

The Future of Higher Education

For many colleagues, this strike is much bigger than immediate issues, even though these are very serious:

- Our pay has been cut by more than 25% against inflation since 2009
- Excessive workload is having a serious impact on mental health and wellbeing
- Too many colleagues are on short-term and insecure contracts
- Our pensions have been cut on average 35%. The scheme is in surplus and the cuts were totally unnecessary
- Gender, race and disability pay gaps are far too high across the sector.

The fact is that working conditions in UK universities have deteriorated so significantly over the last decade that our universities are in danger of losing their international reputation.

We can't attract and retain staff.

We are seeing standards driven down through enforced competition. This makes revenue streams unpredictable for universities and incentivises the use of casual contracts and outsourcing.

This is why the National Union of Students stands with university staff in our industrial action – students can see that their learning conditions reflect the working conditions of the staff who support them.

“They’re trying to get education excellence on the cheap by squeezing university teachers. It won’t work.”

**Michael Rosen,
writer and
academic**



Open University Branch of UCU

Email: ucu@open.ac.uk Facebook (openuniversityucu)

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“There’s nothing especially radical about our demand that education staff should have good, secure jobs in a sector that fulfils its essential function of furthering the public good and enriching society.

That notion is only controversial for the university bosses and government ministers who have overseen the managed decline of higher education over the past decade.”

Jo Grady, UCU General Secretary

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Join UCU www.ucu.org.uk/join and join the strike
- Ask the Vice-Chancellor to reverse the USS cuts and support a pay rise that addresses equality, workload, job security and the cost of living crisis (vice-chancellor@open.ac.uk)
- Sign up as a supporter at <https://www.ucu.org.uk/supportthestrikes>
- Donate to support strikers: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/fightingfund>
- Post support on social media using #ucuRISING.



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