

The University and College Union How and why to join!

Malthe Sporning
The University of Edinburgh

SMSTC Opening Symposium 2024

The University and College Union (UCU)



- Represents academic and related staff across the UK
- Works to support members' rights and interests
- Joining gives you access to Union resources, advice and representation
- Membership is **FREE** for PGRs who are not contracted to teach
- PGRs who are contracted to teach can upgrade to a full (Standard Free) membership, which is **FREE for 12 months** and based on a small subscription thereafter.

Recent progress at Edinburgh

In the **School of Maths** ...



- **Guaranteed tutoring hours** have been tripled, with security for 4 years rather than 1
- Made it easier for PGRs to claim **paid sick leave and parental leave** (for students funded by ESPRC, SoM or UoE)
- Clarified policies around pay for marking which takes **longer than expected**

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In the **wider university**, the Union has ...

- Formalised a ban on **unpaid teaching** being a part of scholarships
- Addressed late pay for casualised staff
- On a national level, lobbied for a 10% increase of UKRI stipend rate in 2022

How to get involved

To join the union, visit <https://www.ucu.org.uk/join>.

To get more involved, or for advice, get in touch with your your local school or branch contact:



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