

The University and College Union

How and why to join!

Kai Hugtenburg
The University of Edinburgh

SMSTC Opening Symposium 2022

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
- As a PGR student you're eligible to join, whether or not you're also tutoring
- Membership is **FREE** for PGR students

Recent progress for postgrads

Extra 10% stipend increase

- Default: stipend increase by last year's inflation
- University of Edinburgh: too expensive*
- Collective action on national level: Success!

* £112.85 million surplus, on £631.73 million staff cost. Peter Mathieson: £407,000

Recent progress for postgrads at Edinburgh

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

- **Guaranteed tutoring hours** have been tripled, with security for 4 years rather than 1
- We've made it easier for EPSRC-funded students to claim the **paid sick leave and parental leave** they're entitled to*
- And **equivalent paid leave** has been extended to all School- and University-funded students.

* Up to 13 weeks' paid sick leave per year, and up to 52 weeks of maternity/parental leave.

Goals

- PGRs as staff, not students
- Pay down 25% since 2009: strike action
- Four fights: pay, workload, equality and casualisation.

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