Impact Statement Guidance Notes
for UCL Research Students and Supervisors

The Impact Statement should be placed immediately after the abstract page in the thesis, before the table of contents.

Content of the Statement

The statement should describe, in no more than 500 words, how the expertise, knowledge, analysis, discovery or insight presented in your thesis could be put to a beneficial use. Consider benefits both inside and outside academia and the ways in which these benefits could be brought about.

The benefits inside academia could be to the discipline and future scholarship, research methods or methodology, the curriculum; they might be within your research area and potentially within other research areas.

The benefits outside academia could occur to commercial activity, social enterprise, professional practice, clinical use, public health, public policy design, public service delivery, laws, public discourse, culture, the quality of the environment or quality of life.

The impact could occur locally, regionally, nationally or internationally, to individuals, communities or organisations and could be immediate or occur incrementally, in the context of a broader field of research, over many years, decades or longer.

Impact could be brought about through disseminating outputs (either in scholarly journals or elsewhere such as specialist or mainstream media), education, public engagement, translational research, commercial and social enterprise activity, engaging with public policy makers and public service delivery practitioners, influencing ministers, collaborating with academics and non-academics etc.

Further information including a searchable list of hundreds of examples of UCL impact outside of academia please see https://www.ucl.ac.uk/impact/. For thousands more examples, please see http://results.ref.ac.uk/Results/SelectUoa.

A workshop, How to Write an Effective Impact Statement, is run as part of the Doctoral Skills Development Programme to provide assistance to students in writing about the impact of their research: https://doctoral-skills.ucl.ac.uk/course-details.pht?course_ID=3183