



**Join  
UCU**

the union for **researchers**  
in the tertiary education  
sector

## Why you should join UCU today

**UCU is the largest trade union and professional association for researchers, academics and academic-related staff in the UK.**

**We negotiate terms and conditions of employment both nationally and locally.**

### **RESEARCHERS – A PRIORITY FOR UCU**

Researchers are a priority for UCU. We want to see significant numbers of researchers moved to permanent contracts, be able to develop proper career paths and treated in the same way as other staff.

You are not alone. If you have problems at work you can contact your branch for advice. We can provide advice, representation and legal help. Experienced local officers are supported by full-time regional and national officials. However you need to join before encountering a problem – that's why it is important to join us today.

We represent the views of our members on professional issues to ministers, MPs and various organisations including research councils. We raise issues such as academic freedom, how researchers are managed and higher education funding.

Nationally UCU negotiates your pay.

### **REPRESENTATION AND INFLUENCE**

Researchers are represented on a national committee that influences UCU policy. We have a national researchers' network to put you in touch with colleagues throughout the UK, and our Researchers' Survival Guide outlines your rights and offers practical advice on a range of day-to-day problems.

In an employment tribunal UCU won a permanent contract for a member in the case of Ball v Aberdeen University. The tribunal rejected the university's case that short-term funding could automatically provide a justification for employment on a fixed-term basis.

### **YOU'RE BETTER OFF IN A UNION**

Research has shown that union members are likely to get higher pay, more annual leave, better sickness and pension benefits, have safer workplaces and are more likely to be able to take advantage of flexible working.

You will benefit from a range of financial products at discounted rates and you can claim back income tax relief for part of your membership subscriptions.

As a member you also have access to the services of The College and University Support Network which offers 24/7 support by phone or online, from confidential counselling to financial assistance.

**You can join online at [www.ucu.org.uk/join](http://www.ucu.org.uk/join) Our website shows a full list of benefits**

**Join UCU today. The more  
researchers that join us  
the more we can achieve**

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