Tutoring as a UCL researcher

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PhD Research Area: STEM  
University: University College London  
Scholars Programme Course Title: Nurturing Nature: Using Animal Behaviour Research to Inform Wildlife Conservation  
Tutor since: 2022

What made you want to apply to be a Scholars Programme tutor?
I applied to tutor on The Scholars Programme to gain additional teaching experience during my PhD beyond the more commonplace university-level teaching. It gave me the opportunity to teach a self-designed, university-level course, which not only gave me the total freedom to cultivate a programme that I felt best reflected my interests and field of study in the hopes of inspiring future conservation biologists, but also gave me the valuable experience of tailoring such a course to the needs of younger students with a more diverse range of interests than those typically studying the same university course or module.

What has been the most rewarding moment of your journey so far?
The most rewarding thing about tutoring on The Scholars Programme has been interacting with students whose circumstances are as-yet under-represented in university settings. I am a first-generation student from a northern, working-class background. I had no idea what university really was until I got there, having been urged to apply and to go by teachers at school but having been given little information as to what the university experience would actually entail. As a result, it was extremely fulfilling for me to speak with students from similarly under-represented groups and informally discuss with them what to expect from university as well as teaching them the course content.

How has being a Scholars Programme tutor helped in your career so far?
Tutoring on The Scholars Programme has helped me to understand how best to design and develop a university-level course and how to tailor content to the needs of the individuals within a group. It has greatly improved my confidence in communicating my own science, and the training provided by The Brilliant Club has also helped me to evaluate my teaching experience, which I hope to use to apply for my HEA Associate Fellowship.

To find out more about becoming a Scholars Programme tutor, please click here