

UNISON 2026 AGM NEWSLETTER

ULSTER UNIVERSITY BRANCH

Ulster University Branch AGM 2026

It's about You, Your Branch, Your Say and Your Vote

Our Branch AGM is the single most important meeting of the year. Every year UNISON requires its branch officers and stewards to stand for re-election. The AGM is your opportunity to have a say in how the branch is run and who will represent you in 2026

It is also a great opportunity to meet with other members and UNISON stewards and to find out how UNISON has been active on your behalf during the year.

If you would like to become more active in UNISON: Representing your colleagues or becoming involved in solidarity or welfare work, please contact your branch.

AGM MEETING DATES 2026

Belfast Site AGM

Thursday 26th March

lower ground block BC @ 9.15am

Coleraine site AGM

Thursday 26th March @ 9.30am

room -E102

Magee site AGM

Friday 27th March @ 9.30am

Room - MD021

HE Pay Consultation 2025/2026

The HE pay consultation took place over the summer and in the pay claim UNISON asked for an increase on all pay points of at least RPI (as of August 2025) + 3.5%, or a flat rate increase on each spine point of at least £2,500 (whichever is greater).

- Equivalent percentage rises to London Weighting and any other allowances
- A new minimum pay rate of £15 an hour.
- All institutions to become Foundation Living Wage employers and for all pay points below the FLW to be deleted.
- A commitment to an urgent and comprehensive reform of the New JNCHES pay spine.

The employer's body UCEA, made a full and final offer of a 1.4% increase on all pay points, along with proposals to delete points 5 and 6 of the pay scale.

The SGE met on 19 May and agreed to consult members with a recommendation that they reject the offer.

The online consultation took place from Wednesday 18 June to Friday 11 July. All unions have rejected the offer, and UNISON, UCU, EIS and Unite have agreed to ballot members for industrial action on the offer.

The UNISON Higher Education Service Group Executive (HESGE) has decided to run a disaggregated ballot of members in those universities covered by the New JNCHES pay bargaining arrangements (other than in a small number of branches where we have limited membership).

The ballot will be for strike action alone and will run from mid October to 5th January in Northern Ireland.

The other unions, including UCU will be running a ballot on a similar timeline with the aim that any action agreed by the higher education unions will be organised jointly.

The joint unions have written to UCEA calling on them to re-open negotiations and to improve the pay offer to higher education staff and have issued a joint statement.

GMB have confirmed that they will not be balloting for strike action over the offer.

Bidvest Noonan

Bidvest Noonan confirmed with UNISON that the Real Living Wage of £13.45 will be applied before the end of 2025. This increase will apply to staff in cleaning, security, portering and catering.

In the case of Chief Constable of Police Service of Northern Ireland v Agnew regarding the underpayment of holiday pay and following on from the Supreme Court judgement, organisations such as Bidvest Noonan began correcting holiday pay for our members that work in the University of Ulster.

The UNISON NI Policy team has been involved in a consultation review of Higher Education Funding. The review is in the early stages, and a Terms of Reference has been agreed. The Policy Team will continue to be involved in this process, and a meeting has been planned for January 2026.

UNISON Northern Ireland continues to support our members directly employed by the Ulster University whilst also continuing our ongoing campaign to bring the outsourced members back in house.

Not yet a member? JOIN UNISON TODAY!

Call 02890270190 or go to www.unison-ni.org.uk/join



Our UNISON 'Free School Meals for All' campaign is a further important intervention aimed at reducing poverty for our members and their families.

We are increasingly concerned by the lack of visible progress on an Anti-Poverty Strategy. Despite the Executive having been restored in February, a draft Anti-Poverty Strategy has yet to be published, consulted upon and adopted.

UNISON has continued to work alongside our allies across civic society to press for an Anti-Poverty Strategy to be put in place without further delay, including through the launch of the report of the seminar held at Stormont in June 2023 on development of the Anti-Poverty Strategy that we reported on last year. UNISON was part of a delegation that gave evidence to the Committee for Communities at the NI Assembly in April regarding the urgent need for an Anti-Poverty Strategy.



UNISON Northern Ireland

BRANCH NEWS

Over the past year, the branch and officials have:

- Raised and resolved member issues;
- Attended health and safety meetings with the university
- Represented members at grievance and disciplinary hearings;
- Represented members interests at Regional Forums;
- Held physical and virtual members meetings
- Attended rallies to highlight days of significance to our members such as Pride, International Women's Day, World Mental Health Day and Menopause Awareness Day.

UNISON Reps Needed

As members its up to you to elect a UNISON rep in your workplace! A rep in your workplace will keep you informed of UNISON news and help resolve any workplace issues! Full training will be provided.

If you or one of your colleagues are interested in becoming active in YOUR union please get in touch with one of the organisers below:

Claire - c.bolt@unison.co.uk
Noreen - n.robinson.co.uk



Check out the full list of UNISON College courses here:

<https://shorturl.at/KocGt>

Membership services



Members experiencing financial and emotional difficulties can contact UNISON Welfare (There for You), which provides confidential advice and support services for members and their dependants.

<https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you/>



Receive free legal advice and support on non employment matters from Thompsons, our specialist employment solicitors

THOMPSONS SOLICITORS

<https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/legal-services/>



Request free expert financial advice from Quilter Financial Advisers, UNISON's financial services partner

<https://benefits.unison.org.uk/home/money/lighthouse-financial-advice/>



AbbeyAutoline offers discount for UNISON members.

<https://www.abbeyautoline.co.uk/>

Branch Contacts

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Coleraine University based

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