Meet the Researcher: Feedback literacy pilot project
Briefing for Participating Staff

Introduction
Thank you very much for agreeing to take part in this project! This pilot aims to evaluate the potential use of 'Meet the Researcher' to develop students' feedback literacy. Feedback is an area of the National Student Survey on which UCL scores poorly, yet there is evidence that students do not always collect their feedback or make particularly good use of it when they do. The aims of this project are therefore to provide a model of how staff seek feedback and how they make use of it to improve their work, and to allow students to reflect on how this model could apply to their own academic work. More generally, 'Meet the Researcher' activities enable students to meet researchers in their own department so that they feel a sense of belonging to the UCL community and recognise their own potential to become researchers if they wish to do so.

Preparation
The researcher needs to select a paper for the student to look at. The paper should be one that was enhanced through the peer review process and preferably went through different drafts to which you still have access. If you have a paper where you disagreed with some of the reviewers' comments, that could make for an interesting discussion point with the students.

You will need to give the students access to the following:
- one or more of the various drafts of your work (this can be any published work that has been peer reviewed – an article, notice, book chapter, book section, etc).
- feedback from the reviewer(s), and editors' comments
- where available, any evidence (such as an email, or a cover letter) that shows how you addressed the feedback
- your work as it was finally published.

This may be a lot of documents and you would not expect the student to go carefully through them all. But taken as a whole it should give students an indication of how academics use feedback in their work. We have drafted a briefing sheet for students that explains what they should focus on, which you are welcome to amend as you see fit.

You may also wish to give the students a sentence or two in writing noting the stages through which your work passed before the reviewers set eyes on it. This may help students get a bit of context and help them understand how work progresses in its very early stages.

Process
All 'Meet the Researcher' activities have three things in common: (1) students work in groups, to (2) talk to a member of staff about their research activity, following which (3) they present their findings, perhaps in a short group summary. Beyond this, we are reluctant to prescribe any kind of process since you will know best how to organise this activity so it works well for your students.

For the purposes of our research, it would be very helpful if you could complete a short questionnaire describing how you ran the activity. This is purely so we are able to describe the activity accurately when we write it up. The questionnaire can be found at: https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=33423 (please ignore the rather odd title, it is a recycled Moodle site!). Please ignore any questions you feel don't apply to you.

Evaluation

We are confident (based on previous work) that this activity will be a great help to your students. What we are trying to do here is to compare whether the current activity – which focuses on how researchers use feedback – has a greater impact on student learning than activities which may focus on research in general but not on any particular aspect of research practice in particular.

We would therefore be grateful if you could ask your students the following question at some point after the activity has completed:

'Say you are meeting up with a friend following the 'Meet the Researcher' activity. What would you tell them about it? Feel free to mention anything at all, for example what you learned, what you enjoyed or didn't enjoy, what was easy or hard, or anything else'.

This may be best done as a simple email, a sentence on a piece of paper, or an anonymous posting on Moodle. If you would like us to contact the students in order to preserve anonymity then please let us know.

We are producing a short briefing sheet for students (which you are free to adapt) and will let them know that they will receive a short question asking about their experience of 'Meet the Researcher'.

Many thanks again for being willing to take part in this activity, we are very grateful and we are very hopeful that your students will find it engaging *and* enlightening, and of great benefit to their studies at UCL.

Jenny Marie (j.marie@ucl.ac.uk) and Nick Grindle (n.grindle@ucl.ac.uk)
UCL Arena Centre for Research-based Education