

Comments	Association with UCL	Club
I remember being introduced to many martial arts and superior artists such as Master Kanetsuka of Ryushinkan Aikido the most senior traditional Aikidoka in Europe, in an affordable space in central London. Iconic, historic and increasingly unique in London and elsewhere I urge you save something rare. What we do as martial artists requires dedication, practice, commitment and a depth of understanding. Oftentimes misunderstood, sometimes unappreciated we should fight to keep things that may not have a price but have real value...alive. I am the current Jiu Jitsu instructor at LSE and have trained, taught and continue to train at the Dojo at UCL. However, I also studied at UCL from 1994 to 1997 and ran a Taekwondo club in that dojo space even as a student.	UCL Alumni, Former Instructor	Jitsu, Aikido, Taekwondo
New dojo is very inconvenient and potentially dangerous.Because of the problems with laying down the mats we had 2 injuries on our first (and i hope last) training there. Permanent dojo is necessary and much safer. Dr Branko, UCLU Judo Club Head Coach	Current UCL Staff, Sports coach	Judo
I have been a member of BF for nearly 5 years now and would really like to see the permanent dojo restored. I strongly support this petition, my main reasons are: - I play squash as well and never had any trouble playing in the morning at the time there were only 2 courts. - A dojo is an essential part of a good gym, is incredibly polyvalent and is used by many more sports and activities than a squash court. - There is not enough space in the "stretching/warm up area" downstairs. I'm sure I was not the only one to use the dojo to warm up. - The mats should be of high quality, properly taken cared of and laid down professionally in a permanent position. Otherwise, the gaps between them pose a serious health and safety hazard (foot and toe injury).	Current UCL Staff	Karate, Capoeira
I was one of the earliest UCL students to practice and teach at the UCL dojo. As a senior instructor of aikido and the elected head of a large international federation dedicated to aikido training, I believe that a large college like UCL needs a permanent dojo, which can complement the research in Japanese culture carried out in a world-class institution like the University of London. Prof P Goldsbury Aikido 7th dan; Chairman of the International Aikido Federation (IAF)	UCL Alumni	Aikido Alumni Group
Parkour society and individual user. I would use it for martial arts tricking whenever the dojo was unoccupied, sometimes for many hours. It seems the management have missed the fact that the dojo was often in use by individuals who hadn't booked official session, but were instead using it to work on things by themselves	UCL Student	Parkour
The dojo is a very important area for gym members both in clubs that used it and not. It is a valuable space and should be restored in order to create a safe, clean, and practical environment for gym members.	UCL Student	Aikido
Interest in martial arts has grown massively in the past few years. We now have more clubs than ever wanting space to practice.	UCL Student	Judo
The ucl dojo was to me during the year the main place where I could train without feeling self conscious , a place that greatly improved my overall martial abilities and physical fitness	UCL Student	Karate
The dojo is a great training place and used extensively all year by many clubs including my own. We already have a real shortage of venues to train at and a central on-campus location like the Bloomsbury dojo was a great thing to have, hopefully we can continue using it.	UCL Student	Jitsu

<p>When I attended UCL from 2000 to 2004, the Dojo was the most impressive feature of the gym and I was hugely impressed that UCL had this kind of “sanctuary” in the middle of one of the busiest cities in the world. I am not so much a martial artist but I used the Dojo for stretching and often as a playground for a variety of imaginative exercises. The atmosphere and the calm green and wooden aesthetics provided an effective escape from exam stress and from the chaos of central London, while equally serving to reinforce a healthy mind and body. I loved that I could flip seamlessly between the frantic cardio section, the heavy weights area, and the free-flowing Dojo. I continued my membership even after graduation specifically for the Dojo, because all the other gyms in the local area failed to produce this kind of facility and have it integrated so effectively. Even after it was moved to the room on the upper level, I was pleased that it still retained many of the same qualities. Back then and even until recently, when I talked to anyone about UCL I would always proudly talk about the UCL gym and its Dojo. It was a unique selling point and was spot-on in line with UCL’s identity of integrated diversity.</p> <p>10 years on I am now an actor, I engage in all kinds of physical exercises, and am still a member of the gym. Just up until it was abolished the Dojo remained the first point of call where all my exercises would begin, be it stretching, free-movement, gymnastics practice or yoga. I was so disappointed when it was abolished I began to consider other fitness centres that could substitute this unique facility, but I found it to be rare. As UCL is my alma mater and I am interested in the welfare of its facilities, I am supportive of decisions that ensure its sustainability. However, I do not believe an extra squash court could result in a significant commercial gain for the gym. I in fact believe that the looming losses would prove more detrimental both in the short and long term. From a strategic business point of view, the gym is losing one of its long-established USPs – a major differentiator to competing local gyms and a feature that is reflective of UCL’s heritage and identity. There will be customers who will cease membership because of this loss, whereas it is less likely that customers will join or continue membership because there are now three squash courts instead of two. I personally have less reason to continue my gym membership now specifically at the Bloomsbury Fitness Centre as the facility I valued most has disappeared.</p> <p>The most commercially-minded fitness services will ideally want as many customers to join, pay and then use the facilities as little as possible. I shall not assume it to be the case but I do hope the Dojo was not abolished because Dojo users represented the most regular and loyal customers of the gym. In any case the Dojo is also a unique feature that can increase the value proposition of the gym for new customers regardless of whether they would end up using it or not.</p> <p>Beyond commercial considerations, UCL is first a world-class, multi-faculty academic institution – our priority should lie in protecting that which inspires and enhances diverse development, and abolishing the Dojo feels like a step backwards. Please consider having the Dojo re-instated. Not for me, but for the students at UCL – it really is a great thing to have. The gym already has two squash courts; let’s keep the one Dojo.</p>	UCL Alumni	Individual and group
Its a shame UCL is ignoring its martial arts history. UCL jitsu must be one of its most successful sporting clubs. I learnt jitsu in this dojo from 2000 and even taught classes in it many years later	UCL Alumni	Jitsu
I find it really frustrating to remove the mats, then put them back in the dojo because it takes around 15m total and this takes up our valuable time that could be done training in class. The dojo benefits so many societies and there are already many squash courts available. Not only is the dojo used in classes, A few people and myself used to use the Dojo as part of my workout in the gym in Bloomsbury as I would train with people in the Dojo if it was not being used. I really hope the dojo will have its own room next year.	UCL Student	Grappling, Judo
The dojo is an integral part of the gym, and to be honest it doesn't make any sense to include clubs like the Aikido and Jujitsu club without a decent and functioning dojo. Even SOAS has one in the basement and their numbers pale in comparison.	UCL Student	Aikido
Hope to restart Shaolin Kung Fu next year. Want to see the dojo back!	UCL Student	Shaolin Kung Fu
Could we have our dojo back please?	UCL Student	Aikido
The dojo should be permanently matted to avoid time constraints and further dirt affecting the mats and practice space	UCL Student	Grappling
I support the complaint about the unjustified removal of the traditional permanent dojo and the manner in which this was carried out. We believe that incomplete and therefore misleading information was provided by the new BF Manager to the student officers regarding usage and function of the permanent dojo and regarding Squash usage. It appears that there was consultation with the Squash Club. However, the many clubs and individual members who used the permanent dojo were kept in the dark of the plans for change. I support the request that the Dojo be restored this summer, 2014, before the new academic year begins.	trained frequently with UCL jitsu club	Jitsu
I have trained with The Jitsu Foundation for a number of years, we have used the dojo for longer than I have been training	Visitor to the dojo	Jitsu

Dojo space should be kept.	UCL Alumni	Jitsu
I have practiced aikido for the last 25 years at this gym. I find it very selfish, what has happend to the dojo, and this has happend without anyone considering the people and the teachers that have supported the dojo. Has anyone considered the fees paid by people who only use the dojo and not the gym? - And are now paying to train in a court that is not properly equipped as a dojo. I personally pay £5 each time.	BF Member	Aikido
I've been practicing regularly at the club for 5 years now. I believe it is essential to have a permanent dojo to provide the correct environment for the many martial arts that are regularly practiced. The removal and setting up of mats in the current dojo is a massive inconvenience and time wasting for everyone involved. There should be a dojo with permanent mats placed.	Current UCL Staff	Aikido
Permanent traditional dojo is essential for correct and safe practice of martial arts.	UCL Alumni	Aikido
For a gym like UCL a dojo is a must,I feel.	BF Member	Aikido
UCL has benefited from a permanent dojo for over 30 years. It has provided the student body with excellent instruction in a variety of martial arts. The fact that there is no permanent dojo will impact on the amount of students who pursue martial arts. Martial arts provide fitness, discipline and focus. Martial arts need to be elevated and promoted to the student body, a permanent dojo certainly helps in this regard. There are already numerous squash courts which effectively meet demand.	BF Member	Aikido
UCL's traditional Dojo has been an invaluable training resource for me since 1977 when, as a postgraduate student, I took up Aikido as an unfit beginner. Access to the permanent Dojo meant that I was able to put in a lot of practise in my spare time. As a student preparing for my 1st Dan, I could train 5 days a week, 2-3 times a day. Without this opportunity, I would not have been able to achieve my 5th Dan grade and a senior teaching rank. In the context of achievements of women martial artists, I am the second highest graded woman in our internationally recognised Aikido organisation. This is just one example of the role of the permanent Dojo in assisting the development of the many generations of students and alumni who have trained there.	UCL Alumni, Former UCL Staff	Aikido, Aikido Alumni Group
It seems ridiculous to me that a decision would be made to benefit just one group of people, while being at the detriment of so many other groups.	UCL Alumni	Grappling
A world class university needs diversity in the opportunities that it offers to students and staff. A world class permanent Dojo helps do that while one more under-utilised squash court does not.	UCL Alumni	Aikido Alumni Group