

The University and College Union
Why and how to join!

Maia Woolf (she/her)

University of Edinburgh

SMSTC Opening Symposium 2025



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 (*Student membership*)
- 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.

Wins



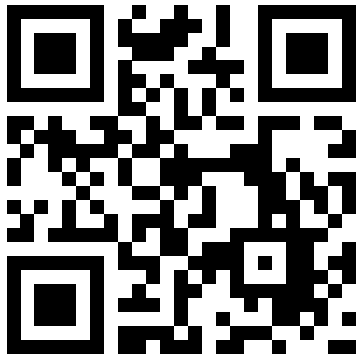
- For mathematics PGRs at Edinburgh, teaching contracts are now 4 years, rather than 1
- In the wider university at Edinburgh, formalised a **ban on unpaid teaching** being a part of scholarships
- Nationally, lobbied for a **10% increase of UKRI stipend rate** in 2022

Fights

- **Dundee:** fighting against staff cuts
- **Highlands and Islands:** fighting against staff cuts
- **Leicester:** fighting against staff cuts
- **Bradford:** fighting against staff cuts
- **Sheffield:** fighting against staff cuts
- **Edinburgh:** fighting against staff cuts
- **:**
- **Nationally:** demanding good funding for universities, and fair pay and working conditions for staff!

Join us!

To **join the union**, visit
ucu.org.uk/join



For advice or support, get in touch with your local contact:

- **Aberdeen:** ucu@abdn.ac.uk
- **Dundee:** ducu@dundee.ac.uk
- **Edinburgh:** maia.woolf@ed.ac.uk, or ucu@ed.ac.uk
- **Glasgow:** ucug@glasgow.ac.uk
- **Heriot-Watt:** ucu@hw.ac.uk
- **St Andrews:** ucu@st-andrews.ac.uk
- **Stirling:** PMcGibbon2@ucu.org.uk
- **Strathclyde:** ucu@strath.ac.uk