

# Preparing for an RAE and cultivating a vibrant research environment

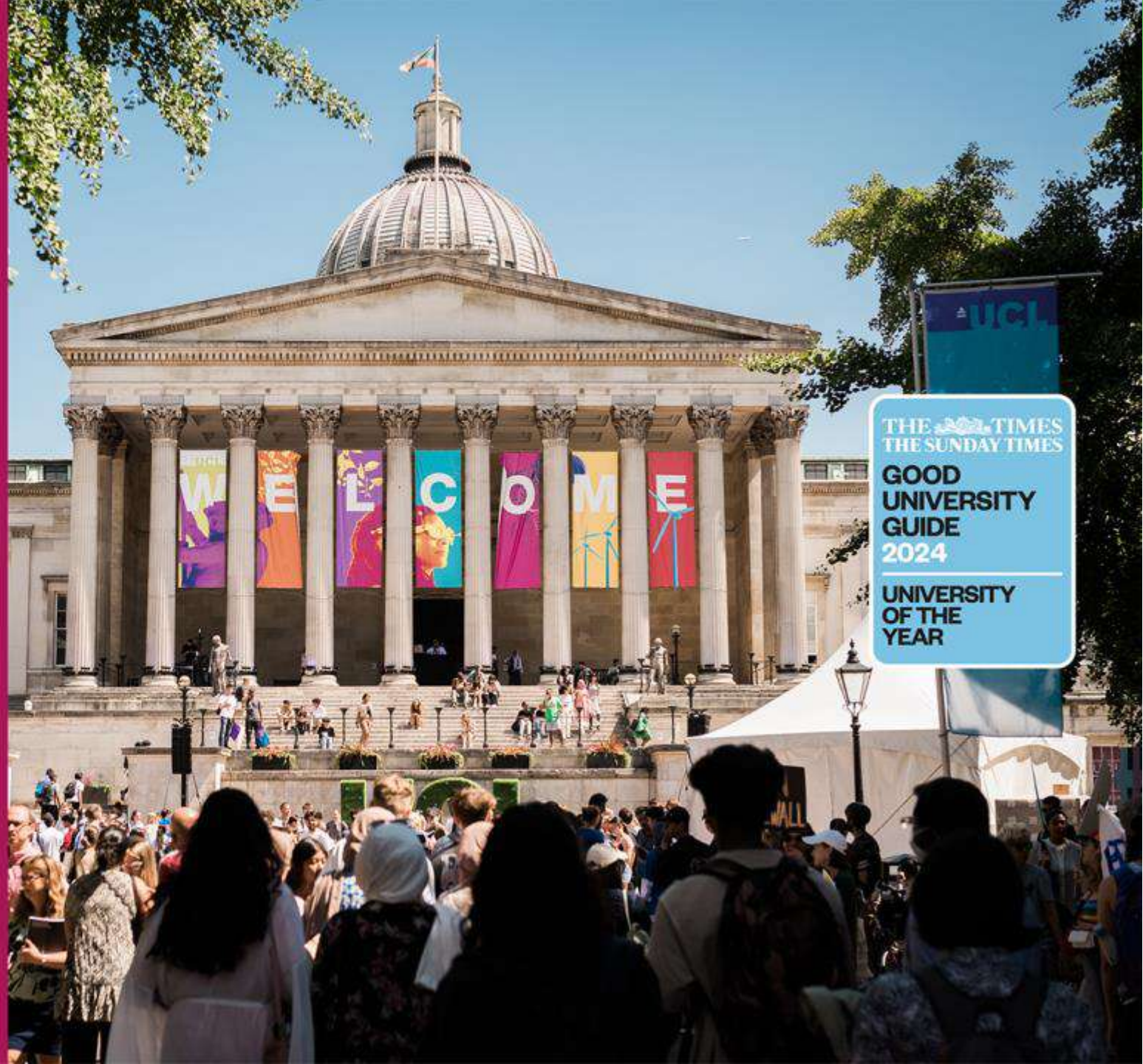
## Gail Taylor visit August 2024

UK RAE





# University of the Year 2024





9<sup>th</sup>

in the world

QS World University Rankings 2025



# Founded in 1826

a non-religious university of radical thinkers who admitted women and men on an equal basis.

Now the largest university in the UK – 50,000

27% of students are from China



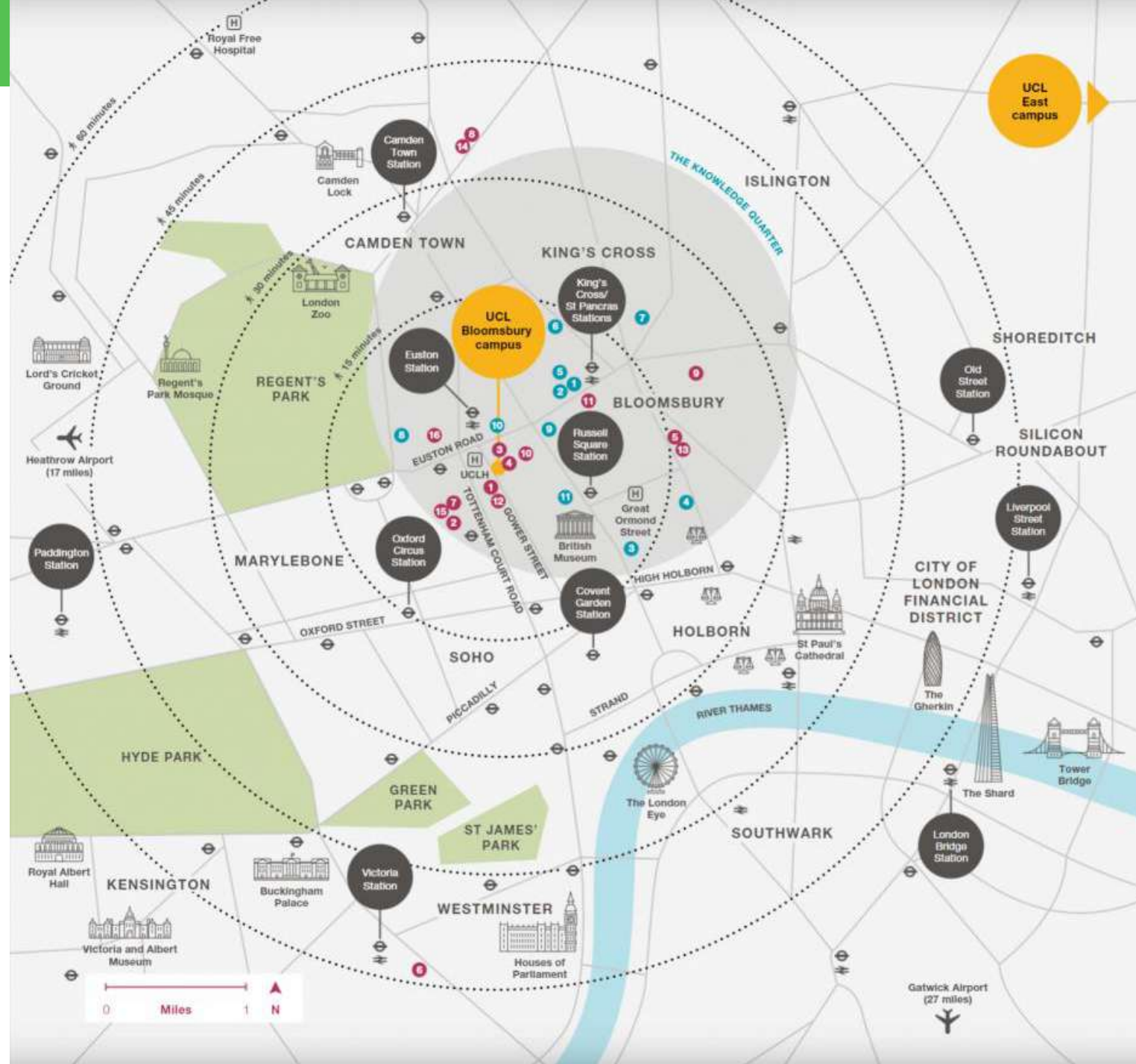


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**UCL**  
**East campus**



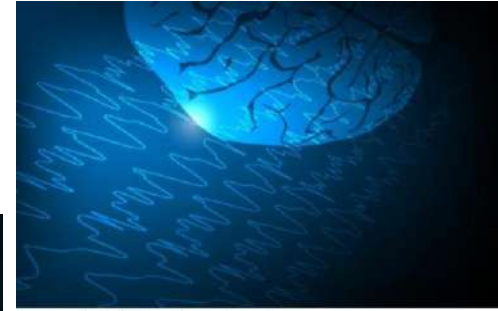
Biosciences



School of Pharmacy



Cell and Molecular Science



Sainsbury's Wellcome Centre: Brain and behaviour

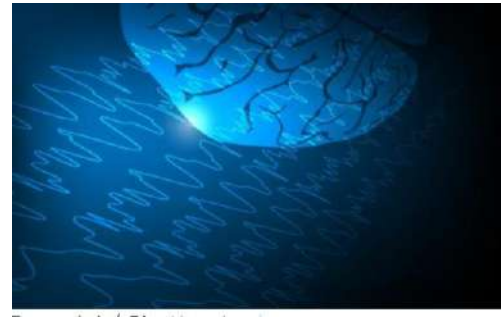


Gatsby Computational Neurosciences

- More than 200 Professors of Life Sciences across Five Divisions
- Over 3,000 students studying Life Sciences
- 12 Departments across two campuses
- A budget in excess of £150 M annually



Faculty of  
Life Sciences



## How do we ensure a dynamic and vibrant research environment?



Biological Sciences

= **6<sup>th</sup>**  
in the world

QS World Rankings by Subject 2024



Pharmacy &  
Pharmacology

**4<sup>th</sup>**  
in the world

QS World Rankings by Subject 2024



Life Sciences  
**9<sup>th</sup>** in the world

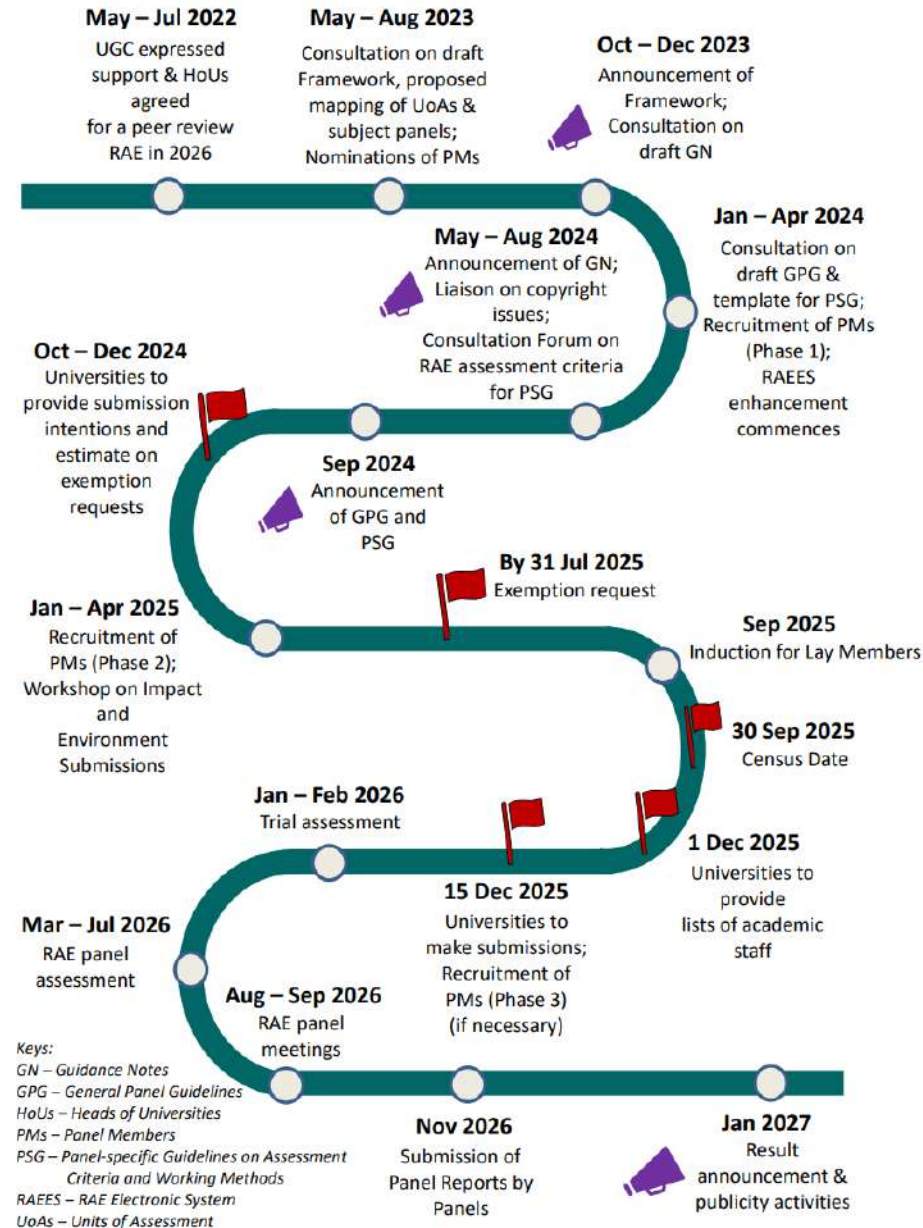
Medicine – **6<sup>th</sup>**

Anatomy and Physiology – **8<sup>th</sup>**



# HK- 8 universities

## RAE 2026 Roadmap



# Getting RAE Ready – why it matters

- provide accountability for public investment in research and produce evidence of the benefits of this investment
- provide benchmarking information and establish reputational yardsticks, for use in the higher education sector and for public information
- inform the selective allocation of funding for research





**Outputs:** The sub-panels will assess the quality of submitted research outputs in terms of their ‘**originality, significance and rigour**’, with reference to international research quality standards. This element will carry a weighting of **65 per cent** in the overall outcome awarded to each submission.

**Impact:** The sub-panels will assess the ‘reach and significance’ of impacts on the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life that were underpinned by excellent research conducted in the submitted unit. This element will carry a weighting of **20 per cent**.

**Environment:** The sub-panels will assess the research environment in terms of its ‘**vitality and sustainability**’, including the approach to enabling impact from its research, and its contribution to the vitality and sustainability of the wider discipline or research base. This element will carry a weighting of **15 per cent**

# Environment Statement- what makes a good one?

UK – the ‘Environment’ and culture part of the REF assessment is increasing in importance – it will be known as ‘People Culture and Environment’ in REF29/30

*‘**vitality and sustainability**’, including the approach to enabling impact from its research, and its contribution to the vitality and sustainability of the wider discipline or research base’* **REF21 UK 15%**

*‘an **inclusive and collaborative** research system that supports a **diversity** of people, ideas, institutions, methodologies, outputs, and activities’* **REF29/30 UK’ 20%**

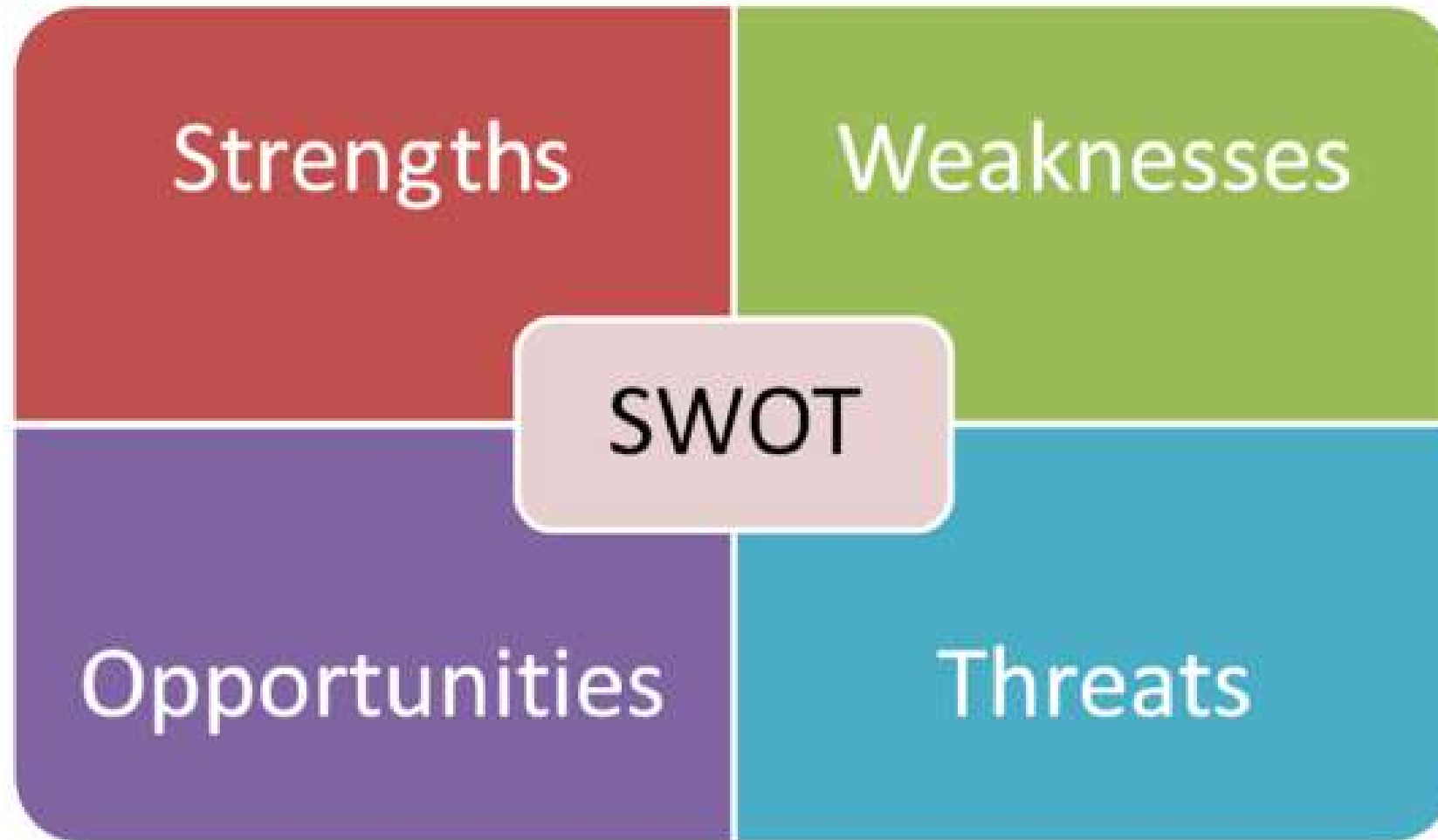
**Times are changing and we need to be mindful of these changes**



# Strategy, mission and vision



# Strategy, mission and vision





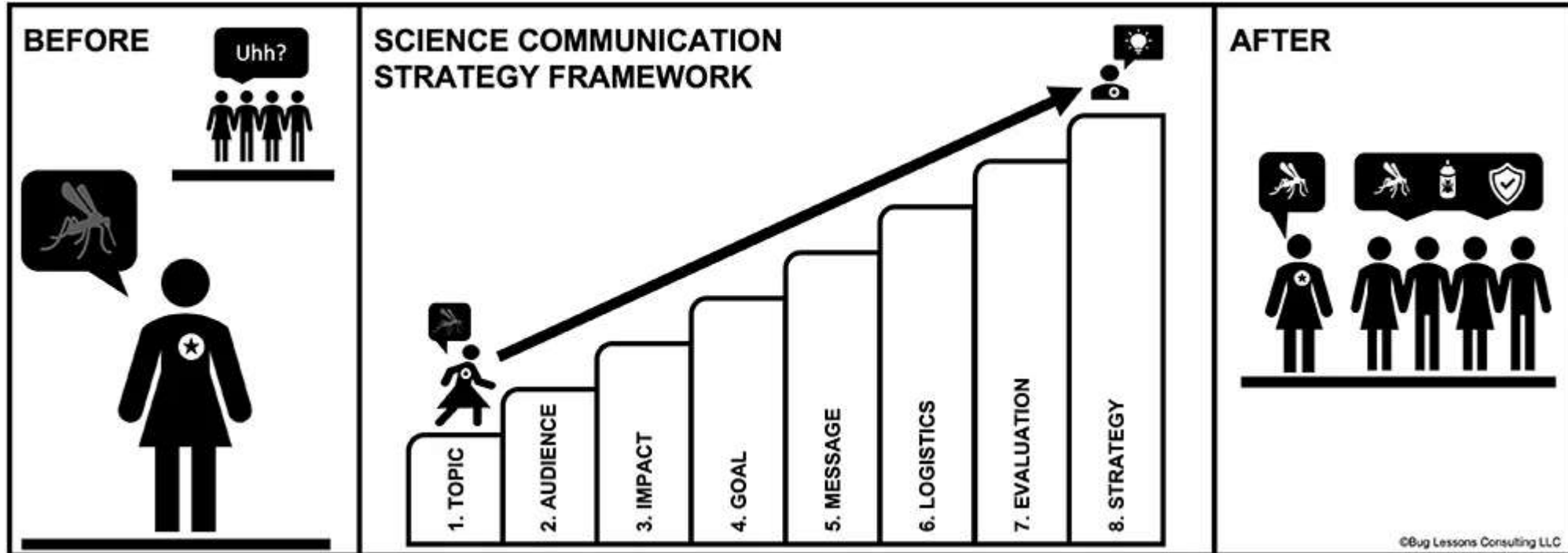
# Difficulty vs Impact

<b>Impact</b>	High	Pick 2-3	<b>Go for it</b>
	Moderate	?	
	Low		
		High Moderate Low	

**Difficulty**

Pick 2-5 and develop an action plan with early wins and more challenging targets

# What else?? COMMUNICATION



Weekly email, monthly blog, termly newsletter,  
making news stories for external partners

# What else?? INTERACTIONS



Sticky spaces – create space for interactions

Create multiple opportunities for less formal interactions – getting people out of labs and offices

INTELLIGENCE to pump prime





# What else?? The power of early career people



Empower and enable – give ECR responsibility very early to take on leadership roles

# Discipline-based study versus interdisciplinary?



# UCL





A close-up photograph of a sunflower head. The center is a dense, dark brown disk of florets. The surrounding petals are a vibrant yellow-orange color, with some showing a gradient from yellow to orange. The petals are arranged in a spiral pattern, radiating from the center. The background is a soft, out-of-focus yellow and orange, suggesting a bright, sunny environment.

Thank you!