|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ucu_colour**­**NEWSLETTERBuild The Union Month Special Bulletin October 2023 |  |

**UCU – the union for post-school educators**

UCU is the largest post-school union in the World. We are proud to represent members in higher, further, adult and prison education.

To join and eligibility: [www.ucu.org.uk/join](http://www.ucu.org.uk/join)

Also see: [UCU - UCU member benefits](https://www.ucu.org.uk/ucuplus)

The more members we have, the more we can achieve.

During Build The Union month please pass on this newsletter and ask colleagues to join UCU.



**Your Pay and Conditions Campaign**

You deserve better pay and conditions and daily face a range of challenges including excessive workloads.

Your UCU branch gives you a strong local collective voice to tackle the issues that matter to you. Branches across the UK are campaigning hard to address the above issues. Contact your branch for more details and how you can help.

**Your Union: Making A Difference**

* In the USS pensions dispute, a consultation launched by the USS Trustee shows that [**the scheme is on track to significantly reduce your monthly contributions and to restore your pension benefits by April 2024**](https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/13093/USS-pensions-latest). This would mean a full reversal of the 35% cut that was made to your guaranteed pension benefits in 2022.
* Recent wins in further education: [www.ucu.org.uk/your-support-is-needed](http://www.ucu.org.uk/your-support-is-needed) These include deals on pay, workload and ending zero-hour contracts
* Novus prison education branch pay and health and safety wins – better protocols and procedures

**Reasons To Join UCU**

Your collective voice locally - your reps raise members’ issues with management

Local reps, backed by full-time officials, help members with problems at work

Nationally UCU has over 120,000 members and is the voice of your profession. We want to see: higher pay, agreements to tackle excessive workloads, insecure contracts and equality pay gaps; and decent pensions.

Our legal scheme covers employment rights and free personal injury claims

Counselling, support and financial assistance through Education Support

Subscription rates are banded according to how much you earn. Claim tax relief and reduce the cost.

If you aren’t yet a member, join UCU today: [www.ucu.org.uk/join](http://www.ucu.org.uk/join)

For more membership benefits: [www.ucu.org.uk/ucuplus](http://www.ucu.org.uk/ucuplus)

Claim income tax relief and reduce the cost of your subs: [UCU - Tax relief on subscriptions](https://my.ucu.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/469/)

If you are already a member of another trade union please just recycle this newsletter

**CPD**

UCU offers a range of CPD courses which are free for members.

These include: tackling the climate crisis; equality and diversity; excessive workload; and casualisation

For more details email Glen Pickard gpickard@ucu.org.uk

**More Reps Needed**

You could become a rep, health and safety rep (this role covers excessive workload and stress), equality rep or environment rep. Or become a contact and raise UCU’s profile.  Paid time off, rep training and support is provided to carry out union duties.  Please contact your UCU rep to discuss. Have a look at the training courses here: [www.ucu.org.uk/training](http://www.ucu.org.uk/training)