



Universiteit Utrecht

IVLOS

Alumni Survey University College Utrecht

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Contents

1	Introduction and Method.....	3
2	Response	3
3	Master or graduate studies.....	4
4	Work experience	6
5	Opinion of UCU education.....	7
6	Alumni Network	8
	Appendix 1: List of job titles	9
	Appendix 2: Any other comments.....	11

1 Introduction and Method

In December 2000, the first University College Utrecht diplomas were given to alumni. Now, five years later, it was felt necessary to ask the alumni about their experiences in their further studies and work.

A small group of members of UCU, including alumni, came together to develop a questionnaire. The University College Alumni Association (UCAA) provided an list of e-mail addresses of 720 alumni. Preceded by an e-mail from the dean and UCAA, access to the on-line questionnaire was sent to these alumni. One reminder brought the response from 25% to 39%.

The questionnaire consists of three main subjects: 1) the experience of alumni in a follow-up study, and 2) the work experience of alumni, and their advice for the UCU-programme based on these experiences, and 3) their opinion of their UCU education. Because this is the first alumni survey, we also asked about reasons to choose for UCU and about possible activities of the Alumni Association.

In this report we summarize the results of the survey. The detailed results and categorization are separately available.

2 Response

Of 720 questionnaires, 282 came back, which is a response of 39%.

Of the response is 58% female, 42% male. The first nationality of 81% of the respondents is Dutch. About three quarters of the respondents (74%) became a diploma of secondary education in the Netherlands, 5% in the United States of America, 3% in the United Kingdom.

The respondents are approximately equally distributed over the five years of graduation.

		Year of graduation					Totaal
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
Month	may	53	44	43	48	59	247
	december	4	1	10	10	8	33
Total	(response)	57	45	53	58	67	280
		20%	16%	19%	21%	24%	100%

Table 1 In which year did you graduate?

The distribution of chosen majors is the following.

Major:	one major	with Science	with Humanities	with Social Science	with Interdepartmental	
Science	68		3	4	0	75
Humanities	21	3		7	1	32
Social Science	159	4	7		1	171
Interdepartmental	16	0	1	1		18

Table 2 What was your major?

In response to the question how alumni got to know UCU, the most important answers are: via friends and family, via newspapers and media, and via information markets, brochures and school. Internet was mentioned, but not as often.

The respondents chose for UCU for the following reasons.

1. It is a liberal arts college, that offers a lot of different courses and a broad interdisciplinary education. Many alumni mentioned here that they did not want to choose a specialization at that moment.

2. It is an international environment. Often respondents wanted English spoken education, or follow-up on their international secondary school experience.
3. They expected high standards: intellectual stimulation, a high level of academic education, the expectation of challenges, motivated students and an ambitious atmosphere. These respondents also mentioned their career prospects.
4. The campus is fourth on this list: respondents wanted to go to a residential college, in Europe, or even in the Netherlands (back to their roots, or the roots of their parents).
5. Fifth is the intensive character of the education: small classes, intense contact with excellent staff.

3 Master or graduate studies

Most respondents (89%, n=282) chose to do another study programme, 11% of the respondents did not.

A Master programme is chosen by 82% (n=282). Some alumni (10%) chose more than one programme. Other courses would be another bachelor programme, post-graduate or certificate courses. See Table 3.

Bachelor programme	7%
Master programme	82%
Graduate programme	6%
PhD-programme	15%
More than one programme	10%
Other, ...	27 responses

Table 3 What sort of programme did you choose? (more options possible)

In almost two thirds of the cases, the study was located in the Netherlands (62%), in a quarter of the cases (24%) in the United Kingdom and in 6% in the United States. Popular universities are: Utrecht University (93 times), Universiteit of Amsterdam (20x), Leiden (17x), London School of Economics (14x) and Cambridge (13x).

The start of the follow up study is for 73% of the respondents within half a year after graduation, 14% within one year and 13% later.

The main reason to choose to do another course is interest (85%), followed by career perspectives (74%) and not wanting to start working yet (19%).

Support from UCU in making a choice

Less than half of the respondents (42%, n=234) agree with the statement "I had sufficient support from UCU in making my choice", 29% is neutral, and 29% disagree with this statement.

The most helpful support was advice from heads, fellows and teachers (38%) and tutors (34%). Other sources of support, according to the open answers, were fellow students (6%), friends (4%) and information markets and internet (4%). About 5% complain that they did not get any support.

In an open question we asked what sort of support they would have liked. Two main issues arise from the 145 answers.

Many alumni (44% of the answers) suggest services or support that can be categorized as offered by a career service or career development office. In such an office, students should be able to find information and brochures about universities that offer good quality programmes, practical information about funding or which tests to take, and contacts with alumni. This office should also provide advice and help in the various phases of the process: orientation, decision making, application process, assessments etc. Such an office could also organize (or refer to) career days, master market or meet & greet opportunities with specific universities on the UCU campus.

A second issue is the support from the tutors (32%). Although many alumni in this survey say that they had good advice and help from tutors, there are also many alumni who would have liked the tutor to know more and be better informed. The respondents would have liked to find answers about opportunities after UCU, about application processes and the chances of being accepted, about possibilities in the field of interest of the student, and about what to look for in a

programme. Some mention the necessity to talk between tutor and student about these issues from the second year onwards. At that time it is still possible to select UC-courses that prepare for the chosen master programme.

Applicationprocess

About half of the respondents (47%, n=237) is satisfied with the support from UCU in the application process. Most helpful were the recommendation letters (60%). Contacts of Dean, heads, fellows and teachers were for 18% of the respondents helpful.

More than half of the respondents (56%, n=251) applies for two or more programmes, 8% even for five or more programmes. 47% (n=248) were accepted in more than two programmes, see Table 4.

	A. Applied (n=251)	B. Accepted (n=248)
1 programme	44%	53%
2	24%	24%
3	13%	15%
4	12%	5%
5 or more	8%	3%

Table 4 A. For how many programmes did you apply? B. In how many of these were you accepted?

Most alumni (81%, n=250) could enter the programme without having to repair deficiencies. The time it took to repair these deficiencies can be found in the following table (Table 5).

	n=62
less than three months	50%
between 3 and 6 months	13%
between 6 and 12 months	26%
more than 12 months	11%

Table 5 How many months were required for repairing deficiencies?

About a quarter of the respondents (26%, n=248) encountered problems in the application process. The main issue that arises from 70 explications, is clarity about the recognition of the UCU degree and help with the transition into the next programme. Respondents mention that institutions do not always recognize the diploma as a bachelor degree, and often require extra work before the start of the programme. The alumni suggest that UCU should assist them in the negotiations about the value of the degree and the amount of work to do. For example, alumni who applied to institutions in the United States say that they were not accepted because UCU is a three year programme instead of a four year programme. Another issue, said 4 alumni, is the obligation to take a TOEFL test again for entry into a Master programme.

Entering the programme

Most of the respondents (70%) agree or strongly agree with the statement "I had sufficient disciplinary knowledge and skills at the start of the programme". A few months later, this percentage is 84%. The level of academic skills is higher, 89% of the respondents say that they have sufficient academic skills at the start of the programme.

We asked "At which level would you rank yourself compared to the other students in your programme?". In the upper third of the group, says 70%. In the middle third, says 27%. Only 3% ranks themselves in the lower third of the group.

The connection between UCU and the master programme was smooth, agrees or strongly agrees 59% (n=242). Almost a quarter (23%) did encounter problems in the master programme or graduate school. In their explanations (from 56 respondents) we see as most mentioned problem (20 times) gaps in their disciplinary knowledge. Less mentioned, but still by a small group (6x), is the lack of research skills (writing a thesis). Some respondents (6) speak of different ways: no constant assignments anymore, being a number in stead of a person, that it is not appreciated if you say what you think.

Most problems could be solved by working hard, say 14 respondents. Suggestions from 15 respondents for UCU to change, vary from introducing tutorials for science students, more

mathematics, economics and more qualitative methods for social science students, more choice and a higher level of courses, more opportunities for courses outside the UCU-campus.

To the open question “If you have missed something in the UCU programme that you consider indispensable (in retrospect), please indicate here which subjects and why”, many different responses were made, in total 126. We have organized the responses in two categories, in which we report here only comments that are made by 7 or more respondents (minimum 5%).

The first category contains responses about the curriculum. 6% asks for more depth, that is more specialization opportunities, 8% asks for more choice in the programme, that is a wider range of courses to choose from. More on research methodology, and a bachelor thesis, is mentioned in 17% of the responses. Interestingly, most of these remarks are from students with a major in Social Science. There is also a call for more practical work, an internship or lab work, in 10% of the responses. Two thirds of these are from Science majors.

The second category is responses about subjects. In 11% of the answers, alumni have missed economics in the programme. All but one of these responses came from Social Science majors. In 15% of the responses, requests for more mathematics are formulated. Two thirds of these remarks are from alumni with a Science major.

Redundant subjects are, according to 88 respondents, the following. We report here the subjects that are mentioned in 5% or more of the responses. Argumentation analysis is redundant (28% of the responses), because it was not useful enough, or because it was not enough applied to what is actually needed in the studies. English for Academic Purposes is redundant, is said in 18% of the responses, especially for students who are native English speakers. For bi- or trilingual students, the second language course is redundant (11% of the responses). As a final point, in 10% of the responses, methods & statistics were found redundant.

4 Work experience

In the group of respondents, 63% (n=282) do not have a paid job for which they qualified at UCU. The following information is based on the replies of 108 alumni (37%) who did have (or have had) such a job.

In this group of 108 respondents, 60% started working in this job within three months after graduation, 22% started working later than a year after graduation (see Table 6).

	n=108
withing three months from graduation	60%
between 3 & 6 months	8%
between 6 & 12 months	9%
later than 12 months	22%

Table 6 When did you start working?

The number of jobs since graduation can be found in Table 7.

Number of jobs	1	2	3	4	5 or more
Percentage	41%	32%	20%	5%	2%

Table 7 What number of jobs were you in since UCU graduation?

In the current job, most respondents work not longer than one year, see Table 8.

	1/2	1	2	3	4	5 of meer
Percentage	35%	33%	18%	12%	2%	1%

Table 8 How many years have you been in your current job?

Most alumni work in Education and Research (22%), Consultancy (14%), NGO's (11%) and Business & Finance (10%). A list of job titles can be found in Appendix 1.

To the question “If you have missed something in the UCU programme that you consider indispensable (in retrospect) for your job, please indicate here which subjects and why”, 34 alumni

replied. Three categories can be found in these replies. 7 respondents missed practical training or an internship in the programme. 7 respondents missed business/financial courses, and business skills. 4 respondents indicate a lack of research skills and methodology.

Most mentioned redundant subject is Argumentation analysis (5 of 12 responses), because “none of the skills taught in that class have practical relevance in professional life”.

5 Opinion of UCU education

We asked the alumni to grade the following aspects of UCU education on a scale from very poor (1) to excellent (5). In Table 9 we list the outcomes. The number of respondents to each aspect varies between n=278 and n=282.

	Mean	Sum of categories 4 (good) and 5 (excellent)
Preparation for work	3.0	35%
Preparation for master/graduate programmes	4.0	79%
Academic level of the programme	4.3	91%
Balance specialization & general education	3.7	59%
Coherence in the programme	3.5	55%
Quality of courses	4.2	87%
Quality of teaching staff	4.1	84%
Quality of tutors	3.6	57%
Quality of study facilities (library, computers, class rooms, quiet areas, etc.),	4.3	93%
Quality of living facilities at UCU campus (room & board, sports and arts facilities, etc.)	4.3	89%
Your general satisfaction with UCU?	4.3	90%

Would you, in retrospect, choose again for UCU? 95% yes, 5% no

Table 9 Your opinion of your UCU education: please grade the following aspects of UCU education.

Scale: 1 = very poor, 5 = excellent.

The UCU bachelor degree is, according to these alumni, a good preparation for master or graduate programmes, but it does not prepare very good for work. The respondents are very satisfied with the academic level of the programme (91% is positive). Coherence in the programme and the balance specialization and general education get less positive reactions.

The quality of courses and teaching staff is very good again, with positive reviews. The quality of tutors deserves attention. An explanation for the relatively low score (compared with the other scores) could be that the expectations of students of the role and function of tutors are different from the original intentions. Earlier in this report we noticed that tutors are expected to give better support in the process of orientation on the student's future.

Study and living facilities are assessed as very good.

The alumni are in general (90%) very satisfied with their education at University College Utrecht. Almost all respondents (95%) would, in retrospect, choose again for UCU.

In the last question we asked “If you have any other comments about UCU related to your experience since graduation, please indicate here”. 84 alumni used this opportunity, with a great variety of comments. We attached the complete list at the end of this report (Appendix 2).

6 Alumni Network

The last two questions of the questionnaire were meant as feedback for the University College Alumni Association (UCAA).

UCAA organizes several activities for alumni, among which newsletters, social drinks, and contact information via a website. The general opinion whether the activities organized by UCAA are interesting, is neutral. The mean score is 3.2, where 39% agrees or strongly agrees.

Suggestions about how to involve more alumni in UCAA were made by 81 respondents. The complete list of suggestions has been sent to UCAA.

Appendix 1: List of job titles

"Programme Coordinator". In three months I will become the "Head of Office"

1st job: Research Fellow (university) 2nd job:

Research Analyst (market research)

Account Associate, Public Relations

account manager asia desk

adviseur (consultant)

Advisor Political Affairs

advocaat

Analyst

Analyst Global Markets

assistant reseacher

Assistant Research Analyst

Assistant to the Special Advisor of the ILO Director

General

Assistent in Opleiding / Promovenda / PhD

Assistant to the Youth and Sustainable

Development Programme

Associate at ABN AMRO Rothschild

Associate Structured Finance

Beleidsmedewerker (policy advisor) Justitie,

Europese en Binnenlandse Zaken bij de Tweede

Kamerfractie van D66

Beleidsonderzoeker

business analyst

Business Analyst

Business Analyst

Business Consultant

Business Manager, UBS AG Global Wealth Management and Business Banking, Products & Services, Transaction Products

Case manager/resource coordinator

chief editor

Clinical R&D Manager

Clinical Research Coordinator/Psychometrician

Communications Officer up to a few weeks ago,

switched to project officer

Community Programs Coordinator

consultant

Consultant

Coordinator Onderzoeksbureau ASVA

Studentenunie

Counselor

current job is PhD candidate; first job after UCU

was research assistant

Customer Liaison / Executive VP

Development Manager / Travel Writer

ENT resident with PhD (KNO-arts assistent in opleiding met promotie, AGIKO traject van 7 jaar)

European Affairs Intern with UNMIK Office of

European Integration

Expatriate Support Officer

Financial analyst

Head of Office

Human Resources Executive - Communications &

Key account and national sales support coordinator

Learning Specialist/Educational Psychologist

Linguist/translator

Management Consultant

management trainee

Marie Curie Research Fellow

Marketing Communications Intern at TomTom

International

Master of Law.

Media Analyst/Project manager

member of the University Council Utrecht

Neuro-Developmental Therapist

New Business Manager

Own consultancy firm

Paid PhD candidate in Environmental Toxicology

Paralegal

Ph.D researcher (Law)

PhD

PhD researcher

PhD student

PhD student

Policy advisor (Beleidsmedewerker) Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations

Policy Advisor (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) /

Diplomat

postdoctoral research fellow

producer

Program Associate

Project leader for SAP projects.

Project Manager

Project manager

Project Manager at the Corporate Human

Resources department of Philips International in

Amsterdam

Project officer

projectleider

Projectmedewerker Electieve Zorg

research assistant

Research Associate (in Economics)

Retail Consultant & Sales Manager for Central

Europe

Security Sector Policy Analyst

Senior Policy Advisor

SNV-UNDP Programme Officer

Strategic crime analyst

Strategy Consultant

student assistant (however, that is the general term for any student who is also employed by the university) The job is parttime, but I have a fixed

contract.

Teacher at the department of Social Work of the

Sustainable Development
I was officer for the Utrecht Summerschool
International Officer & Registrar
Investment Banking Associate
junior fellow
Junior Project Manager
Junior Project Manager
Junior Researcher
Junior strategy consultant / Research associate

"Hogeschool Leiden".
Trainee Property Derivatives
Tuition teacher for science subjects.
Union organizer
University Lecturer
Veterinary Technician, summer job
Was; Research Assistant
'Wetenschappelijk Medewerker'
World Bank

Appendix 2: Any other comments

Below is attached the complete list of general comments, made at the end of the questionnaire.

As a UC Alumna I would like to be informed of what happens on campus. (Pub Quizes, Band Nights, Academic lectures etc.) All we get is 4 drinks a year...

i miss ucu

Great environment to study, would recommend it to everyone!

not enough balance between departments which may have been the cause of the lack of science-courses. Courses that are given are ok, but there is not enough choice in science-courses for specialization and too little information and support to seek cour...

It has been five years since I graduated from UCU and I am starting to run into graduates in various places all over the world. I think this is a good sign, but should not fool UCU into thinking that the spreading of alumni means that the quality of th...

For a career in physics, it has not been the most suited education. But UCU offers a good general accademic education and as a person I learned very much there, both from the courses as from the very stimulating and international living environment. If...

I am very positive about UCU but my experience with my tutor has seriously dampened my overall impression.

i have been at the university of Groningen, UCU and University of Utrecht: UCU has definitely the best academic standards, with very good teachers, good teacher-student relationship and good facilities

It is my experience that universities really appreciate the interdisplinary of UCU-students and also the exposure we get with writing papers.

As I was among the first group of students at UCU, not much was already existent when we arrived. Therefore, I have made my judgement on what was set up during my stay there, by all the students and staff, and how the study programme evolved, as there ...

UCU is unique and should strive to be the best and have the best. Always. No compromises. Everybody I talk to about UCU is fascinated and jealous of my experiences there, and that's the way it should be. Now, there's a lot of things that could be impro...

I often recommend UCU to potential students with broad interests.

Of course there are always things that could be improved upon, but in general UCU is very well organized when it comes to facilities and staff. In my opinion, the academic level is very high, but the flipside of this is that it is far removed from the ...

I feel that the Liberal Arts system has really worked for me. Without having a law-bachelor, I am graduating cum laude for my Master in Law, and I am accepted to the Law-faculty of the College d'Europe. I believe that the "general education" of UCU has...

UCU as well as the netherlands at large is not as well knwon in the international academic community as i might have thought! Difficulties might arise when applying for jobs or internships to prove the high quality and learned skills. UCU should be mad...

I would have liked more guidance in composing my course programme. The slogan "Too young to choose? Choose UCU", as it was used when I applied, doesn't work. You do need some idea of where you're headed when you enroll.

Most personal disadvantages could very well be caused by my choice of my (main) subjects (physics/mathematics).

I took a year off to pursue two internships. I arranged those internships myself and it would be good for UCU if such oppotunities are offered. I found with most of my fellow graduates that they continue studying because they don't know what else to do....

UCU needs to learn to act more like a profit organization, seeking to satisfy the academic (and professional) needs of its students. Plotting demand increases for certain courses (and the reasons associated to that),

pioneering courses based on latest...

I have suffered a lot when graduated from UCU, as I was a pre-med. I had to catch up a lot. However, I would definitely choose for UC if I get the chance once again.

At my time at UCU I was particularly interested in Economics, the courses in economics were not really high-quality and especially for students wishing to pursue a masters degree in economics much more courses are needed, both in economics as well as i...

The focus on writing and presentation skills and the fact that it was English language have been extremely helpful. During my stay I was quite critical of some aspects, but in retrospect I realize the ambitious nature and quality of the teaching, and ...

Great place because there are so many choices. But I like many did not feel challenged academically until some of the 300 level courses. Better guidance on an academic level and not just a social level would help.

It was a wonderful time. It just does what it needs to do: provide you with a solid basis and trains you to work hard and process information fast. It is an excellent start of an academic career, although the real academic part comes after graduation f...

I learned that especially the academic core courses were, in retrospect, phenomenal. The methods and statistics courses gave me a headstart compared to my fellow students.

It was a very exciting place to be which opened my eyes to many new possibilities

We were the first year to graduate from UCU. I'm assuming things change since (hopefully improved) so you should take this into consideration in analyzing the results

Encourage students to do summer internships! I graduated with top results and have only found closed doors in the job market to date because I have absolutely no work experience, and my tutor and the school more generally completely failed to indicate...

Focus more on efforts like these: join in experience by alumni to let current students benefit, smooth the transition from UCU to Master programmes, and promote internships within business and international organisations during UCU (important for jobs a...

Tutors should be major related if student knows at start!

I miss UCU a lot, of all the unis I have attended, UCU is by far the greatest!

I've found UC the best prep you can have for a Master's degree. Compared to both Dutch and international students, I find I had more experience and better skills in almost everything: researching, presentation, writing, analytic abilities. I'm now worki...

At this point in time I would choose the Roosevelt Academy. The housing facilities here and the lack of a dining hall would convince me that RA would be a better place for me. I still recommend both RA and UCU to prospective students.

I am not sure if this is a specific thing, but I had 3 different tutors over the 3 years I was at UCU. There was therefore no continuity in the decisions I made and the direction my education went in. For instance, at one point I had decided to do a min...

The only thing I will always regret is that no provision was made for me to do the Dutch course, when it was clearly known that I was on a two year program and I would need to get into Dutch 100 in my first semester to be able to complete the language ...

Although I didn't choose to follow another study program (yet), UCU has certainly taught me a number of skills that I can use everywhere. The question is not what UCU has taught me, but how it has taught me to think, and to act, in an academic environm...

For me personally, the UCU experience was a little light as preparation for an academic/research career.

I would have very much liked the criminology track. Too bad it was only offered the year I had left..

Many people experienced problems getting into masters programs since the UCU curriculum is poorly recognized and 1st year students at UCU are poorly informed that for many master's programs (such as psychology) you

MUST take a very strict selection of ...

At first I was surprised by the lack of discipline or deadlines at the regular university. For me it was very convenient to have strict deadlines. I now have very little problems with meeting deadlines. In my master program it is also very useful to ha...

Perhaps students should be forced to narrow down their subject area just a bit, which would be facilitated by offering more specialized courses. This only seems possible, however, if UCU starts taking more students.

I am of the opinion that it is very important, educative and satisfactory for students to be able to participate in the rich student culture that The Netherlands in general, and Utrecht in specific has to offer. It is for example not possible to adjus...

establish more connection with University of Utrecht and other universities in NL; strongly encourage students to do internships during the summer. There should be somebody who could take care of career services on campus... very useful for students.....

During my masters I realised (again) how students at many other Dutch Universiteit are not used to a large workload, in that sense I feel I have been well prepared at UC. During my Masters I also realised the value of relatively many class hours, which...

I would like to hear more about the UCU alumni-association now and then. Also a regular update of current affairs at UCU would be interesting.

I would choose again for UCU, because I liked all the different subjects and because I learned a lot. However if you do not want to work abroad I would not recommend UCU, because no-one knows what it is. And something unknown is disliked. Especially fo...

see comment on PR. Compared to my fellow master students who did a regular Dutch BSc program, I definitely had better academic skills and knowledge at the start of the program. I started medschool right after graduating UCU and got really bored. I had...

the biggest advantage I have found UCU had is more or less the way it is able to motivate most students to get the best out of themselves, because of the atmosphere created on campus, and the small groups in classes. That is something I sorely missed a...

I believe UC educates very open minded people, who are free to choose in which direction they would like to further develop themselves

Their smoking / non-smoking policy in the residential area is a joke. It generates problems every year. Instead of letting students choose between smoking and non-smoking, there should be a division in smoking, non-smoking, and allergic to smoking in wh...

I am extremely happy I have chosen UCU for my undergraduate degree. It is a degree that is very well appreciated outside of the Netherlands and the programme has prepared me very well for my further education.

the teachers at UCU had a great potential, yet the students to fulfil any attempt towards independent thinking failed tremendously. i spit on those pretentious fools that swarmed about at UCU. ambition become pretention becomes arrogance.

UCU needs to work harder to maintain very high levels of its education and not be afraid to kick people out of their course if they do not achieve those high levels. UCU needs to stimulate a higher connection with universities in the UK (due to proximi...

At the time UCU did not have a fully developed career center yet; I believe that this is a significant improvement. The development of a Alumni network is a good thing as well.

For the final question the choice of degree should be taken into consideration. For mathematics, experience in intuition and general problems are extremely useful, and weren't (and shouldn't be) offered at UCU. As a result, for me the balance specializ...

The students make UC. Heavy international and social backgrounds assist the academic learning process. Very fond memories of UC. Helped form me and drive me to my current ambitions, including completion of LL.B.. Best to avoid 'Dutch clubs'.

It would be nice if the possibility to live outside campus would be made easier.

Just that my experiences so far have made me realize that UC is really an academic place, preparing students for PhD work eventually. It continues to be interesting to compare post-UC experiences with old UC friends; interpretation of what exactly UC wa...

Socially, especially the first year after graduation it is nice to stay in contact with friends that are still at UC. I found this very hard, just because I was unable to enter campus. It really is too bad that your connections with UC are broken off s...

UCU does not prepare one well for the actual challenges in life. I think it nurtures an idealized, academic view of the world, which is simply not true. The knowledge and skills you obtain at the college are sufficient if you want to start a purely aca...

You soon realise that UCU prepared you not only for further academic study but also socially for the rest of your life. The intense three years that you spend studying, living and socialising with the same people, leaves you with an advantage over thos...

UCU did not deliver on its promise of easily being able to enter all manner of master program's in the Netherlands. I believe mine was one of the very few for which no reparation of deficiencies was necessary.

It has come to my attention that especially students from the science department have difficulties to get into masters programs in other cities than utrecht, often they are told that the level of education and information received at UCU is too low and...

For me the experience was great mostly because of the social aspect. The people I met, the friendships i made. The academics was acceptable with room for improvement.

The style of teaching (class participation, examination, etc.) is very different from that of a regular (Dutch) university, so this took some getting used to after UCU for me (though I prefer the UCU method).

I would suggest that interested undergraduates could have a PhD student in their own fields (from UU, for instance) to guide and tutor them in their final year.

I did work in my field of studies during my studies and will again soon. I am doing a summerjob now in which I use my knowledge of tourism which I attained before UCU. the questions in this questionnaire don't give much room for interpretation...

The reason why I have not found a paid job yet is that I am doing a second master at the moment. According to me it is a typical UCU-alumnus way of studying, not wanting to choose and therefore doing many things at the same time.

UCU is fine if you go study afterwards and specialize but I dont think it offers many employment opportunities. I think the academic level could be raised- or make students take more than just 3 classes to major in a field. It was very usefull for essa...

UCU curriculum should be known in detail to other universities to facilitate the MA application process - so far UC is relatively unknown.

The poor ratings above are merely based on the first (pioneer) year in 1998.

A pity that you have stopped the bursaries for foreign students. By doing this UCU appears to have become a "preppy" "spoiled dutch students school" instead of the International school I once knew.

In general, the 'outside world' doesn't think too highly of UC and its students. At times, staff at UU tends to be prejudiced about UCU. I would've liked to have followed graduate studies at UC or a similar evironment, where the staff knows about their...

I think UC prepared me very well for the challenges ahead after graduation, both academic and professional, so I can only give it a big compliment

In retrospect, what I lacked in terms of specialisation I gained in terms of skills. For instance, until beginning professional life I had no idea how poor most people's communication and writing skills were. UCU has a good focus on developing these sk...

I am very grateful for all the opportunities that UC has given me, and I would recommend any high school student to apply to UC. I do however have the impression that atmosphere-wise a lot has changed since we (Class of 2003) left, and not necessarily ...

Working with good students and good/motivated teachers at UCU has been a privilege - at regular Dutch universities such a thing is unheard of..

I sometimes wish that I had chosen a course with a little more focus, rather than becoming a 'generalist', but at the same time, I feel that I would not have had the opportunities that UCU created (and my stimulating fellow students)

UCU itself was great. However, I ran into problems after graduating, because the Masters programmes at UU were no good. This is why I quit the Masters programme and went on to do a PhD in the UK. It would be fantastic if the UU or other Dutch univers...

I am very proud to have attended and graduated from UCU. It was a very unique experience in an international setting, and I would like to see it thrive, so future students can enjoy the experience as much as I have. UCU is a great academic institution,...

Without UC, I would certainly not be where I am right now. It broadened my world. I got into a great Masters program thanks to UC and did fantastic internships for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN, before finally choosing for a career in Banki...

I don't think it prepares you for working directly after, but I don't think it was meant to, either. The nature (i.e. breadth, mostly) of the programme does make it hard to 'sell' in a non-academic environment. Followed up by another programme, however...

The students living at UC are very isolated from the rest of the world, and the theoretical courses combined with a lack of practical experience are something that should be addressed. It does not prepare students for a real career. However, I did enjo...

I would choose again for UCU because of the academic skills you obtain, these are very valuable in everything you do!!

Part of my problems encountered in the Master programme I could have prevented by taking more mathematics at UCU. Since I was not aware of the high level of quantitative skills necessary in graduate level economics I did not take more mathematics. Apar...

the programme is too broad. It would be impossible for me to find a job/career without going to graduate school. There should be a placement officer to help find/research employment opportunities, or graduate programmes.

I don't think UCU is a great preparation for either a Master programme or for a job, but it is a great experience and definitely develops your social skills (presenting, debating, etc).

I started at UCU in the very first year. The study programme since then has been elaborated. Quality of the teaching staff differed greatly, therefore my 'in the middle' answer.

The communication between UC and other universities is not very good, most universities do not understand what UC means, and what the level of graduates is. This makes it harder to enter into other programmes.

make it more known!! those who know about UC, or who know alumni, are in general enthusiastic; those who have no idea what it is tend to be sceptical --> make the program, philosophy, credits etc. more widely known

excellent preparation for a successful career

I have discovered it is essential to combine the UCU degree with another study programme in order for it to be truly effective; the UCU BA by itself is too general to apply to many if not most professions and the majority of employers today are unable ...

I think UCU gave me the best preparation I could have wished for.

I am very pleased with my academic skills (discipline, paper writing, presentations, etc.). Also, I am very happy I followed classes in argumentation, academic English, and statistics. Last, but not least, I think it was a great opportunity to meet int...