



UCL



**Perspectives from a New Member of Education City
Professor Michael Worton, Vice-Provost**

About UCL

- **University College London (UCL) is one of the world's leading universities (no. 4 in QS World University rankings)**
- **21 Nobel Prize Winners have come from the UCL community**
- **A global reach and global vision: 34% of UCL students come from outside the UK - from over 140 countries around the globe**
- **More than 4,000 academic staff**
- **24,000 students**
- **4,500 administrative and support staff**

About UCL

- UCL has the highest number of full Professors of any university in the UK (648) – and the highest number of women Professors
- More than 40% of the student community engaged in graduate studies
- A university committed to interdisciplinarity in both teaching and research

About UCL: overseas

- The first UK university with a campus in Australia: the UCL School of Energy and Resources, in Adelaide
- Founding partner of Nazarbayev University (NU) in Kazakhstan, with currently 60 UCL staff teaching nearly 500 Kazakh students
- UCL to mentor the NU School of Engineering, opening in September 2011 with 210 students
- UCL-Q opens in September 2011; already delivering professional development programmes in Doha

Why Education City for UCL?

UCL has very strong values:

- First university in England open to people from all faiths and none
- First to open its doors to women on an equal footing with men
- Creator of the modern university curriculum
- Committed to helping to solve the world's problems and to building capacity in the developing world

Partnerships

- Partnership at the heart of the Education City vision
- Partnerships between branch universities and Education City
- Partnerships between branch campuses within Education City
- Partnership also at the heart of UCL's vision for its place in Education City and its Hamad bin Khalifa University
- UCL-Q's partnering with both QF and Qatar Museums Authority, including its museums, its archaeological sites and its conservation activities.

Partnerships

A major attraction of Education City was this partnership with two value-rich partners:

Qatar Foundation - whose mission is to prepare the people of Qatar and the region to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world and to make Qatar a leader in innovative education and research;

Qatar Museums Authority - which is explicitly committed to sharing and transmitting local culture, heritage and history, and to spreading and promoting knowledge to people of all ages, cultures and beliefs.

UCL-Q

- Two Masters programmes in (a) Museums and Conservation Practice and (b) Arab and Islamic Archaeology from 2012
- Professional training courses in Museum Practice, Archaeology, and Cultural Heritage for QMA colleagues and professionals from the region - and beyond

Research

- Conservation and Museology
- Islamic and Arabic Archaeology
- Archaeological Material Sciences (two research projects for which UCL holds a global licence will be trans-located to Doha in September 2011; another 2 will be trans-located over the next two years)

Outreach

- Primary and secondary schools
- Hospitals
- Community organisations

UCL-Q: Aims

UCL-Q is a slightly different model than the existing American university branch campuses; it is post-graduate and professional education only and from its very beginning is committed to substantial research work

Its aims are two-fold:

- To establish Qatar as the regional hub for best practice in Museums and Cultural Heritage and as an international centre of excellence, providing leadership globally in practice and research in Museology, Archaeology, Conservation and Heritage;
- To serve as a bridge between the Arab world and the west in terms of discussions about cultural heritage, about the relationship between the past and the present, and about national and individual identities.

Challenges 1

- Essential to maintain the standards of the home campus, whilst also recognising the specificities of the local Qatari context in terms of prior education
- Possible tensions between established “home” curricula and the need to develop curricula sensitive to local regional needs
- In terms of executive education, the need to establish a balance between ‘universal’ and local expectations around professional standards
- A potential tension in being both a research-intensive postgraduate campus and also a community-focused organisation

Challenges 2

- The 21st century needs new skills and new approaches to the curriculum
- The '**infinite library**': an exciting idea, but also a cause for anxiety
- Because it challenges our conceptions of how much we can **know** and how much we can **learn**
- Knowledge is constantly expanding – and changing – with no central or organised management

Major opportunities

- Partnership working – potentially transformational for UCL in London as well as for branch campuses in Qatar
- Intercultural working – living out practically the visions of (a) global citizenship and (b) transnational education

In a global context and especially in a determinedly intercultural context such as Qatar's Education City, these conceptual challenges and these opportunities become even greater.



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