



## **Oxford Brookes' staff oppose negotiations with INTO**

At a meeting on 31/1/07 in the International Centre for English Language studies (ICELS) at Oxford Brookes University, where the majority of ICELS staff were present. a unanimous decision was taken to oppose current University negotiations with INTO to establish a joint venture to deliver Academic English and Foundation courses to International students. Such a move is likely to be damaging for staff, result in a poorer quality experience for students and is not guaranteed to increase student enrolment to Brookes.

ICELS staff are confident that their track record at all levels shows they have the existing expertise, experience and commitment to continue to deliver high quality courses to large numbers of international students. With appropriate support from Brookes senior management in terms of resources and commitment to ICELS as an integral part of the University, they are also confident that they can continue to build and sustain increased student enrolment to Brookes.

UCU both locally and nationally fully support the stance taken by ICELS staff at Brookes. The Co-Chair of UCU at Brookes, Angie Pears, said, 'We are aware this is not just a local issue. The national campaign by UCU demonstrates the depth of concern over this issue, not only in relation to language centres, but also to the university sector as a whole. The creeping privatisation of our workplaces can and must be halted.'

**UCU executive, Oxford Brookes' branch**