

PROTECT OUR UNIVERSITIES EDUCATION IS NOT FOR PROFIT

UCU will fight any attempt to transfer departments and staff into private ownership

- UCU opposes any attempt to transfer course provision and other key university functions into the control of any 'partnerships', 'joint ventures' or other enterprises involving private sector providers such as INTO, Study Group International or KAPLAN.
- Privatisation and public-private partnerships ventures threaten the pay and terms of conditions of members and damage the quality of education.
- Where joint ventures have been set up, private companies have attempted to impose worse pay, conditions and pensions arrangements on current staff, while new jobs have been advertised for less pay and with lower qualification requirements. Staff at privatised ventures have raised concerns that quality assurance procedures are being ignored or overridden.
- UCU opposes the encroachment of the private sector into the provision of language and foundation courses for overseas students in our universities.
- UCU believes that the growing numbers of young people from overseas studying in this country will receive higher quality education in a more supportive environment from 'in-house' language centres than they will from profit-seeking enterprises.
- UCU is opposed to handing responsibility of overseas student recruitment and education to profitseeking enterprises. Such moves pose a threat to the quality and long-term financial stability of higher education institutions.

What is UCU doing?

- UCU will continue to campaign against any and every attempt at encroachment by private sector schemes.
- UCU is joined by unions representing university staff in opposing privatisation. Together, we have called on UCEA, the employers' body, to sign a joint statement opposing the privatisation of key university functions.
- An open letter to all vice-chancellors, calling on them to openly oppose privatisation, has collected thousands of signatures.
- UCU will provide national, regional and local support to any branch or local association in resisting privatisation at its university.

What you can do

- Get your branch or local association to contact your vice-chancellor asking them to confirm that they will not seek to privatise or contract out any academic department or key support function.
- Sign the open letter to all vice chancellors: www.ucu.org.uk/stopprivatisation
- Pass a motion calling for resistance to privatisation in your branch or local association.
- Use any means at your disposal to find out whether your university has been approached by private companies like INTO, SGI or KAPLAN and pass any information to your branch/local association, regional office and national headquarters.

www.ucu.org.uk/stopprivatisation