's first online interdisciplinary STEM review!

Since its recent inception, the UCL Science Magazine has sought to present the latest scientific innovations, ground-breaking discoveries, feats of translational science, and controversial debates to scientists and non-scientists alike.

As a writer, your role is to present such findings at the forefront of science in complete accuracy.

This guide will serve as your go-to point for all things related to writing articles for UCL Science Magazine. It will provide details on:

- Our code of conduct
- Member engagement opportunities
- Proposal guide
- Article writing guide
- Key points of contact should you have any questions at any point in the process

Our code of conduct in writing

- This society has **zero tolerance on prejudice writing or behaviour**. Prejudiced ideas pushed in any articles submitted to us will be discarded. Additionally, no profanity or derogatory slurs can be used in articles.
- Articles cannot include **any defamatory statements against an individual or collective**; it also must **not include any libel** (written form of slander).
- **All scientific information conveyed in the article must be accurate** (it must also not be oversimplified to the extent of inaccuracy) Additionally, **articles must not be filled with jargon**, as we aim to inform those from all academic backgrounds, it must explain all key terms scientific theory used.
- We aim to **keep articles concise**. To maintain a high quality of media output, we expect there to be **accurate spelling, punctuation, and grammar**.
- All articles **must use a relevant research paper as their primary source**; editors will strongly enforce this. All secondary sources used must be academically reliable, examples being NASA, New Scientist, and the Royal Society of Medicine.
- **We have zero tolerance for plagiarism**. All articles will be passed through Turnitin so that we can ensure academic integrity is maintained.
- **All images used in articles must be copyright free**. Alternatively, the article author may use a relevant photograph or graphic that is their own. Nevertheless, our graphic designer will guide you throughout this process.

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These are brief general rules we expect all students and society members submitting articles to follow. However, the editors will make clear any additional concerns you should have whilst writing your specific article.

Engagement Opportunities

These are the following ways in which members of UCL Science Magazine can contribute:

Feature article

An article of between 450 and 700 words in length that is based on current or recent, pioneering research. We encourage you to explore topics beyond your course of study; for instance, those that are interdisciplinary in nature (i.e. biotechnology, astrophysics, artificial intelligence etc.).

It is imperative that you refer to various primary research papers for your article (at least one); these can also be used in conjunction with secondary sources.

Finally, you must ensure Vancouver-style referencing is used throughout your article. Standard guidelines on Vancouver referencing can be found [here](#)

Faculty interview

As a media communications society, we encourage students to explore a variety of media streams to convey science journalism. Faculty interviews are an excellent opportunity for students to develop strong interpersonal skills and expand their content outreach.

Faculty interviews should be conducted preferably with UCL researchers and can be up to 5 minutes in length. They should be complemented with with a short description summarising any relevant findings.

Students have the liberty to conduct faculty interviews independently or collaborate with other students if they wish.

Note: students also have the opportunity to write feature articles for us that are complemented with a faculty interview.



How to make a submission?

1. Submit a proposal to the society through the UCL Science magazine website:

www.uclsciencemagazine.com/submit/

(Further guidance on article proposals is provided on page 5)

2. You will then receive an email confirming, in accordance with our writer's code of conduct, whether the article can be written or changes must be made to the proposal. In most cases, proposals will be accepted or modified as we are keen on encouraging writers to contribute.
3. In some circumstances, we will allow students who have already written an article to be published on the UCL Science Magazine. In this instance, you will be required to upload your piece using a separate submission page:

www.uclsciencemagazine.com/uploadarticles/

4. After approval, you will be contacted by your designated subject editor with a link to a Google document (which will be shared between our Chief Editor and Subject Editor) and a first draft due date.

(Further guidance on article writing is provided on page 6)

5. Should wish to integrate your feature article with a faculty interview, please specify this in your proposal form by selecting the appropriate 'Type of Media'. Our media and communications team will then be in touch with you via email regarding further steps.
6. Simultaneously, you will be given the opportunity to collaborate with our social media and graphic design team in publishing cover images and any other images required for your article.

Proposal Guide

This section will provide guidance on article/faculty interview [proposal forms](#). The purpose of this form is to prompt writers to thoroughly think through potential topic ideas. Subsequently, do not let this hurdle deter you from writing an article as proposals are generally accepted.

Below you will find additional details on the various sections of the proposal form.

Article's specific area of science - other than selecting the appropriate field your article topic comes under, feel free to mention any other topics you wish to write about in the future in the *Additional remarks or concerns* section. This is so that the editorial committee can reach out to you should we require a specialist for an article.

Proposal - think about the following questions as you write your proposal:

- Briefly, what is your topic about?
- What advances have been made in the field? More importantly, how does your chosen paper contribute to the field?
- What are the major challenges in your chosen topic?
- What are the implications of your topic/study? Think about therapeutic translations, industrial applications, cross-disciplinary comparisons (within or outside of STEM), and scope for further research.

Article Writing Guide

1. Start writing the article as soon as your proposal is approved. You will meet with your subject editor after your first draft is due.
2. Employ a catchy yet academic tone in your writing. Keep it formal and avoid using contractions like it's, they're, etc.
3. Begin with a gripping statement, fact, or testimony. Make the reader engage with your writing.
4. Throughout your article, maintain the 'golden thread' of your argument. Have a clear structure so your readers are aware of what your topic is about, why it is important and what its implications are.
5. Pay special attention to paragraph transitions; a short article of 450-700 words is often subject to sudden topic diversions. Hence, to avoid this and ensure your argument is maintained, use more connective words to build from one topic to another.
6. If appropriate, try and evaluate by considering multiple aspects of your topic.
7. Think of a clever title - this is the first thing your reader sees.
8. Be clear and concise, but not to the extent of scientific inaccuracy.
9. Use a variety of primary sources that are ideally no older than a year of the current date. Ensure you follow Vancouver referencing as detailed on page 4.

What do we do as editors?

Editors will be going through proposals and submissions, ensuring all our rules are followed. Once we find that a proposal or submission passes this stage, you will be contacted by the editor personally it has been accepted.

After the proposal is accepted the subject specialised editor will give you advice to help write the article, they will provide comments on each of your drafts and ensure a high quality essay is produced. Together you should be working to publish the article as early as a week after the proposal is made. The editor will also have a meeting with your proposal is accepted.

After an article is accepted the subject specialised editor will add corrections to the articles, after necessary corrections are made and the article is of a high quality it will be published. After the first draft is corrected, you may have a meeting with the editor if you so wish.

What if your submission or article isn't accepted?

No need to worry, in this scenario the editor will give you tailored advice on improving the submission or article to follow our guidelines, given it is not scientifically incorrect. After making the relevant corrections, you simply resubmit.