

Victor Feeley (London, 2024–2025)

My exchange year at University College London (UCL) was a transformative experience that combined academic growth, personal development, and cultural enrichment. Spending a full year abroad gave me the opportunity to immerse myself in a new academic system, adapt to a different way of learning, and connect with people from a wide range of backgrounds.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the year was joining the UCL tennis team. Becoming part of this association provided me not only with a consistent sporting activity but also with a vibrant social circle. I competed in the league every weekend, which strengthened my sense of teamwork and commitment, while also creating lasting friendships with both exchange and non-exchange students. The tennis team played a central role in my integration into student life, ensuring that I felt fully part of the UCL community.

Academically, UCL challenged me to broaden my perspectives and refine my analytical skills. The teaching methods placed strong emphasis on independent thinking and critical engagement, offering a new dimension to the foundations I had already developed at UCD. In particular, being exposed to more distinctly British viewpoints allowed me to engage with fresh arguments, themes, and approaches in international relations and history. This exposure enriched my academic journey, complementing and diversifying the frameworks I had previously studied.

Beyond academic matters and student life, living in London itself was an extraordinary experience. The city's cultural diversity, rich history, and dynamic professional environment made it a stimulating place to live and learn. From museums and historic landmarks to international conferences and events, London offered countless opportunities that shaped both my academic and personal growth. Altogether, this year abroad strengthened my adaptability, expanded my horizons, and provided me with experiences that will continue to influence my studies and future career.