

THE WAR ON WORKLOAD BEGINS...

Excessive workloads has become the scourge of modern times, an issue that, together with insecure contracts cuts across all sectors of UCU membership. In December's newsletter we revealed the key findings of the UCU Workload Survey Report 2016. These findings have been used to inform revised UCU bargaining guidance for branches that have now been issued for both HE and FE.

UCU branches are now building campaigns against excessive workloads - including Birmingham Metropolitan College and Shrewsbury Colleges Group. Both branches have put together bespoke surveys after reports from members of increases in workload having a detrimental effect on their health, well-being and job satisfaction.

Regional Office plan a UCU Bargaining and Workload Workshop on 29 March 2017, including a session and workshop from Adam Lincoln, our new National Bargaining and Negotiations Official for Health, Safety and Sustainability. More detail will follow in due course.



Workload Survey starting 30th January 2017

UCU Working for YOU

Birmingham Met leaflet designed by Richard Orchard

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN THE FORTHCOMING NEC ELECTIONS! MAKE SURE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE UP-TO-DATE SO YOU DO NOT MISS OUT ON IMPORTANT COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE UNION

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS ONLINE at www.ucu.org.uk/updatesmyrecord. You will need to register the first time you log on for which you will need your membership number and the email address stored on our system. Contact regional office if you need help: westmidlands@ucu.org.uk

8 February 2017 UCU National Day of action Against Workplace Racism

UCU will be holding a day of action against workplace racism.

Our theme this year is '**This is what racism looks like**' and follows on from our successful first day of action against workplace racism held on 10 February 2016. The campaign aims to highlight the issues faced in our workplaces by black workers in the post-16 education sector and to raise the profile and progression of race equality in the union.

Branches are encouraged to plan an activity to [support our campaign](#) and raise awareness in their workplaces. For example:

- Film showings – [using the 'Witness' film](#) chronicling the lived experiences of UCU black members
- Meetings to promote or discuss the findings of [our survey of BME staff](#)
- Joint meetings with student unions – suggested themes 'Liberate My Degree' or 'Decolonise the Curriculum'
- Stalls to distribute the challenging workplace racism pack – [posters and leaflets](#) can be found on the dedicated page on the UCU website.
- Promoting the ['Black Voices' blog](#) on the UCU website

Please let [Chris Nicholas](#) know what your branch is doing or if you require any help or ideas.



[The experiences of black and minority ethnic staff in further and higher education, Feb 16 \[132kb\]](#)

Forthcoming events

UCU Prison Education Annual Meeting Friday 10 March 2017, UCU Carlow Street, London NW1 7LH

Registration – deadline Friday 24 February 2017

This is for Prison Education Reps. Each prison education department may send one voting representative to the annual meeting, who will be elected by the Branch members.

The meeting will hear reports on the work UCU do in relation to Prison Education Staff and provide an opportunity to debate challenges they face. There will be a keynote speaker.

Delegates are encouraged to use our on-line service to register each representative.

Go to: <https://ucu.wufoo.com/forms/prison-education-annual-meeting-2017/>

Annual Adult and Continuing Education (ACE) National Meeting – 10:30 – 16:00, Saturday 25 March 2017 UCU Carlow Street, London NW1 7LH

Registration deadline - Monday 13 March 2017

This meeting is for branch delegates from UCU branches working in adult and community education and employed in local authorities or the voluntary sector.

Each branch may send 2 voting delegates. Branch representatives will be elected by a quorate general meeting or by a quorate branch committee meeting.

Delegates are encouraged to use our on-line service to register each representative.

To register go to: <https://ucu.wufoo.com/forms/ace-branches-national-annual-meeting-2017/> for full details [UCU772 \(.html\)](#) | [UCU772 \(.rtf\)](#)

UCU Annual Meeting for Staff on Casualised Contracts. 10.30-1630 hrs, Friday 24 February 2017, UCU Carlow Street, London NW1 7LH

The meeting will hear reports on UCU work in relation to staff on casualised contracts, including those on fixed-term, hourly paid and agency contracts and consider motions submitted by branches and local associations. These motions will be used to advise the NEC about the views of our members on casual contracts, including fixed-term, hourly paid and agency members.

There will also be speakers and workshops and plenty of opportunity to network with colleagues.

Registration – Deadline 10 February 2017

UCU Annual Meeting for Academic Related, Professional Staff

Wednesday 1 March 2017, 1030-1630 hrs, UCU Headquarters in Carlow Street, London NW1 7LH

Registration – deadline Friday 15 February 2017

The term 'academic-related staff' covers a wide range of roles in Higher Education: information services, computing, student support and administration and other professional roles in grades represented by UCU.

The meeting will hear reports of UCU work in relation to academic-related staff and discuss motions submitted by branches and local associations. It will provide an opportunity to debate challenges facing the union, and academic-related members.

Each HE branch/local association may send two voting representative to the annual meeting. Branch/local association representatives must have been approved either by a quorate branch meeting, quorate branch committee meeting or by a properly constituted meeting of members that work in an Academic Related role.

Branches / LAs are encouraged to use our on-line service to register each representative.

Please go to:

<https://ucu.wufoo.com/forms/academic-related-professional-staff-meeting-2017/>

Branch/local association secretaries or officers of the branch/local association will need to register delegates.

2017 Equality Reps Conference. 1100–16.30 hrs, Friday 17th February 2017, UCU, Carlow Street, London NW1 7LH

The conference is for registered branch and regional equality reps.

To find out more about the conference and to register go to the link below. <https://www.ucu.org.uk/equalityrepsconf17>