

# Grand Challenges Research Summer School

2014  
16-19 June

## Learning about Cross-Disciplinary Approaches

The Grand Challenges Research Summer School was held in June 2014. The aim was to introduce research students to the UCL Grand Challenges, as well as the opportunities, and difficulties, presented by taking a cross-disciplinary approach to research.

The summer school was open to all research students, and the final selection represented nine out of UCL's ten faculties.



Working together to generate research ideas



How to apply for European research funding

The summer school featured a series of presentations from UCL staff, and workshop sessions that gave the students the chance to work in multidisciplinary teams to develop their own research ideas. Presentation topics ranged from the art of writing successful research proposals to the role of academic research in public policy.

Students also had the chance to hear about projects that had successfully combined approaches from multiple disciplines. Researchers from the featured projects were on hand to answer questions about their work.

**“Insights and presentations from staff were excellent...I learned a lot about the work that is being done on research councils and agendas, policy, Europe and funding”**

**The Summer School “deepened our understanding of what it entails to work with other disciplines, what might be the barriers and how they could be overcome”**

**“It was really great to know more about the interdisciplinary research taking place at UCL, and to hear from the researchers [about] what has challenged them in those experiences”**

**“Overall, a really good four days, I will strongly recommend this to others in my lab for next year”**



Students prepared presentations on the last day of the Summer School

## Applying the Grand Challenges Approach

The students worked in four groups, each representing a different Grand Challenge. The groups had a diverse mix of disciplinary backgrounds which they drew upon to generate novel cross-disciplinary research projects. Each group presented an idea for research that addressed an important societal problem:



Final presentations covered all four Grand Challenges



**How do we adapt existing technologies to make bus transport in London more responsive and reduce carbon emissions by 2050?**

**Why do people use cars? And how can this behaviour be changed in order to reduce CO2 emissions?**

**What dynamics affect equity in access to public emergency services for stroke among the elderly?**

**European Identity: How do we stand between Isolationism and Transnational Solidarity?**



Find out more and download the presentations at: [www.ucl.ac.uk/grand-challenges/summer-school](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/grand-challenges/summer-school)